



FOURWORD

MAY, 2023 | VOLUME 51, ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On April 18, 2023, Chief Robert O. McCullough was sworn in as the 16th Police Chief of the Baltimore County Police Department. The Chief has been a proud member of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police since 1988. We are proud of his accomplishments and wish him all the best as he attempts to bring strength and honor back to our ranks.

On April 15, 2023, Brother Richard Knight of Precinct 11 was honored as the 2022 Baltimore County FOP Police Officer of the Year. During 2022, Brother Knight took multiple felons off of the street and engaged in life-saving efforts. He showed leadership and courage in his role as a patrol officer. Rich was unanimously selected as the 2022 Police Officer of the Year. He was honored by Chief McCullough, County Executive Olszewski and I, at the 2023 FOP Bull and Oyster Roast.



May is the month where we honor our fallen Brothers and Sisters across the nation and here at home. Our agency has had 10 members make the ultimate sacrifice. Please take time to reflect and remember those who were lost in the line of duty, as well as those who were lost while actively serving. We continue to pray for their families for the loss that they will always feel. Please stay safe!





APRIL 2023

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police was held on Monday, April 24th, 4:00 PM, at our Lodge. President Folderauer was present, and called the meeting to order. Secretary Patterson was also in attendance. Chaplain Tony DiCara provided the invocation with President Folderauer leading the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Brother Zito, to accept the Minutes from our March 2023 meeting. This was seconded by Brother Barresi, and approved. Said minutes have been posted to the Lodge #4 App.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President – Dave Folderauer

- We had our first meeting with Chief McCullough. The main topics of discussion were Internal Affairs and Trial Boards.
- We recently had an Officer who was terminated, following a criminal plea/conviction. As such, he has been expelled from our Lodge.
- Officer Rich Knight was selected as our 2022 FOP Lodge 4 Officer of the Year and he was honored at our April 15th Bull Roast.
- One of our Recruits suffered a house fire on the day he was sworn in. In addition to losing all of his personal property, he has been displaced. If you are renting a property that you own, or know anyone in property management, please let us know.
- As a result of one of our members having his Sergeant's Oral Exam re-scored, we have advised the Office of Human Resources that ALL candidates who remain from that process, including those who did not initially qualify, will need to have their exam re-scored. This is actively occurring.
- Effective July 1, per new language in the MOU, Grievances moving to Step 3 will be heard by a Labor Commissioner and will no longer be heard by an Administrative Law Judge.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS...

Secretary – Donna Patterson:

- 17 new members joined our organization as they completed the Academy and were sworn in.

Treasurer – Bob Caskey:

- Reported on the Lodge Finances.

State Trustee – Don Patterson:

- On April 15th, before our Bull Roast, the State Lodge held their Board meeting.
 - State President, Clyde Boatwright has been selected to serve on the National Healthcare Committee.
 - The DC Lodge President has been expelled from the Order for multiple violations. He can appeal at the National Conference.
 - Vice President Will Milam advised that during this legislative period we opposed 19 bills, and only one of those was passed.

Sergeant at Arms – Chris Hodnicki:

- The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) recently conducted an audit of our Agency, and had questions about the polygraphs of several of our members. Both, the Department and our members complied with requests made by the MPTC and those matters have been favorably resolved for our Department and more importantly, our members.

Chairman of the Board – Steve Comegna:

The Board of Directors met on April 10th and earlier tonight, with the following motions being made and approved by the Board, to be voted on tonight:

From PAC:

- To make a donation to a fund raiser for Delegate Ryan Nawrocki (District 7A) on May 22nd.
- To make a donation to a fund raiser for Delegate Carl Jackson (District 8) on May 24th.

From Donation Review:

- To make a donation to the PAR Fund Gold Tournament, covering the cost of a giveaway item. This is a long standing, annual donation.
- To make a donation to the annual COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) bike ride. This is a long standing, annual donation.
- To make a donation to the Congenital Heart Walk, on May 20th, in Philadelphia. The son of one of our members will be walking in the event.
- To make a donation to the 2023 Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk.
- To donate to the Associate of Italian American Charities, by purchasing two tickets. Chaplain Tony DiCara will be honored this year, as the Young Man of the Year. Proceeds from this will go toward funding two scholarships in Sister Amy Caprio's name.

*This concluded the Reports of Officers. A motion was made to approve those reports by Brother George and seconded by Brother Cortes. The Reports of Officers were approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Events Committee:

- Ken Schubert – The Bull Roast was a success and the venue was spectacular! There are a few things that will be fine-tuned for next year which will make the event even better. We had a younger crowd attending this year, as well as a few VIPs including; County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Chief Rob McCullough, Council members David Marks and Todd Crandell, and Delegate Ryan Nawrocki.
- State Trustee Don Patterson – The Golf Tournament date has been set for Friday, September 8th at Rocky Point Golf Course. The prices have gone up to \$125/person or \$500/foursome.
- Secretary Donna Patterson – The Memorial event will be held on May 12th at Patriot Plaza. Everyone who attends is welcome to a reception we will be hosting, immediately afterward, at the Charles Village Pub.

Grievance / Legal Advisory: First VP Dave Sweren – There are a few to cover:

- Military Grievances: The individual member's Grievance...we're still waiting for a date to schedule the hearing. The Class Grievance is in the process of an attempted settlement, with another meeting on the horizon.
- Marvin/Patty Haw Case: We are waiting for the decision.
- Trial Boards: The first trial board in several years was held, and although it was a mess, it was favorable for our member. We have several "on deck" in May, and some potentially being settled.
- COVID Days: We have sent the initial Grievance to the Deputy Administrative Officer along with the spreadsheet of Members which we have been maintaining for reimbursement of their days.

Health Care: Second VP Mike DiCara – We voted to ratify the healthcare improvement. This will re-align the post-'07 hires' healthcare with that of the pre-'07 hires.

Legislative: President Folderauer – There are two bills which we're still concerned with: **SB 90** and **SB 01**. **SB 90** will give authority to the Attorney General's Office to not only investigate, but now to prosecute based on their investigation. PLEASE don't hesitate to do your job. Do the right thing. Rely on your training. We (the FOP) will be there for you. This is "prospective only", meaning it will pertain to new cases only, after October 1, 2023. Any current case must be forwarded to the local State's Attorney. **SB 01** pertains to the regulated carrying of firearms. We had an agreement from some in Annapolis, including the Vice Chair of Judiciary, that both active AND retired Law Enforcement would be excluded. That is NOT what the final bill/language turned out to be. We will be communicating with the State Lodge and exploring the idea of litigation. We will also work to educate Baltimore County businesses; as a caveat to the new law states that an individual MUST have expressed permission to wear/carry on private property. One problem exists whereby you can be legally wearing your firearm while pumping gas at a gas station, but the minute you walk in to the store to pick up a receipt for your gas, you can be in violation of the law. We will begin a campaign to ask local businesses to give us/retirees permission to wear/carry on their property. Mike Davey: part of a potential lawsuit will be the opposition of the new law to LEOSA. If you don't have LEOSA, but only a permit to carry, go get your LEOSA as a combination of the two may provide you with more protections. There are likely to be several lawsuits filed over this.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES...

Negotiations: President Folderauer – We successfully ratified our new MOU. It's now time for the County Council Hearings, with the Police Department budget being heard and live-streamed on May 15th at 2:00 PM. Deliberations will be on May 18th and then on May 25th the County Legislative session will be held.

Political Action: Second Vice President Mike DiCara – There were two motions reported earlier, which came out of Committee. 1) to make a donation to/sponsorship for Delegate Ryan Nawrocki. 2) to make a donation to/sponsorship for Delegate Carl Jackson. Both passed unanimously.

If anyone sees any events or fundraisers that we should be aware of, please forward them to me.

Pension: State Trustee Don Patterson – At the Pension Board of Trustees meeting, on April 11th, we approved four retirements from the Police Department, including two civilians.

Scholarships: Tim Caslin – Interviews will begin this week. We received, what may be, a record number of applications this year. If anyone is interested in serving on this Committee, please let us know.

*This concluded the Reports of Committees. A motion was made by Brother Speed to accept the Reports of Committees, which was seconded by Brother Jagoe and approved.

Report of Legal Advisor: Mike Davey – We had our first Trial Board in several years, which included allegations of Unreasonable Use of Force. Of two additional/initial charges, one has been dismissed and another had been agreed upon/plead to. The prosecuting attorney, from the Baltimore County Office of Law, failed to provide the names of intended witnesses to us, in writing, and therefore was unable to call them. Reports were then improperly admitted without witness or context. I then provided all of our documents without calling a witness, including a report from Training referencing our member's actions in relation to policy. This report was NOT provided by the County Attorney during discovery and is a matter of normal business during these investigations. I argued that this was either left out due to complete neglect OR because it is exculpatory and would indicate that the Officer was within policy (which it did), and the prosecutor failed to provide the report. Our member was then found not guilty of the Unreasonable Force charge.

In an upcoming and unrelated case, we have already found that Training completed a similar report and the same County Attorney, again, failed to provide this report in discovery. The County has now requested a postponement of that Trial Board, until late May.



NFOP App



@BaltimoreCountyFOP



www.foplodge4.org



BaltCoFOP4



@BaltoCoFOP4

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Memorial Service information was reiterated.

MEMBERS SICK OR IN DISTRESS

Brother Vahlkamp is back home and recovering.

CLOSING PRAYER

Chaplain DiCara

ADJOURNMENT

*A motion was made to conclude our April General Business Meeting by Brother Bergin and seconded by Brother Caskey. The meeting was adjourned, at 4:36 PM.

LINE OFFICERS

President: Dave Folderauer
dfolderauer@fop lodge4.org

First VP: Dave Sweren
dsweren@fop lodge4.org

Second VP: Mike DiCara
mdicara@fop lodge4.org

Secretary: Donna Patterson
dpatterson@fop lodge4.org

Treasurer: Bob Caskey
rcaskey@fop lodge4.org

State Trustee: Don Patterson
donpatterson@fop lodge4.org

Chaplain: Tony DiCara
tonyangmav@aol.com

Sgt at Arms: Chris Hodnicki
chodnicki@fop lodge4.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman: Steve Comegna
scomegna@fop lodge4.org

Vice Chairman: Ryan Massey
rmassey@fop lodge4.org

Kenny Schubert
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Doug Jess
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Joe Peach
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Tom Scalley
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Dave Rose
Past President

Office Manager - Nancy Skinner
office@fop lodge4.org

*Provides Notary Services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Congratulations to our Brother and Sister. We wish you all the best in your retirement!

Jeff Dunham



Angela Watson



BEREAVEMENTS

Your Fraternal Order of Police sadly advises of the following loss of members, family or friends:

LAEL LUCILLE HENRY

Wife of Brother Benjamin Henry



PHILLIP SEARS Sr

Father of Brother Phil Sears

THOMAS P. SMITH

Father of Brother Thomas Smith III



VERNETTA WARREN

Mother of Brother Timothy Lee

NEW OR HELPFUL INFORMATION

Website: The official FOP Lodge 4 website has been updated and relaunched. Visit www.foplodge4.org for a new look, updated information and another way to stay in contact with your Lodge.

Aquarium Passes: Aquarium passes are available and easier than ever to get and use. Electronic passes may be obtained by contacting the Lodge and either Nancy or Chris can set them up through your email. If you don't have an email account yet, the paper passes are still available for pick up.

Notary Services: Nancy, our Office Manager, is a Notary and is available for many of your needs. If needed, try to call and set up an appointment.

Workday: The new Payroll software system has been implemented. We've had multiple discussions and meetings with County personnel. They anticipate some issues with the transition, but they have put a team together to address any issue that arises. Their goal, is to resolve any matter correctly, so as to only have to fix it once. If anyone does not receive their direct deposit, the County has a system in place to nearly immediately draft a paper check. If you experience or foresee any issues, don't hesitate to contact the Workday support team and the Lodge to capture the issue.

Fraternal Order of Police
Baltimore County Lodge #4
9304 Harford Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Change of Address Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Assignment: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____

The June

FOP Lodge 4
General
Business
Meeting

will be held at **4:00 PM** on
Monday, June 26, 2023
at:

Lodge #4
9304 Harford Rd

The July

FOP Lodge 4
General
Business
Meeting

will be held at **4:00 PM** on
Monday, July 24, 2023
at:

Lodge #4
9304 Harford Rd