



# The Fourword

Volume 41, Number 1

January 2013

## The Most Expensive Medical Test That Was Never Given!

As a Police Officer, you represent a living barrier of law and order that keeps good people from being harmed by wrong-doers. In upholding that duty, you experience a certain level of victimization. "It's part of the job," they tell you. You learn that when a bad guy attacks you, it's not personal..., it's professional, because doing your job puts you in opposition of the criminal. Over the last six years I've experienced something more insidious than any criminal's intent I've encountered in twenty-five years as a Police Officer in Baltimore County. The operation of government as a personal tool to punish, marginalize and even terminate its own employees because they dared stand up for what was right, in my opinion is a corrupt practice. The reasoning behind it was obvious to me... unethical practices to save a dollar. This just isn't my words, the courts and the DOJ have seen this too, and found the County government utilized illegal practices against its employees. The fact of the matter is that it cost them more than a million dollars in awards, settlements, and fees. But, they don't pay it from their pocket. Instead, the repercussions of their actions have been passed on to the taxpayers of Baltimore County to shoulder. All along, the people making the decisions can hide within the anonymity of the term "government." It is up to the taxpayers and voters to make a stand, and call accountability to the elected and appointed officials who chose this pattern of fiscal irresponsibility.

In all, I am grateful to the FOP and Attorney Kathleen Cahill for their incredible efforts in helping, not only myself, but the other affected County employees, endure this long and tenuous fight. In truth, the finality of this endeavor serves as a testament to will and integrity, and is a monumental decision that will protect all County employees moving forward. The findings of the courts are the first step in restoring pride, honor and truth to all the employees of Baltimore County, and calling accountability to County government. In the finality of this victory, and of its many victories along the way, I am proud to see justice served, I am proud to have worked alongside such dedicated and deserving professionals, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

*-WP Blake*

\$225,850.67	Awarded Distress Damages	August 2011
\$ 19,132.49	Awarded Court Costs	October 2011
\$499,075.95	Awarded Attorney Fees	December 2012
<u>\$744,059.11</u>		
<u>\$475,000.00</u>	U.S. Dept. of Justice Consent Decree	August 2012
<b>\$1,219,059.11</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





## MEETING MINUTES

December 2012

- The December 2012 General Business Meeting was held on December 17, 2012 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 elected officers and Board members were present. Legal advisor Mike Marshall was also in attendance.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- A motion was made by Brother Grumbach to accept the minutes of the November 2012 General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Brother King. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- November 27 Met with County Councilman David Marks.
- November 28 Attended the Baltimore County Police Department Awards Ceremony.
- November 30 Attended a fundraiser for Delegate James Malone.
- December 4 Attended a fundraiser for Delegate John Olaszewski Jr.

- December 5 Addressed the In-Service training class, attended the lateral class graduation, met with members of the Blue Guardians.
- December 12 FOP Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 13 Met with County Councilman Ken Oliver.
- December 17 Attended the PAC, Executive Board of Directors, and General Membership meetings.

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

- December 12 Attended the F.O.P. Lodge # 4 Executive Board of Directors Holiday Reception.
- December 17 Worked at the Lodge office, attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee, attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting and attended the General Business Meeting.

~2nd V.P. ROSE~

- November 27 Met with Councilman Marks.
- November 28 Attended Phase 2 at the range.
- November 29 Met with Lt. McQuaid about possible negotiation proposals, met with a member about retirement issues.
- December 1 Responded to an officer involved shooting in PC 6.
- December 4 Attended a fundraiser for Delegate Johnny Olaszewski Jr.
- December 5 Attended the 135<sup>th</sup> Lateral Entry Class graduation, met with Lt. Orlando Lilly, Sgt. Anthony Russell and Pfc. Shelly Knox, responded to an officer involved shooting in PC 6.

## 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**

PC3 - Traffic

(410) 409-0293

David M. Rose

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

F.O.P. Lodge 4

(443) 956-2643

David J. Folderauer, Sr.

**Lodge Secretary**

PC 4 - IST

(410) 382-2075

Robert W. Caskey

**Treasurer**

CID-Robbery

(443) 956-2615

W. Donald Patterson

**State Trustee**

PC12

Anthony DiCara

**Sergeant at Arms**

PC12

Paul A. Merkle

**Chaplain**

Retired

L. Timothy Caslin

**Past President**

Retired

## EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kenneth F. Schubert

**Chairman**

Retired

(410) 416-2800

Mike DiCara

**Vice Chairman**

PC 4

Thomas G. Scally

CID - Arson

Donna Patterson

PC12

James P. Rommel, Jr.

K9

Joe Caskey

CID - Homicide

Louis J. Lagna

Retired

Patrick Zito

PC 7 - Traffic

Ryan Massey

CID - Homicide

Kathy Kraemer

PC 6

## 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

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

**Fourword Editor**

Kathryn Greenbeck

Precinct 8

- December 11 Attended a Pension Board of Trustees meeting.
- December 12 Met with an officer about a leave issue and attended the Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 13 Attended a meeting at headquarters for "Integrity Clarification."
- December 17 Attended the Executive Board of Directors and General Business meetings.

#### SECRETARY FOLDERAUER

- December 17 Worked at the Lodge office, attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee, attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting and attended the General Business Meeting.

#### ~TRESURER CASKEY~

- December 3 Worked at the Lodge.
- December 7 Worked at the Lodge.
- December 17 Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting and the General Membership meeting.
- December 21 Worked at the Lodge.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Kenny Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on December 17, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. All elected officers and Board mem-

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Twitter**

**@BaltoCoFOP4**

**And**

**Facebook at  
"Baltimore County  
Fraternal Order of  
Police Lodge 4"**



bers were present. Legal counsel Mike Marshall was also present.

- 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

##### LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- On November 19, 2012 the Court of Appeals issued a decision in favor of the FOP in the retiree subsidy case. The decision directs the Maryland Court of Special Appeals to reverse its previous decision in favor of Baltimore County. This decision affects about 440 retirees who retired between February 1, 1992 and June 30, 2007. The County filed a "Motion for Reconsideration" with the Court of Appeals on January 2, 2013. We are waiting for a response.
- On October 25, 2012 the FOP

#### **42nd Annual Bull, Oyster & Shrimp Roast**



**Sunday  
March 24, 2013  
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.**



**Tall Cedars Hall  
Parkville, MD**

**\$35.00 per person  
(Reservations are being accepted)**

**Music, Wheels, Raffles  
Food by Atlantic Catering**



**Open Bar**

**Music by *Wherez Dave***



**For Tickets & Information  
Contact Lodge 4 at (410) 668-0004**

## ***Bereavements***

**Retired Brother  
Louis A. Pagani, Jr.**

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**Retired Brother  
Dennis C. Cotton**

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**Joyce Bennington  
Mother-In-Law of  
Brother Pete Grippi**

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**John J. Dill  
Father of  
Brother Jack Dill**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Miriam Long  
Grandmother of  
Brother William Long**

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**Lucy S. Roeder  
Mother of Retired Brother  
James L. Roeder**

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**Rusling Blackburn  
Father of Brother  
Kyle Blackburn**

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**Edwin Gillman  
Grandfather of Brother  
Kevin Loss**

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**Juanita Hartline  
Wife of Retired Brother  
Frederick Hartline and  
Step-Mother of Retired  
Brother Kenneth Hartline**

sent the County a pre-litigation demand letter stating we have identified deficiencies in the \$25 million loan from the Employees' Retirement System and that we demand the County comply by a certain date or we will file suit. On November 26, 2012 our attorney contacted the Baltimore County Office of Law in reference to a response. The County Attorney stated the County would not be responding to our letter. On December 11, 2012 at the Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees were presented with a contract for the loan. The Trustees approved the contract. On December 14, 2012 we sent another Public Information Act Request to the County for all records created since October 13, 2012. The County has thirty (30) days to comply with the request.

• On November 28, 2012 Federal District Court Judge Legg issued his decision in the fee petition for the Blake case. In the deci-

### **Association of Baltimore County Retired Police 2013 Meetings**

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**March 5, 2013**

**April 2, 2013**

**May 7, 2013**

**September 3, 2013**

**November 5, 2013**

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

sion, Judge Legg awarded attorneys fees and court costs. This will reimburse FOP Lodge #4 for its expenses in the case.

- On June 28, 2012 the County filed an appeal of Judge Cox's Circuit Court decision in the Absence Control Policy case to the Court of Special Appeals.



No hearing date has been set.

- The Stanley Siedlecki case is scheduled for January 22, 2012 in Baltimore County Circuit Court.
- The Employee Relations Act case was heard on September 9, 2011 at the Court of Special Appeals. We are still waiting for a decision.
- The Brandt Bradford case was scheduled for November 15, 2012 at 10:00 am at the Board of Appeals. It was postponed and no reschedule date has been set.
- The James Laboard case was postponed from December 11, 2012. Motions have been scheduled for April 12, 2013 and the case has been rescheduled for June 17, 2013 in Baltimore County Circuit.
- To date we have six (6) trial boards scheduled for the first 6 months of 2013. This is a very high number compared to previous average of 2 per year.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**~Tom Scally~**

- A motion was made from the committee to accept Melissa Vandergriff as an Associate Member. The sponsor is Brother David Vandergriff. The motion received a proper second and passed.
- A motion was made to accept Christopher Kirk as an Associate Member. The sponsor is retired Brother Mike DiPaula. The motion received a proper second and passed.

#### **PENSION COMMITTEE**

**~Dave Rose~**

- At the Baltimore County Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees' Meeting on December 11, 2012 we approved ten (10) total retirements (no police department personnel), seven (7) service, one (1) DROP, one (1) vested and one (1) death in service.
- The Trustees were also given a copy of the contract for the loan from the pension system to the County. The contract contained several grammatical and mathematical errors that were pointed out for correction. A vote was taken to approve the contract for the loan. The vote passed six (6) to one (1). I was the only "No" vote.

#### **POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

**~Steve Comegna~**

- The Political Action Committee met on Monday December 17, 2012. The following motions were presented to the Executive Board of Directors on that date:
  - To purchase a \$250.00 sponsorship for a fundraiser being held by State Delegate and FOP Brother Steve DeBoy on Wednesday January 02, 2013.
  - To purchase two (2) tickets to a fundraiser being held by State Delegate Joe Boteler on Friday January 04, 2012. The ticket cost is \$65.00 each, for a total expenditure of \$130.00.
- These motions were approved by the Executive Board of Directors. This report was presented at the December General Business Meeting and approved by the general membership.

#### **Congratulations to All January Promotees!**

##### **Sergeant to Lieutenant**

Eric Keith  
Rochelle Santoro

##### **Corporal to Sergeant**

John Arnold  
Kevin Felbinger  
Michelle Gonzalez  
John Horst  
Matthew Jackson  
John Keeney  
Jeffrey Kennedy  
Bruce Markwordt  
Michael Prendergast  
Anissa Watkins

##### **Officer to Corporal**

Kitanya Boston  
Aaron Brewer  
John Haddaway  
Thomas Insley Jr.  
Cynthia Jackson-Booth  
Christopher Mazan  
Timothy McCreer Jr.  
Jonathan McMillan  
Charles Montgomery  
Dwayne Sewell  
Michael Smith  
Marianne Snyder

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- New FOP identification cards and calendar books were mailed.
- Deli trays were delivered to each precinct on New Year's Eve.
- During the month of December FOP Lodge #4 sent seven (7) cards and/or flower arrangements to bereaving members. Two (2) donations were sent in lieu of flowers at the families' request. Three (3) "thank you" cards were received.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.



The February

**FOP Lodge 4  
GENERAL  
BUSINESS  
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,  
February 25, 2013  
7:30 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road

The March

**FOP Lodge 4  
GENERAL  
BUSINESS  
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,  
March 25, 2013  
7:30 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road