



The Fourword

Volume 45 Number 10

October 2017

LODGE #4 "FALLEN HEROES" MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Applications for the Fall, 2018/Spring, 2019 scholarships are available now by contacting Lodge #4. 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 #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, 2018.

Membership Passes to the National Aquarium

The Executive Board of Directors of Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4 has entered into a one year business partnership under the Corporate Membership program with the National Aquarium. This means we have four transferable passes for use by our members. If you are interested in using the passes: You can call or email the Office at (410) 668-0004, or office@foplodge4.org.

If they are available on the date you have requested they will be reserved for you.

It will be your responsibility to pick up and return the passes.

On the occasions when different members have passes reserved on adjacent dates we ask the parties to communicate and agree upon a drop-off/pickup location for transferring the passes.

Should the passes become lost or stolen while they are in the member's possession we will require the member to pay for the replacement cost.

These passes grant access to the aquarium through the corporate membership entrance which should reduce if not eliminate any waiting in line. We are pleased to be able to offer this as an additional benefit to the members of FOP Lodge #4.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES September 2017

- The September General Business meeting was held on September 25, 2017 at FOP Lodge 4. President Weston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Chaplain DiCara gave the invocation. President Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- Brother Caskey was excused. All other officers were in attendance as well as Legal Advisor Carl Rach.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

~ PRESIDENT WESTON ~

- August 27-31– Attended the National Fraternal Order of Police, 63rd Biennial National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- September 5– Attended the meeting of the Association of Retired Baltimore County Police Officers.
- September 7– Met with FOP Labor Leaders to discuss 2018 state elections.

- September 9– Attended a fundraiser for the Make-a-Wish Foundation.
- September 11– Addressed the First Line Supervisors class.
- September 12– Attended the Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the public hearing on Public Safety in Baltimore City in front of the Judicial Proceedings Committee in Annapolis, and the Comptrollers's Labor Advisory Council meeting.
- September 13– Addressed the In-Service Training class and attended the Baltimore County Circuit Court Trial for our member charged with second degree assault.
- September 14– Attended the Baltimore County Circuit Court Trial for our member charged with second degree assault.
- September 15– Attended an election advisory presentation with Councilwoman Vicki Almond and met with the commander of the Internal Affairs section concerning policies and cases.
- September 18– Attended a Political Action Committee meeting and the FOP Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 19– Met with the Baltimore County Government Retirees Association.
- September 20– Addressed the In-Service Training class.
- September 21– Attended the Bi-monthly meeting with Chief Sheridan, his Bureau Chiefs and members of the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors.
- September 25– Attended a meeting of the Legal Advisory Committee, the Executive Board of Directors meeting and chaired the General Membership meeting.

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
CIB-Robbery
(443) 956-2615

W. Don Patterson
State Trustee
Retired

Ryan Massey
Sergeant at Arms
CIB - 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
Retired

Kathy Kraemer
PC-6

David Sweren
PC-12

Chris Hodnicki
CIB-GET

James P. Rommel, Jr.
PC-3

Ryan Franks
CIB-Property

Robert Graff
PC-6

Patrick Zito
Retired

LODGE STAFF

Nancy Skinner—Administrative Assistant

LEGAL ADVISORS

Schlachman, Belsky & Weiner, P.A.
Phone (410) 685-2022
IAS Cases Michael Davey

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 22– Attended a meeting of the Health Care Review Committee.
- August 23– Attended a meeting of the Police Assistance and Relief Fund (PAR) Marketing Committee.
- August 27-31– Attended the FOP's 63rd Biennial Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- September 5– Attended the sentencing for the former President of FOP Lodge #34 and the regular meeting of the Association of Baltimore County Retired Police Officers.
- September 9– Represented Lodge #4 at the Annual Make-A-Wish Summer Celebration.
- September 14– Attended the monthly meeting of the Police Assistance and Relief Fund.
- September 15– Represented Lodge #4 at a campaign event for Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond (District #2).
- September 18– Attended a meeting of the Political Action Committee and the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors.
- September 19– Attended the bi-monthly meeting of the P2P support group.
- September 21– Attended the bi-monthly meeting between Chief Sheridan and the FOP Executive Board of Directors.
- September 25– Attended a meeting of the Legal Advisory Committee, the Executive Board of Directors and the General Membership meeting.

~2nd V. P. ROSE~

- August 22– Attended the Health Care Review Committee meeting.
- August 23– Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- August 27-31– Attended the FOP 63rd Biennial National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- September 5-7– Attended In-Service Training.
- September 6 – Attended a BWC meeting to discuss using BWC on secondary employment.
- September 7 – Attended a BWC meeting to discuss the limiting of viewing by our members and attended a meeting at the Howard County FOP Lodge #21 with a representative from Governor Hogan's office.
- September 9 – Attended a fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
- September 11 – Addressed the First Line Supervisors class.
- September 12– Attended the PFC. Spivey trial in Circuit Court.
- September 13– Attended the PFC. Spivey trial in Circuit Court.
- September 14– Attended the PFC. Spivey trial in Circuit Court.
- September 15– Attended an event for Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond.
- September 16– Participated in FOP Lodge #25 Golf Tournament.
- September 18– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 19– Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- September 21– Attended the bi-monthly meeting between Chief

Sheridan and the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors.

- September 25– Chaired a Legal Advisory Committee meeting and attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors and General membership meetings.

~SECRETARY PATTERSON~

- August 27-31– Attended the National Fraternal Order of Police 63rd Biennial National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- September 5– Attended the meeting of the Association of Retired Baltimore County Police Officers.
- September 9– Attended the Annual Make-A-Wish Foundation Summer Celebration.
- September 18– Attended the FOP Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 21– Attended the bi-monthly meeting between Chief Sheridan and the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors.
- September 25– Attended a meeting of the Legal Advisory Committee, the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors and General Membership meetings.

~TRUSTEE PATTERSON~

- August 27-31– Attended the National Fraternal Order of Police 63rd Biennial National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.
- September 5– Attended the meeting of the Association of Baltimore County Retired Police Officers.
- September 9– Attended the Annual Make-A-Wish Foundation Summer Celebration
- September 16– Participated in

the FOP Lodge #25 Golf Tournament.

- September 18– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- September 25– Attended the Lodge #4 Executive Board of Directors and General Membership meetings.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

~ Ken Schubert~

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held on September 18, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm. Brother Massey and Brother Scally were on vacation, Treasurer Caskey was excused, all other board members were in attendance. Legal Advisor Mike Davey was also 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

DONATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Mike DiCara~

- The Donation Review Committee met and discussed the following motions:
- To purchase a table of ten for the Police Emerald Society Bull Roast for an expenditure of \$400.00 and to sponsor a table of ten for the Parry family and Matten Roy who is receiving the Mark Parry Award at the Bull Roast. This expenditure is for \$500.00 for a total expenditure of \$900.00 to the Police Emerald

Society.

- To donate \$1,000.00 to the Grand Lodge FOP National Disaster Relief Fund, designated for Florida.
- To purchase a table of ten for the Law Officers Association annual Bull Roast and Shrimp Feast for an expenditure of \$350.00.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The hearing for the Section 6.1 C grievance was held on July 11, 2017. The County Administration communicated to the FOP that they would not be participating in the arbitration hearing and they did not appear.
- On August 30, 2017, we received a decision from the arbitrator awarding the grievance in favor of the FOP. We sent a copy to the county with a request to implement the award. The county has 30 days from when they receive it to respond.
- On March 9, 2016, we filed a notice of intent to arbitrate as per Article 8, Section 8.3, Step #4 paragraph (b) of the MOU in our healthcare subsidy grievance. On June 15, 2016, we met with our labor attorney and healthcare consultant to discuss and prepare for the grievance as we move forward into arbitration. We have tried to arrange a meeting with the County Administration to try and resolve the issue outside of arbitration but the County has not expressed a desire to do so. We selected an arbitrator from the AAA. We have not selected a hearing date. The County has communicated to the FOP that they have declined to participate in the arbitration of this grievance.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- PFC. Spivey's case was heard in Circuit Court on September 12-14, 2017. He was charged with four counts of assault, at the insistence of the Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger. The Deputy State's Attorney, Robin Coffin litigated the case in front of a jury consisting of twelve Baltimore County citizens and two alternates. At the conclusion of the case it took the jury approximately 30 minutes to return a verdict of "not guilty" on all four counts. Jurors were quoted as stating "it was hands down he was innocent," and "I am very proud of this officer. He did what he was trained to do."
- Scott Shellenberger stated "we felt like we had sufficient evidence based on the video alone," when he defended his decision in prosecuting the case.
- It is this very issue the FOP takes exception with, the use of video only, to make a final determination in any decision to discipline or prosecute an officer. The FOP has continuously stated it has no issue with an officer's use of force being reviewed. In fact, all uses of force by officers should be reviewed to ensure the public trust, policy compliance and to identify proper training issues. But the fact this incident was prosecuted to begin with is troubling. This incident resulted in a use of force on a member of the public. These types of incidents can be, at times, uncomfortable to watch. The agency has gone to great lengths to educate members of the public of the limitations of video evidence and not to jump to conclusions or make immediate opinions

based only on the recordings. It appears that Scott Shellenberger did just that in this case. He made conclusions and assumptions based on the contents of the video and not the important facts that a thorough investigation should reveal. A video alone can never replace a thorough investigation. A recording should be weighed and tested against witness testimony, forensics, the involved officers statement, and other elements in a fair, thorough and impartial investigation that takes human factors into consideration. The recordings have great value, but should not be given undue, if not exclusive weight in the judgement of an officer's actions. In this case the decision to prosecute was made without interviewing a single witness or officer at the scene. No officer was asked to provide a statement and there was no attempt to interview PFC. Spivey. In fact, PFC. Spivey and his attorney informed Deputy State's Attorney Coffin they would be willing to come to her office and answer any questions she or any expert she chooses may have of him. She declined that offer to interview him.

- This is totally unacceptable. An officer could never get the State's Attorney's office to prosecute a citizen without conducting a thorough and complete investigation. That same process should be afforded to every police officer also.
- PFC. Spivey was reinstated on September 15, 2017 to full duty. The internal investigation has been closed.
- The Legal Advisory Committee met to discuss the Erica Schneider-Barnes appeal of her discontinued spousal death benefit. The case was originally scheduled for August 17, 2017, but during case preparation a conflict was discov-

ered causing counsel to have to step away from the case.

- We are currently communicating with an attorney from the firm of Smith, Gildea and Schmidt. We have received a retainer agreement and are reviewing it at this time.
- We currently have two (2) hearing boards pending. Nothing is scheduled at the moment. We have submitted our motions to dismiss/motion for summary judgement in the Edwards case and it is scheduled for October 4, 2017.
- Mike Marshall and his staff are working on the Marvin Haw pension appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearings. At this time no date has been set.
- The Heather Flanary case has been dismissed on stipulation by both parties.
- The County's appeal to the Court of Special Appeals of the James Morrison workers compensation award was held on September 8, 2017. On September 15, 2017, the court issued an unreported decision ruling in favor of James Morrison.

PENSION COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- At the September 12, 2017 Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the Trustees approved forty-three (43) retirements, thirteen (13) from the police department.

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

~Dave Rose~

- The committee members reviewed twelve (12) new/revised policies this month.

- There were no bargaining issues at this time.
- There was a BWC meeting scheduled for August 31, 2017 to discuss possible adjustments to the policy. The committee has been directed to discuss the limiting of an officer's ability to review body worn camera video before making statements. The work group is charged with considering all points and making recommendations to the Chief of Police. These recommendations are to be made in the best interest of all affected parties and dissenting information will also be presented to the Chief for his consideration.
- It is the position of the FOP that this is a mandatory subject of bargaining and that no changes can be made to the policy without bargaining these changes.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

~Steve Comegna~

- The Political Action Committee met on Monday, September 25, 2017. The committee brought forth five (5) recommendations for expenditure. Those motions are as follows:
- To purchase two tickets, at \$50.00 each, to an event for former Delegate Al Redmer, Jr. on Saturday September 23, 2017. Total expenditure will be \$100.00.
- To purchase a \$300.00 Silver Sponsorship to an event for State Senator Delores Kelley (District #10) on Thursday September 28, 2017.
- To purchase a \$500.00 sponsorship to an event for State Senator Ed Kasemeyer (District #12) on Wednesday October 4, 2017.
- To purchase a \$500.00 sponsorship to an event for State Senator Kathy Klausmeier (District #8) on Wednesday October 18,

- 2017.
- To purchase a \$500.00 sponsorship to an event for State Senator Jim Brochin (District #42) on Monday October 23, 2017.
- There were six (6) requests for expenditures that the committee did not take any action on.
- The Executive Board of Directors approved this expenditure on Monday, September 18, 2017. The expenditure was approved by the membership on Monday, September 25, 2017.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- During the month of September, FOP Lodge #4 sent eight (8) cards and flower arrangements to bereaving members. One (1) fruit basket was sent to a member recovering from illness or surgery. Five (5) thank you cards were received. Five (5) donations were made in lieu of flowers.
- First Vice-President Comegna made a motion to take up to the maximum amount of delegates to the 2018 State FOP Conference at WISP Resort.
- September is also nomination for officer month. All Line Officers positions are open as well as five (5) Executive Board positions. There is also nominations for Delegates to next years conference.
- Nominations opened with the Office of President. Brother Ken Schubert nominated President Cole Weston for re-election and Brother Doug Jess nominated himself to run for President.
- Brother Rommel nominated First VP Comegna for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- Brother Ryan Massey nominated Second VP Rose for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- Brother Mike DiCara nominated Secretary Donna Patterson for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- Brother Joe Caskey nominated Treasurer Bob Caskey for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- Brother Jim Rommel nominated Chaplain Tony DiCara for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- Brother Tom Scally nominated State Trustee Don Patterson for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- Second VP Rose nominated Sgt-at-Arms Ryan Massey for re-election and there were no other nominations.
- There were seven (7) nominations for the five (5) open Board of Director positions. They are Mike DiCara, Dave Sweren, Tom Scally, Jim Rommel, Kathy Kraemer, Justin Warnick and Sekou Hinton.
- As per the National FOP By-laws, Lodge#4 can take 60 Delegates to a conference. There were 41 names submitted. Since we voted to take maximum delegates, all 41 will be delegates if their work schedules allow. The 41 delegates are listed in this copy of the newsletter.

PROMOTIONS COLONEL

Steven M. Hlavach

MAJOR

**Andre K. Davis
David J. Folderauer
Jay C. Landsman, Jr.
Robert O. McCullough
John J. McGann
James P. Monahan**

Births

**Westin Michael Poletynski,
Son of Brother Robert
Poletynski**

**Savannah Mae Ende,
Daughter of Sister Jen and
Brother Tim Ende**

**Chase Everett Weaver, Son
of Brother Lou Weaver**

**Grayson Michael Connelly,
Son of Brother Andrew
Connelly**

**Emmett and Ella Robinson,
Son and Daughter of Brother
Christopher Robinson,
Nephew and Neice of Brother
Joe Robinson and Grand-
son and Granddaughter of
Retired Brother Dennis
Robinson**

Bereavements

**Jennifer Henschen, Wife of
Brother Shane Henschen**

**Lois Leichling, Mother of Re-
tired Brother John Leichling**

**Deborah Jane Chesgreen,
Mother of Brother Dennis
Chesgreen**

**Jane Tilton, Grandmother of
Brother Kenneth Tilton**

**Michael F. Delea, Jr., Father
of Brother Rich Delea**

**Raymond George Remmers,
Father of Brother Brian
Remmers**

**Marie Irma Rainer, Grand-
mother of Sister Megan
Fumia**

**Beulah Beck, Grandmother
of Brother Jason Blevins,
Mother in law of Retired
Brother Jerry Blevins**

**Kenneth J. Busic, Sr., Father
of Brother Kenneth J. Busic
Jr.**

RETIREMENTS

**Rose Brady
Ed Hann
Doug Patrick
Dave Neral
Evan Cohen
Scott Wilson
Marc Bucsok
James Bell
Norman Anderson
Lawrence Smith
Robert Quigley
Fred Denker
Patricia Middleton**



Delegates

2018 Conference

**Cole Weston
Steve Comegna
Dave Rose
Donna Patterson
Bob Caskey
Tony DiCara
Don Patterson
Ryan Massey
Tim Caslin
Ken Schubert
Mike DiCara
Kathy Kraemer
Pat Zito
Jim Rommel
Rob Graff
Chris Hodnicki
Ryan Franks
Dave Sweren
Dave Bennett
Rick Bergin
Bryn Blackburn
Dominic Bridges
Joe Caskey
Joe Cohan
John Cluster
Joe Folio
Kathryn Greenbeck
E.J. Hannig
Allen Himes
Sekou Hinton
Duane Holt
Scott Huff
Doug Jess
Kevin Jobe
Bill King
Matt Krauch
Josh List
Parrish McClarin
Ed Mikula
Joe Peach
Justin Warnick**



The November

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
November 27, 2017
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 18, 2017
7:30 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road