



The Fourword

Volume 48 Number 2

February 2020

Beginning 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.

A "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.

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.

In 2017 Governor Hogan signed the bill passed by the state legislature to provide for a \$15,000.00 [Pension Subtraction Modification for Retired Law Enforcement](#), Fire, Rescue or Emergency Services Personnel starting at age 55. Information can be located in the 2017 Maryland State and Local Tax Forms Instructions booklet published by the Comptroller of Maryland, specifically, instruction #13, Subtraction from Income, section rr, pages 9 and 10.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES January 2020

- The January General Business meeting was held on January 27, 2020 at FOP Lodge #4. President Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Chaplain DiCara gave the invocation. President Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- Brother Scally, Brother Sweren and Brother Warnick were excused, all Executive Board members were present as was Legal Advisor Chaz Ball.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT ROSE ~

- December 31– Delivered New Year's Eve platters to the Precincts.
- January 7– Met with 1st VP Massey to assign committee appointments and attended the meeting of the Association of Retired Baltimore County Police Officers.
- January 9– Attended the Law Enforcement Public Information

Workgroup in Annapolis and attended the Equitable Policing Workgroup session in Randallstown.

- January 13– Attended the Maryland State Legislative Committee meeting in Annapolis.
- January 14– Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting and the Hackler hearing board.
- January 15– Chaired a Negotiations Committee meeting.
- January 16– Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting with Chief Hyatt and the Disciplinary Matrix Committee meeting.
- January 20– Met with a member to discuss retirement options and attended the Maryland State Legislative Committee meeting in Annapolis.
- January 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- January 22– Met with County OHR Director Benjamin to discuss a leave issue, attended the Parkville Business Association meeting and the PAR Fund event at the Hard Yacht Cafe.
- January 23– Met with the Department's Legal Director Hill and Colonel Hlavach.
- January 24– Chaired a Negotiations Committee meeting and participated in a conference call regarding the pension EEOC case.
- January 25– Attended the State FOP meeting in Prince George's County.
- January 26– Coordinated with South Carolina FOP to assist the Bakhsh family.
- January 27– Participated in a conference call with Deputy Administrative Officer regarding the pension EEOC case, participated in a conference call with the Maryland Chief's As-

LODGE 4 OFFICE

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ELECTED OFFICERS

David M. Rose
President
(443) 956-2643

Ryan Massey
1st Vice President
CIB-Homicide

Mike DiCara
2nd Vice President
PC-4

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

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

W. Don Patterson
State Trustee
Retired

Kathy Kraemer
Sergeant at Arms
PC-6

Anthony DiCara
Chaplain
Training

Cole B. Weston
Past President
Retired

EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

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

Ryan Franks
Vice Chairman
CIB-Arson

Thomas G. Scally
Retired
David Sweren
PC-4
Joe Peach
PC-8
Robert Graff
PC-6

Carroll Bollinger
CIB-Homicide
Chris Hodnicki
CIB-GET
L. Tim Caslin
Retired
Justin Warnick
CIB-RATT

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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Fourword Editor
Don Patterson

sociation representatives and chaired the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

1st V. P. MASSEY~

- January 7– Met with President Rose to assign committee appointments and attended the meeting of the Association of Retired Baltimore County Police Officers.
- January 13– Attended the hearing board for Sgt. Hackler.
- January 14– Attended the hearing board for Sgt. Hackler.
- January 15– Attended the Negotiations Committee meeting.
- January 16– Attended the FOP Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting with Chief Hyatt.
- January 20– Attended the Maryland State Legislative Committee meeting in Annapolis.
- January 24– Attended the Negotiations Committee meeting.
- January 27– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

2nd V.P. DICARA

- January 6– Represented Lodge #4 at the annual awards dinner of the Jewish Uniformed Services.
- January 13– Attended a meeting of the Baltimore County Healthcare Review Committee.
- January 15– Attended the Negotiations Committee meeting.
- January 16– Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting with Chief Hyatt.
- January 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- January 24– Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- January 27– Attended the Lodge

#4 General Membership meeting.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

- December 31– Delivered New Year's Eve platters to the Precincts.
- January 7– Attended the meeting of the Association of Retired Baltimore County Police Officers.
- January 15– Attended the Negotiations Committee meeting.
- January 16– Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting with Chief Hyatt.
- January 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- January 22– Attended the PAR Fund event at the Hard Yacht Café.
- January 24– Attended the Negotiations Committee meeting.
- January 25– Attended the Maryland State FOP Meeting in Prince George's County
- January 27– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

TREASURER CASKEY

- Treasurer Caskey reported the finances of the Lodge.

TRUSTEE PATTERSON

- December 31– Delivered New Year's Eve platters to the Precincts.
- January 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- January 22– Attended the PAR Fund event at the Hard Yacht Café.
- January 25– Attended the Mary-

land State FOP meeting in Prince George's County.

- January 27– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.
- The State FOP meeting, on January 25, 2020 was again well attended by Lodge #4 members. Present were President Rose, Secretary Patterson, Chaplain DiCara, Trustee Patterson, Chair of the Board Schubert, Past President Fiedler, Brother Graff and Brother Franks.
- 2nd VP Young discussed the changes in Annapolis and how they may affect the FOP's agenda. No LEOBR bills have been dropped as of yet.
- Treasurer Kratsch discussed the 2020 budget.
- Corresponding Secretary Patterson discussed the current email lists for Presidents, Secretaries and Trustees. She also discussed the upcoming State Conference and housing forms.
- Chaplain DiCara talked about Officer Wellness.
- Legal Advisor Mike Davey talked about how the City Administration is constantly violating the FOP contract.
- 1st VP Boatwright advised Matt Frasca has resigned as PAC Committee chairman and that Steve Comegna resigned as Special Investigations Committee chairman.

RETIREMENTS

**Steven Byrd
Ronald Eastridge
Todd Ford
Ronald Jones
Kevin Kahl
Martin Lippy
Jason Phass
Thomas Yi
Jay Landsman
Grace Slemaker**

BEREAVEMENTS

**Carolina M. Sweren, Mother
of Brother Dave Sweren**

**Katherine Robey, Grand-
mother of Brother
Christopher Cullip**

**Frank J. Enko, Father of
Brother Frank Enko**

**Celeste Johnson, Step-
Mother of Brother Lee Prince**

**Joseph N. Cherry, Father of
Brother Joseph Cherry**

**Jason Miller, Brother of
Brother Matt Miller**

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Ken Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held January 21, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm. Past President Weston, 1st VP Massey, Chaplain DiCara, Brother Sweren and Brother Graff were excused, all board members were in attendance as was Legal Advisor Mike Davey.
- 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 Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, August 21, 2020. Details will follow at a later date.

BULL ROAST COMMITTEE

~Ken Schubert~

- The Lodge #4 Annual Bull Roast will be held on Sunday, March 22 from 1p.m. to 5p.m. at the Tall Cedars Lodge. Currently the Bull Roast is sold out. Call the Lodge to get on the waiting list.

DONATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Ryan Franks~

- The Committee met and brought forth the following motions to the Executive Board.
- To purchase a table of 10 tickets to the "Blue Line Bash" being held by the Police Emerald Society on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Total expenditure is \$600.00.
- To donate \$250.00 to Gilchrest to support their "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" celebration.
- Both motions were passed by the Executive Board on January 21, 2020. They were presented to the membership at the General Membership meeting on January 27, 2020. The membership approved these motions.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Ryan Massey~

- We received a grievance from POFC. Bugarin from Precinct #1. He is grieving his involuntary transfer from his School Resource Officer position. Both parties waived the Step #1 hearing. A Step #2 hearing was held on October 30, 2019. We are currently waiting for a decision.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Ryan Massey~

- The trial board for Sgt. Hackler was held on January 13, 2020 and January 14, 2020. There were 9 charges. Hackler pleaded guilty to 4 charges and the board heard the other 5 charges. The board found Hackler guilty of 4 of the 5 remaining charges. Hackler was demoted to the rank of POFC for the charges he plead guilty to. For the other charges he received 15 days loss of leave and termination.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- I attended the Policing, Public Information Workgroup on January 9, 2020 in Annapolis. This is the Committee put together by Chairman Clippinger to study what personnel records should be released to the public. The FOP was not initially invited to speak. However, after listening to members of the Committee speak with representatives for the ACLU and others, I asked the State FOP Lobbyist, Frank Boston, to address the Chair and ask for me to be allowed to address the Committee members. I then communicated to them that the language they were proposing and the terminology they were using was incorrect as far as the disciplinary process and the LEOBR. I then explained the correct process to them in detail.
- The Maryland Association of Chiefs then presented a draft proposal that would allow certain disciplinary records to be released by a Chief for certain infractions.
- We have not seen a draft bill on this yet.

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NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The Committee met and formed proposals for a meeting with the County on January 31, 2020.
- We have the list of arbitrators and our attorney has communicated with the County on proceeding with the strikes to select an arbitrator. We have informed the County that we will follow the statute as written.
- Impasse date is February 1, 2020.

PENSION COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- At the January 14, 2020 Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees approved thirty-three (33) total retirements, six (6) were from the Police Department.

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The committee received three (3) new or revised policies and there were no bargaining issues identified.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Mike DiCara~

- The Political Action Committee report was filed with the State.

NEW BUSINESS

- President Rose met 1st VP Massey to assign committee appointments. During this meeting several new committees were discussed and formed.
- The new committees formed were the Election Process Committee, the Mental Health Study Group, the 50th Anniversary Committee, and the Social Media Committee.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of January, Lodge #4 received fourteen (14) thank you cards or letters. Five (5) flower arrangements were sent to grieving members. Six (6) memorial donations were made in lieu of flowers. One (1) fruit basket was sent to a member recovering from injury.
- Sgt-at-Arms Kraemer brought back the 50/50 for the General Membership meeting. The drawing was won by Retired Brother John Cluster.

NEW ADDITIONS

**Grace Noelle McKelvey,
Daughter of Brother
Scott McKelvey**

**Hadley Elizabeth List,
Daughter of Brother
Josh List**

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.

Pension

Life Insurance

PBA

Deferred Comp.

Baltimore County Employee Federal Credit Union

Retirement Office

County Insurance

Police Personnel

Richard Dinardi

410-887-8246 or 1-877-222-3741

410-887-2568 or 1-800-274-4302

410-887-2208

877-677-3678

410-828-4730

The March

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
March 23, 2020
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, 2020
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road