



The Fourword

Volume 43 Number 10

October 2015

LODGE 4 “FALLEN HEROES” MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Applications for the Fall, 2016/Spring, 2017 scholarships are available now by contacting Lodge4. Nine (9) \$3,000.00 awards are made each year.

Applications for these awards are open to the sons, daughters, adopted children, step-children or legally court-appointed wards, who are citizens of the United States. The applicant's parent or guardian shall have been an Active or Retired member in good standing of Baltimore County Lodge No. 4 for at least one (1) full year prior to the date of application for the current year scholarship awards. The applicant must be or will be a full-time student at a recognized college or university.

The deadline to return the completed application with required attachments is February 1, 2016.

H.E.L.P.S. RETIREE ACT

The Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act, which was enacted in Section 845 of H.R. 4/PL 109-280, the Pension Protection Act, provision 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 (including defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans) to pay for premiums on health care and long-term care insurance. The law went into effect on 1 January 2007. However, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued guidance in February 2007 which defined “accident or health insurance plan” in a very restrictive manner and excluded “self-insured” plans. As a result, this important tax benefit was initially unavailable to a significant number of retired public safety officers who would otherwise be entitled to receive it.

At the request of the FOP and other stakeholder groups, the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance sent a joint letter to the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of the Treasury communicating the intent of Congress with respect to the HELPS Retirees Act and requested that the guidance be changed. In May 2007, the U.S. Department of the Treasury responded to that request in a letter to Congress indicating that the IRS will amend their guidance in such a way as to include self-insured plans as eligible under the HELPS Retirees Act. Following the transmission of this letter, self-insured plans which were previously ineligible became eligible, allowing our members can begin to take advantage of the benefit provided by the HELPS Retirees Act.

On 24 December 2007, the IRS formally issued an amendment to their original guidance with respect to their interpretation of the term “accident or health insurance plan” that is consistent with the original intent of the Act and the information provided by the Treasury Department in May. A copy of the amendment to the guidance can be found here: http://www.irs.gov/irb/2007-05_IRB/ar11.html#d0e2227 and a link to this document, as well as an updated version of the FAQ on the HELPS provision can be found on the Legislative page of the Grand Lodge's website at www.fop.net.

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.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES September 2015

- The September General Business meeting was held on September 28, 2015 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Brother Graff gave the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- Brother Bob Caskey was sick and Chaplain Merkle 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 Folio to accept the minutes of the August General Membership Meeting. A second was made by Brother Grumbach. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- August 25– Attended a fundraiser for Baltimore County Councilman Wade Kach (District 3).
- August 27– Attended the viewing for Police Officer First Class Brett Lanasa and a fundraiser for Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond (District 2).
- August 29– Attended the funeral service for Police Officer First Class Lanasa.

- August 31– Met with the surviving spouse and three sons of Brett Lanasa concerning benefits and met with the FOP Lodge #4 lobbyist, John Stierhoff and a PR firm concerning a police officer and citizen relations campaign.
- September 1– Attended a meeting in Annapolis of the Governor's commission regarding the implementation and use of body worn cameras by law enforcement officers.
- September 2– Met with an officer and spouse concerning returning to work after an illness.
- September 3– Met with the FOP Lodge #4 negotiation team.
- September 7– Attended a viewing with the Albrecht family.
- September 8– Attended the funeral for Mr. Albrecht, addressed the In-Service training class and attended a meeting of the Baltimore County Retired Police Officers Association.
- September 10– Attended a Political Action Committee meeting.
- September 11– Attended the bi-monthly meeting with Chief Johnson, his Bureau Chiefs and the members of the Executive Board of Directors.
- September 14-18– Vacation
- September 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 23– Addressed the In-Service training class.
- September 24– Met with the FOP Lodge #4 negotiation team.
- September 28– Chaired the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

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

The Fourword

~ 1st V. P. COMEGNA ~

- August 25– Attended a fundraiser for the “Leadership for Northeast Baltimore County Slate (formed between Councilman Marks and Senator Jennings).
- September 3– Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- September 8– Attended a meeting of the Baltimore County Retired Officers Association.
- September 10– Attended a meeting of the Police Assistance and Relief Fund (P.A.R.) and a meeting of the Political Action Committee.
- September 11– Attended the bi-monthly between Chief Johnson and the Executive Board of Directors.
- September 15– Met with a representative from FOP Benefits.
- September 17– Met with Chief Johnson and the Executive Board of Directors to discuss the implementation of body worn cameras.
- September 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 24– Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- September 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

~2nd V. P. ROSE~

- August 25– Attended a fundraiser for Baltimore County Councilman Wade Kach (District 3).
- August 27– Attended a fundraiser for Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond (District 2).
- August 31– Met with the family of Police Officer First Class Brett Lanasa. Met with FOP

Lodge #4 lobbyist, John Stierhoff.

- September 1– Attended the Body Camera Workgroup meeting in Annapolis.
- September 3 – Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee and met with Lt. Norris from Internal Affairs.
- September 8 – Attended a Pension Board of Trustees meeting. Met with Captain Martin and Lt. Norris from Internal Affairs. Addressed In-Service training class and attended the meeting of the Baltimore County Retired Police Officers Association.
- September 9 – Met with Captain Kelly and Lt. Naimaster at Precinct 9.
- September 11 – Attended a meeting with Chief Johnson and the Executive Board of Directors.
- September 14– Addressed the First Line Supervisors School.
- September 15– Attended the County Council Work Session and met with Council Chairwoman Cathy Bevins.
- September 16– Addressed the In-Service training class.
- September 17– Attended the meeting with Chief Johnson and the Executive Board of Directors.
- September 18– Met with a representative from Mid Atlantic Retirement Planning.
- September 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 24– Attended a meeting of the Negotiations Committee.
- September 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

- September 8–Attended the meeting of the Baltimore County Retired Police Officers Association.
- September 21 – Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 28 - Attended the General Membership meeting.

~TREASURER CASKEY~

- September 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.

~TRUSTEE PATTERSON~

- September 8 – Attended the meeting of the Baltimore County Retired Police Officers Association.
- September 21– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 28– Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.
- The next State FOP Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Rocky Gap. There will be training on Friday November 6, 2015 on workers compensation and dealing with the media.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Ken Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on September 21, 2015. The meeting was held offsite and was called to order at 10:30 am. Sgt at Arms Massey and legal advisor Mike Marshall were excused. All other board members 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.

August 28 and the County's reply was due September 17, 2015. No date has been set for the case.

**POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE**
~Steve Comegna~

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**DONATION REVIEW
COMMITTEE**
~Mike DiCara~

- The Donation Review Committee met on September 21, 2015 and the following motions were made and passed.
- To purchase a table of (10) ten to the Police Emerald Society of Baltimore's Bull Roast to be held on November 21 at the Tall Cedars Lodge. Cost of table is \$400.
- To purchase two (2) tables at a cost of \$350 each for a total expenditure of \$700 for the fundraiser to benefit Brother Jim Morrison to be held on October 24 at St. Claire's in Essex.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
~Dave Rose~

- No grievances were filed this month.

**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.
- The ERS/County has filed an appeal to the Court of Special Appeals in the Brandt Bradford case. The County's initial brief was submitted by June 30, 2015. Our response was submitted by

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
~Cole Weston~

- The Public Safety and Policing Workgroup met on September 22, 2015 in Annapolis with discussions on "Best Practices in Law Enforcement". There are meetings scheduled in October and November.
- There is also a Committee on Body Cameras. There was a meeting on September 1 with a final report to be completed on October 1. The final report can be viewed on the F.O.P. Lodge #4 webpage.

NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE
~Cole Weston~

- The negotiation team met the September 3 and 24 to discuss options prior to the opening of negotiations.

PENSION COMMITTEE
~Dave Rose~

- On September 8, 2015, the Pension Board of Trustees met and approved thirty-four (34) retirements. Two (2) 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.

- The Political Action Committee met on September 10, 2015. The committee made the following motions:
- To purchase a \$300.00 Silver Sponsorship to a fundraising event for State Delegate Kathy Szeliga (District 7) on Monday, October 5, 2015.
- To purchase a \$500.00 Sponsorship to a fundraising event for State Senator Ed Kasemeyer (District 12) on Thursday, October 8, 2015.
- To purchase a \$250.00 Silver Sponsorship to a reception being held by State Delegate Dan Morhaim (District 11) on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.
- To purchase a \$500.00 Sponsorship to a fundraiser for State Senator Jim Brochin (District 42) on Tuesday, October 27, 2015.
- These motions were presented to the Executive Board on September 21, 2015 and were approved by the general membership on September 28, 2015.
- There was also discussion to do a mailing to retirees asking the to contribute to the PAC Fund.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
~Tim Caslin~

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

NEW BUSINESS

- After additional research and speaking with the Department's safety officer the board approved a motion to increase the expenditure to up to \$2000 to purchase a

defibrulator for the office.

- President Weston advised Chaplain Merkle informed him that he is not running for re-election for Lodge #4 Chaplain.
- There was discussion on the State Conference to be held in August 2016, and Brother Schubert advised he was seeking re-election as State Recording Secretary. Therefore Lodge #4 should consider taking the maximum delegates to the conference.
- President Weston advised that September meeting is when nominations are opened for the line officers and one half of the Executive Board of Directors.
- President Weston was the only nominee for the office of President.
- First Vice President Comegna was the only nominee for the office of First Vice President.
- Second Vice President Rose was the only nominee for the office of Second Vice President.
- The nominees for the office of Secretary are Secretary Donna Patterson, Kathy Greenbeck and Bryn Blackburn.
- Treasurer Bob Caskey was the only nominee for the office of Treasurer.
- State Trustee Don Patterson was the only nominee for the office of State Trustee.
- The nominees for the office of Sgt at Arms were Sgt at Arms Ryan Massey and Mike Greco.
- The nominees for the office of Chaplain are Rob Graff and Tony DiCara.
- The nominees for the 5 Executive Board of Directors positions are Kathy Kraemer, Tom Scally, Jim Rommel, Mike DiCara, Pat Zito, Dave Sweren, Doug Jess and Sekou Hinton.
- The ballots will be sent to members in the mail and must be re-

turned to Lodge #4 by the November General Membership meeting scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2015.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of September FOP Lodge #4 sent seven (7) cards and flower arrangements to bereaving members. Two donations were made in memory of passing family members. Two (2) thank you cards were received. Seven (7) flower arrangement sent to member recovering from illness.
- Promotions were held on October 16, 2015. At this time Major Jones and Major Cohen will be promoted to Colonel. There will be two (2) captains promoted to major, two lieutenants promoted to captain, two sergeants promoted to lieutenant, nine (9) corporals promoted to sergeant and ten (10) officers promoted to corporal.
- Sgt at Arms Massey wanted to congratulate Brother Joe Caskey on his pending retirement on September 30, 2015.
- The membership was encouraged to support Retired Lt. Joe Bangert's effort organizing a bull roast to assist Brother Jim Morrison, who was injured in a motorcycle accident.
- 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 by the membership.

Bereavements

**Rebecca McCleese, Mother
of Retired Colonel Mike
McCleese**

**Virginia Carter, Mother of
Brother Mark Carter and
Grandmother of Sister
Dona Carter**

**Isabella Doucett, Mother
of Brother Gary Doucett**

**Julie Patrick, Mother of
Brother Doug Patrick**

**William Kowalsky, Father
-in-Law of Brother Steve
Inge**

**William Albrecht, Father
of Retired Brother Joe Al-
brecht and Brother Dave
Albrecht, Father-in-Law of
Brother Mark Carter,
Grandfather of Sister Do-
na Carter, Brother-in-Law
of Retired Brother Angelo
Tollen and Uncle of
Brother John Tollen**

**Marguerite A. Gaunt,
Mother of Retired Brother
Charles F. Gaunt**

**Jean Arrington Shillenn,
Daughter of Retired
Brother James T.
Arrington**

**The final
Association of Baltimore
County Retired Police
meeting for 2015 will be
held on Tuesday, Novem-
ber 3, 2015. The meeting
will be held at
Parkville Heritage**

The November

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
November 23, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road

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