



The Fourword

Volume 44 Number 1

January 2016

The Executive Board of Directors was pleased to recognize Mrs. Juanita Bouthner for fifteen years of dedicated service to the membership of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4. We are very fortunate to have Ms. Juanita who joined us in July of 2000. She has many responsibilities and we value the way she diligently goes about her work. She was very important to the success of the renovation project to the Baltimore County Police Memorial making it pedestrian accessible. She and her husband, Mr. Paul Bouthner, who is an honorary member of FOP Lodge #4, appreciate law enforcement officers and the work you do.



45th Annual Bull and Oyster Roast and Shrimp Feast information inside.

H.E.L.P.S Retiree Act information inside and on the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4 website at www.foplodge4.org. Click on Contracts and Legislation and then on the H.E.L.P.S. Retiree Act to see a complete description including IRS tax forms.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES December 2015

- The December General Business meeting was held on December 28, 2015 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Brother Tony DiCara gave the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge, Past President Caslin swore in the newly elected line officers and board members.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- Brother Joe Caskey and Brother Jim Rommel were on vacation, Brother Tom Scally was excused, all other 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 King to accept the minutes of the November General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Brother Speed. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- President Weston opened the meeting with discussion on the incident that occurred in Towson on December 18, 2015. He advised that he spoke with the Chief, the officer involved and Senator Brochin about the inci-

dent and comments made to the media. Several members expressed their concerns with comments made by the Public Information Officer and Senator Brochin.

- November 24– Attended a meeting of the Public Safety and Policing Workgroup at Morgan State University.
- November 30– Met with our LEOBR attorneys from Schlachman, Belsky and Weiner.
- December 3– Attended a meeting of the Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup.
- December 7– Assisted a member at a rating appeal and attended the Police Department Promotion Ceremony.
- December 9– Attended a Maryland State FOP Legislative Committee meeting in Annapolis.
- December 15– Addressed the 142nd Recruit Class and chaired a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- December 16– Attended the FOP Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 17– Attended a meeting with the Maryland State FOP Legislative Committee in Annapolis.
- December 21– Attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee and the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- December 28– Chaired the Lodge #4 General Business meeting.

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- November 30– Met with our attorneys from Schlachman, Belsky and Weiner.

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
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

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
CID - Arson
David Sweren
PC-6
James P. Rommel, Jr.
PC-11
Joe Caskey
Retired

Kathy Kraemer
PC-6
Michael Cortes
RATT
Ryan Franks
CID-Property
Patrick Zito
Retired

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

The Fourword

- December 1– Met with representatives from FOP Benefits in reference to completing a mailing to our members.
- December 2– Attended the promotional draft at headquarters.
- December 7– Attended the police departments promotion ceremony.
- December 10– Attended the monthly meeting of the Police Assistance and Relief Fund (PAR).
- December 14– Along with Second Vice-President Rose, responded to a police involved shooting in PC11.
- December 15– Attended a meeting of the labors portion of the Health Care Review Committee and a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- December 16– Attended the graduation ceremony of the 142nd Recruit Class.
- December 17– Visited Precinct #3.
- December 21– Attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee and the Executive Board of Directors.
- December 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~2nd V. P. ROSE~

- November 24– Attended a meeting of the Public Safety and Policing Workgroup at Morgan State University.
- November 30– Met with our attorneys from Schlachman, Belsky and Weiner.
- December 1– Met with a member to discuss an IAS case.
- December 2– Attended a Body Worn Camera project meeting.
- December 3 – Attended the officer transfer draft, met with Major Hlavach and attended the

Body Worn Camera policy meeting.

- December 4 – Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- December 8 – Attended a meeting of the Pension Board of Trustees.
- December 9 – Attended a meeting of the Maryland State FOP Legislative Committee.
- December 10– Met with the Captain and Lieutenants from IAS.
- December 14– Met with a representative from Tactical Financial Group to discuss a mailing to our members.
- December 15– Attended a meeting of the Health Care Review Committee and attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- December 16– Attended the Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 17– Attended a meeting of the Maryland State FOP Legislative Committee in Annapolis.
- December 18– Attended a suspension review hearing with a member.
- December 21– Met with Councilmen Marks and Crandell and attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- December 22– Met with a member and attorney Kathleen Cahill to discuss medical releases.
- December 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

- December 15–Met with President Weston and Trustee Patterson and the 142nd Recruit Class.
- December 16– Attended the Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 21– Attended the

Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.

- December 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- December 16– Attended the Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- December 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~TRUSTEE PATTERSON~

- December 15–Met with President Weston and Secretary Patterson and the 142nd Recruit Class.
- December 16– Attended the Lodge #4 holiday reception.
- December 21– Attended the meeting of the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors.
- December 28 - Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

Promotions

***The following members
were promoted during a
ceremony on December 7,
2015***

Captain Eliot M. Latchaw

Lieutenant Jay C. Landsman, Sr.

Sergeant Gregory P. Sheets

Corporal Justin D. Tester

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

~ Mike DiCara ~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on December 21, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Chairman Schubert and Sister Kraemer were excused. 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

BULL ROAST

~Ken Schubert~

- The Lodge #4 Annual Bull & Oyster Roast and Shrimp Feast will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2016 from 1:00-6:00 pm at the Tall Cedars Hall, 2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, MD 21234. Tickets will be \$40. The music will be provided by Headrush. To reserve your table call the Lodge at (410) 668-0004.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The Health Care Subsidy Grievance was presented at Step #3 on November 23, 2015 in front of Lawrence Stahl of the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- Post hearing memorandums were submitted by January 4, 2016 .

**LEGAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

~Dave Rose~

- The retiree health care subsidy case was presented at the Maryland Court of Appeals on November 9, 2015. We are waiting for a decision.
- The Brandt Bradford case was scheduled for December 7, 2015 at the Court of Special Appeals. It was postponed by the court. It has been rescheduled for February 8, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

~Cole Weston~

- The Public Safety and Policing Workgroup met on November 24, 2015 at Morgan State University to discuss recommendations for possible bills to be introduced. The last meeting of the committee was held on January 11, 2016.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

~Tom Scally~

- The membership committee made a motion to approve three (3) new Associate Members.
- Edward Ladzinski was sponsored by Brother Barry Blevins.
- Phillip Legare was sponsored by President Weston.
- Stephen Somers was sponsored by President Weston.
- All three (3) passed background checks and were approved by the Executive Board and by the general membership.

NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

~Cole Weston~

- The negotiation team met on December 15, 2015. The County has been meeting with other labor groups. We have requested the list of Arbitrators.

**POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE**

~Steve Comegna~

- The Political Action Committee met on Monday December 21, 2015. The committee made the following motions:
- To purchase a \$250.00 Bronze sponsorship to a fundraiser being held by State Delegate Adrienne Jones (District # 10) on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.
- To purchase a \$500.00 ticket to a fundraiser being held by State Delegate and Speaker of the House Michael Busch (District #30A) on Friday, January 8, 2016.
- These motions were presented to the Executive Board of Directors on Monday, December 21, 2015 and approved unanimously.
- The motions were approved unanimously by the members present at the December 2015 General Membership meeting.

PENSION COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- On December 10, 2015, the Pension Board of Trustees met and approved thirty (30) retirements. Three (3) were from the police department.

**POLICY REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

~Dave Rose~

- The committee members reviewed six (6) policies this month. There were no bargaining issues identified.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

~Tim Caslin~

- Scholarship packets are now available at the lodge office. The cut-off date for return is February 1, 2016.

Association of Baltimore County Retired Police Meetings 2016

**March 1
May 3
September 6
November 1**

**All meetings are held at
Parkville Heritage Gar-
dens at 7:30 p.m.**

clude \$4.00 for shipping for the first coin and \$2.00 for each additional coin.

- As you prepare your tax return this year remember to take the H.E.L.P.S. Act deduction for your pre tax health care premiums.
- The Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act provides a modest tax benefit to retired public safety officers to pay for health care by allowing the use, on a pretax basis, of up to \$3,000 annually from their pension funds to pay for premiums on health care and long term care insurance.
- Federal legislation and resulting IRS regulations effect individuals differently. Each member is encouraged to work with their individual tax professional to determine how the HELPS Retiree Act may apply to them.

Bereavements

**Retired Brother Fran
Zahner**

**Craig Spicer, Father of
Brother Bryan Spicer, Fa-
ther-in-law of Brother Ja-
son Swem and Father-in-
law of Brother Brian Rupp**



GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of December FOP Lodge #4 sent four (4) cards and flower arrangements to bereaving members. Twelve (12) thank you cards were received. Two (2) fruit baskets were sent to members recovering from illness.
- The Association of Baltimore County Retired Police are selling Challenge Coins to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the organization. The price of each coin is \$12.00. They are available at Lodge #4 and at the Association's meeting nights. They are also available by mail. If you would like to order one or more coins send a check made out to Association of Baltimore County Retired Police Inc. to P.O. Box 411, Perry Hall, MD 21128, attention to Rick Fox. Please in-

45th Annual Bull, Oyster & Shrimp Roast

**Sunday
March 20, 2016
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Tall Cedars Hall
Parkville, MD**

**\$40.00 per person
(Reservations are being accepted)**

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

Open Bar

Music by Headrush

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



The February

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
February 22, 2016
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 28, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road