



The Fourword

Volume 43 Number 11

November 2015

Retired Captain
of the Baltimore
County Police
Department



Charter Member
of the Baltimore
County Fraternal
Order of Police,
Lodge #4

Richard Gordon Skinner
November 2, 1933 – October 27, 2015

Captain Skinner served the citizens of Baltimore County as a sworn member of the Baltimore County Police Department from 1961 through 1988. He is one of the thirty three founding members of F.O.P. Lodge #4. In 1970 a small group of Baltimore County Police Officers recognized the importance of organizing for the purpose negotiating working conditions and protecting the welfare of the membership. Starting a police labor organization was met with opposition from police management and several of our charter members were faced with involuntary transfers and obstructed career advancements. Thanks to their courage, and commitment to making things better for police officers we have 2,953 members and are able to continue to successfully support our membership. Today's success rests on the foundation they built.

In 1976 F.O.P. Lodge #4 was able to start a scholarship fund to assist the children of our membership continue their education. Richard Skinner was appointed the chairman of the committee. The first award of \$2,000.00 was issued in 1977. Over the years the fund took on the names of the officers who we have lost in the line-of duty and the award was increased to \$3,000.00. Today the fund is known as the Fallen Heroes Memorial Scholarship Fund and awards \$27,000.00 annually. Retired Captain Richard G. Skinner served as the chairman of the fund until his passing. As the chairman of this committee from 1977 to 2015 the fund has awarded \$446,000.00 to support the continued education efforts of our member's children.

He will be missed by his family, friends, and the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES October 2015

- The October General Business meeting was held on October 26, 2015 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Sister Kraemer gave the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- Chaplain Merkle and Brother Graff were 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 September General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Brother Grumbach. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- September 29– Met with Chaplain Merkle.
- September 30– Addressed the In-service training class and attended the 9th Annual Democratic Central Committee's Unity Dinner.
- October 5– Attended a fundraising event for Delegate Kathy Szeliga (District #7).
- October 6– Met with the Presi-

dent of Nevins and Associates to discuss a media relations campaign.

- October 7– Attended a fundraising event for Delegate Steve Lafferty (District #42), addressed the In-service training class and chaired a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- October 8– Attended a fundraising event for Senator Ed Kase-meyer (District #12).
- October 13– Attended a funeral service with the Cordery family.
- October 14– Addressed the In-service training class.
- October 16– Attended the Baltimore County Police Department promotional ceremony.
- October 19– Met with Baltimore County States Attorney Scott Shellenberger, attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee and attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- October 20– Attended the American Society for Industrial Security 2015 Police and Private Security Awards Luncheon.
- October 21– Addressed the In-service training class, attended the Maryland General Assembly Public Safety and Policing Workgroup meeting in Annapolis, and attended a fundraising event for Delegate Dan Morham (District #11).
- October 26– Chaired the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- September 29– Conducted the campaign finance deposits for August 2015.
- September 30– Attended the Baltimore County Democratic

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

Central Committee's Unity Dinner.

- October 7– Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- October 14– Attended a “Body Camera Stakeholders” meeting with Second Vice-President Rose.
- October 16– Attended the Baltimore County Police Department promotional ceremony.
- October 19– Attended a meeting with Baltimore County States Attorney Scott Shellenberger, attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee and attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- October 20– Attended a meeting of labors portion of the Health Care Review Committee.
- October 22– Attended a meeting of the Police Department “Diversity Committee”.
- October 26– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~2nd V. P. ROSE~

- September 29– Attended the Baltimore County Council work session.
- September 30– Attended the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee's Unity Dinner.
- October 5– Attended a fundraiser for Delegate Kathy Szeliga (District #7).
- October 6– Met with David Nevins from Nevins and Associates.
- October 7 – Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- October 9 – Attended the promotional draft.
- October 13 – Attended a meeting of the Pension Board of Trustees.
- October 14 – Attended a “Body Camera Stakeholders” meeting.

- October 15– Attended a special meeting of the Pension Board of Trustees regarding benefit status of Officer Brett Lanasa.
- October 19– Attended a meeting with Baltimore County States Attorney Scott Shellenberger and attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- October 20– Attended the Police and Private Security awards luncheon.
- October 21– Attended the Public Safety and Policing Workgroup meeting in Annapolis.
- October 24– Attended the fundraiser for Officer Jim Morrison.
- October 25– Participated in the Blue Steel Stampede 10K Race to benefit the Concerns of Police Survivors.
- October 26– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

- September 30– Attended the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee's Unity Dinner.
- October 19– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- October 24– Attended and worked the fundraiser for Officer Jim Morrison.
- October 26 – Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- October 19– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- October 26– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~TRUSTEE PATTERSON~

- September 30 – Attended the Baltimore County Democratic Central Committee's Unity Dinner.
- October 19– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- October 24– Attended and worked the fundraiser for Officer Jim Morrison.
- October 26– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

~ Ken Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on October 19, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Chaplain Merkle, Brother Scally and Brother Cortes were excused. Brother Franks was on vacation and Brother Rommel 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

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- One grievance was filed this month.
- On October 2, 2015 the Health Care Review Committee (HCRC) received a letter from the Director of the Office of Human Resources, George Gay

stating that the County did not agree to submit the grievances filed collectively by all six members of the HCRC disputing the subsidy splits, directly to arbitration. He states in the letter that this may only be done if both parties mutually agree. Therefore each bargaining group must submit a grievance individually through their respective grievance process before the County will even consider a consolidation of the grievances to arbitration.

- On October 12, 2015, FOP Lodge #4 resubmitted the grievance that was originally filed in February. As per our Memorandum of Understanding the class grievance was filed directly to Step #2.. It was denied because it could not be resolved at that level. We immediately filed an appeal to Step #3. We were scheduled to present the grievance at Step #3 on Friday, October 23, 2015 in front of Lawrence Stahl of the Office of Administrative Hearings. The County requested a postponement and it was granted. No new date has been set.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The briefs to the Maryland Court of Appeals in the retiree health care subsidy case have been submitted. The case is scheduled for November 9, 2015.
- All the briefs in the Brandt Bradford case have been submitted to the Court of Special Appeals. The case is scheduled for December 7, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

~Cole Weston~

- The Public Safety and Policing Workgroup met on October 21, 2015 in Annapolis with discussions on "Community Policing". There is a meeting scheduled on November 24 at Morgan State University to discuss recommendations for possible bills to be introduced.

NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE

~Cole Weston~

- The negotiation team met and a letter was sent to the County for the intent to open the contract for modifications. No additional meets dates have been set.

PENSION COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- On October 13, 2015, the Pension Board of Trustees met and approved twenty-nine (29) retirements. Nine (9) were from the police department.

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The committee members reviewed thirteen (13) policies this month. There were no bargaining issues identified.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Steve Comegna~

- The Political Action Committee met on October 19, 2015. The committee made the following motions:
- To purchase a \$500.00 Gold Sponsorship to a fundraising

event for State Senator Kathy Klausmeier (District #8) on Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

- To purchase a \$1,000.00 Sponsorship to a fundraising event for State Senator Bobby Zirkin (District #11) on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.
- To purchase a up to four (4) tickets at a cost of \$40.00 each to a fundraising event for State Delegate Robin Grammer (District #6) on Friday, November 20, 2015.
- These motions were presented to the Executive Board on October 19, 2015 and were approved by the general membership on October 26, 2015.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

~Tim Caslin~

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

OLD BUSINESS

- A Body Worn Camera Workgroup has been put together and sub-committees are being formed. The committees will meet over the next several months.
- The ballots were sent to members in the mail and must be returned to Lodge #4 by the November General Membership meeting scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Department has formed a Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup. There are 12 meetings scheduled between October 22, 2015 and March 24, 2016.

- President Weston, First Vice-President Comegna and Second Vice-President Rose had a meeting with States Attorney Scott Shellenberger to discuss the States Attorney's Office putting members on the Brady List.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of October FOP Lodge #4 sent three (3) cards and flower arrangements to bereaving members. Four (4) donations were made in memory of passing family members. Nine (9) thank you cards were received. Two (2) fruit baskets were sent to members recovering from illness.
- The fundraiser to benefit Brother Jim Morrison was held on Saturday, October 24, 2015. The event was very well attended and after all expenses were paid the committee was able to present Jim and his family with a generous donation.
- The Lodge office has requested that members contact them to make sure they have a current address so that correspondences, such as membership cards and calendar books will be received.



PROMOTIONS

COLONEL

**Evan Cohen
Alexander Jones**

MAJOR

**Steven Hlavach
Gordon Skinner**

CAPTAIN

**Wes Fischer
Matthew Gorman**

LIEUTENANT

**Rick Shull Jr.
Patrick Stonko**

SERGEANT

**Cathleen Batton
Ivory Bing
Brendan Duker
Brian Edwards
Jeremy Gryctz
Thomas Insley Jr.
Tonya Johnson
Michael Mertz
Daniel Schwienteck**

CORPORAL

**Daniel Burns
Tia Bynum
Justin Ferguson
James Gayles
William Havens
Deneisha Seaman
David Sweren
Scott Walston
Joshua Watson
Randall Wright**

Bereavements

**Retired Brother Henry
Gonzalez, Father of Brother
Darren Gonzalez**

**Retired Brother Richard
Skinner, Father of Brother
Gordon Skinner**

**Barbara Bergin, Mother of
Retired Brother Rick
Bergin**

**Marie Busch, Mother of
Retired Brother Thomas
Busch**

**Felix Kmiecik, Father –in
-law of Retired Brother
Sam Hannigan**

**Julia Rose, Grandmother
of Brother Christopher
Smith**

**Vincie Vullo Cordery,
Mother of Retired Brother
Robert Cordery**

**Armen A. Bangert, Mother
of Retired Brother Joeseph
Bangert**

OCTOBER RETIREMENTS

**Barry Blevins
Kristyn Bohan
Joeseph Caskey
Joseph Conway**

**Richard Dix
Doug Georgieff
Joseph Goralczyk
Raymond Patterson**

**Brian Peacock
Barry Sweitzer
Howard Wittbecker**

The December

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
December 28, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road

The January

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
January 25, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road