

BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

# FURWORD

SEPTEMBER, 2023 | VOLUME 51, ISSUE 9

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

1st VP (Lieutenant) David Sweren

Beginning September 1st, Vice President Dave Sweren will leave the exempt position at the FOP to command the Tactical Team. As many of you know, Dave spent twenty years as a member of the team. When he left, he promoted quickly; achieving the rank of Lieutenant in just a few, short years. Dave will make a fantastic addition to the team. He will be an excellent Commander. He gets to follow in the footsteps of his friend and mentor, Lieutenant Mike Howe. I wish Dave Godspeed in his new assignment!

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working each day with Dave to serve the members of the FOP. Dave's passion is unrivaled. Dave fought each and every day for the members of the FOP. He is a champion for justice, but he also built relationships. I watched Dave effortlessly make friends with County administrators, County Council members, other politicians and leaders from across the state. For a man that is so passionate, he was able to build countless bridges. Dave has left big shoes to fill with regard to his FOP position.

Luckily, 2nd VP Mike DiCara has agreed to enter the exempt position at the FOP. Mike brings with him twenty years of experience on the Executive Board of Directors. Mike has been a part of almost every committee in our lodge. Mike has much experience with negotiations and collective bargaining. Mike is the Treasurer of the Political Action Committee and the Chairman of the Health Care Committee. Mike is also your representative on the County's Health Care Review Committee. Mike's experience makes him the obvious choice to succeed Dave in working full time for the membership.

Moving forward, if you need any assistance, reach out to Mike DiCara at the FOP or [mdicara@foplodge4.org](mailto:mdicara@foplodge4.org) or Chris Hodnicki at the FOP or [chodnicki@foplodge4.org](mailto:chodnicki@foplodge4.org).



# AUGUST 2023

## GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police was held on Monday, August 28th, 4:00 PM, at our Lodge. President Folderauer was present, and called the meeting to order. Secretary Patterson was also in attendance. A motion was made by Brother Rommel to accept the Minutes from our July 2023 meeting. This was seconded by Brother Bergen and approved. These minutes have been posted to the Lodge #4 App.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

#### **President – Dave Folderauer:**

- We were invited to, and I did attend, several of the National Night Out events across the County.
- There was an event to get some exposure for the Police Department's Recruitment section, First VP Sweren attended.
- We have met with members of the County Council, just to maintain our relationships and lines of communication.
- We had our regular meeting with the Chief. Matters we discussed, included:
  - Authorized Leave and/or Leave carry over, including possibly 7 extra days to carry over and/or a possible conversion to F Time. The Chief is assisting with this.
  - Promotions will be held on September 14th.
  - Assigned Vehicles for Patrol. SRO's and other Precinct units are now able to participate and are taking the vehicles home. Our next step is to find out how many vehicles have been ordered.
  - We want to start getting a monthly list of members who are on Modified Duty. With this renewed policy of 251 days, we want to be able to help members navigate through this.
  - If you are "On-call", you are supposed to be placed on stand-by and compensated accordingly. If you are on some shadow form of On-call/Stand-by, we can get you compensated. Also, if you are placed on Stand-by, the Department should be giving you a car to use for responding. Chief of Staff Martin has been receptive to this matter.
  - First Vice President Sweren has taken a position with the Tactical Unit and will be leaving the full-time position at the Lodge. Second Vice President Mike DiCara has agreed to come and work full-time at the lodge with myself and Chris Hodnicki.
- Question by Brother Stadler, regarding the number of positions/members eligible for the Assigned Vehicle program.
  - The Department believes that the number is about 190. We think that number is higher.



## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS...**

### Secretary – Donna Patterson:

Next month (September) we will hold nominations for our elections. All Line Officer positions are up for re-election, as are half of our Board of Directors. We'll also have nominations for delegate positions to the 2024 State FOP Conference in Ocean City. Members interested in this delegate position need to have attended a minimum of 4 meetings, by or including our September General Membership meeting.

### Treasurer – Bob Caskey:

Reported on the Lodge Finances.

### Executive Board Chairman – Steve Comegna:

We worked through two motions while we were in Las Vegas for the National Conference, with both passing:

- To purchase a sponsorship to an event for County Councilman Julian Jones, on August 24th.
- To purchase a sponsorship to an event for County Councilman Izzy Patoka on August 22nd.

The Board of Directors met earlier today (August 29th), with the following motions being made and approved by the Board, to be voted on tonight:

- To cover the registration cost for the 2nd Annual – Amy Caprio Classic (powerlifting event), for Brother Phipps, on September 9th.
- From Sister M. Chemelli to reimburse members of the Association of Baltimore County Women Police, who attended the 2023 Mid Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement Conference.
- From the PAC, to purchase up to ten tickets to an event for County Executive Johnny Olszewski, on September 12th.
- From the PAC, to purchase a sponsorship to an event for Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger, on October 5th.
- To sponsor the Police Department's Executive Corps Workshop.

\*This concluded the Reports of Officers. A motion was made to approve those reports by Sister D. Chemelli and seconded by Sister M. Chemelli. The Reports of Officers were approved.



[NFOP App](#)



[@BaltimoreCountyFOP](#)



[www.fopldodge4.org](http://www.fopldodge4.org)



[BaltCoFOP4](#)



[@BaltoCoFOP4](#)

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Events Committee: State Trustee Don Patterson –

The Golf Tournament is scheduled for 8:00 AM on Friday, September 8th and it is SOLD OUT!

The 2024 Bull Roast will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Grievance / Legal Advisory: First Vice President Dave Sweren –

- Military Grievances: President Folderauer has spoken with the County's Legal Director, James Benjamin, in continued efforts to settle the Military Class Grievance under the terms initially agreed to. The Lt Hamby portion of this Grievance is set to be heard on October 31st.
- COVID Leave: We are continuing to work on and push the COVID Leave Grievance to settlement.
- Promotional Grievance: A member contacted the Lodge in reference to a Promotion related Grievance that was filed. That member had already retained legal counsel and was directed to have that attorney contact our legal counsel, to iron out our possible involvement.

Healthcare: Second Vice President Mike DiCara – All members should be mindful of their paycheck and make sure that all appropriate Healthcare deductions are coming out.

- Question from Brother Speed: When is Open enrollment this year?
  - Normally, it's October, but sometimes November. It depends on how far along the Healthcare Office is.
  - It has since been learned that Open Enrollment will run from November 1st through November 30th.

Legislative: President Dave Folderauer –

- Tomorrow (August 29th), President Folderauer and the State FOP have a meeting at the Governor's Office. The Governor's Legislative Team wants to know what the FOP is looking for as the session approaches. Police Reform and the ACC as well as SB-1.
- The President of Sinclair Broadcasting wants to set up a meeting to spotlight the issues with the changes to the Juvenile Laws and the increase in Juvenile Crime. We should see more related reporting on this through their media outlets. We will participate and we look to develop a new ally.
  - Question/statement: Luke Clippinger may be holding a special meeting regarding the Juvenile Law. Will the FOP be involved?
  - We will check with the State Lodge and contribute when/as we need to.

Membership: Brother Matt Krauch – We talked with a Retiree, William Green, who retired in 1988, and requested membership. He had never been a Member of the FOP, so following a preliminary background he was sent a dues card. I'm also continuing to work on the business memberships.

Negotiations: President Dave Folderauer – We will be sending the County a letter indicating our intent to re-open the contract and bargain.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES...**

Policy Review: First Vice President Dave Sweren –

- The issues surrounding the revisited Modified Duty Policy and MMI / 251 Day Rule are continuing to be discussed. Items which can be addressed through negotiations will be.
- The new Ballistic Shield Policy has gone out. It is now with our Training Section.
- The Assigned Vehicle Program has been changed from a Pilot to an implemented Program. We are still continuing to look at ways to improve the Program, including the purchase and allocation of vehicles.

Political Action: Second Vice President Mike DiCara – To articulate why we attend Political functions; I attended a recent event for Councilman Julian Jones. When Scott Shellenberger was being challenged by Robbie Leonard, for State's Attorney, it was Councilman Jones' support that was most critical. Scott Shellenberger was present at this event and attributed his success to Councilman Jones. During the event, Councilman Jones recognized Scott Shellenberger, as well as the FOP for being helpful to their success.

The two matters before us now, were passed by the PAC and the Board of Directors, which will now serve as a motion for, and a second:

- To purchase up to ten tickets to an event for County Executive Johnny Olszewski, on September 12th.
- To purchase a sponsorship to an event for Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger, on October 5th.

Both of these motions were then voted on and passed by the Membership. President Folderauer asked that if any member would like to attend either function, to let him know.

- There have been recent incidents whereby PAC contributions have not been present or correct through our new Pay system. Please check your pay advices for all modes of pay and deductions.

Retiree Matters: Brother Jimmy Rommel – The National FOP has a Law Enforcement Retiree - Concealed Carry plan. The cost is \$75 annually and if anyone is interested, I have information to provide.

Pension: State Trustee Don Patterson – At the August 8th Pension Board of Trustees meeting, we approved fifteen total retirements, with two from the Police Department.

Scholarships: Brother Tim Caslin – On October 1st we will open our application process up again. The deadline to apply will be March 1st, 2024.

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

Report of the Legal Advisor: Mike Davey – We have brought on another attorney to assist with Internal Affairs cases, Natalie Spencer, formerly of the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office.

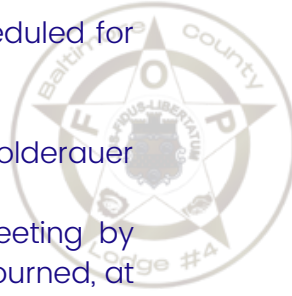
Old or Unfinished Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

Good of the Order: Brother Caskey announced that the FOP Public Safety Day, scheduled for September 9th, would be cancelled due to staffing requirements.

Members Sick or In Distress: Brother Kenny Brown    Closing Prayer: President Dave Folderauer

Adjournment: A motion was made to conclude our August General Business Meeting by Treasurer Bob Caskey and seconded by Sister Kathy Kraemer. The meeting was adjourned, at 4:29 PM.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

A true demonstration of professionalism and heroism, as only a father can tell it...

By Robert Knudsen

*"Ok, most of you know me and I'm not one to rant. Here's something I need to share as a proud citizen and a extremely proud father. Today, I happened to go to my grandson's first football game. After the game my son Robbie (**Detective Rob Knudsen, PC-07 IST**) and his family and my wife went to Vortex Brewery in New Freedom Pa for pizza and a drink. It was around 1630 hours. While we were eating and drinking with the family a unknown man in the brewery had a massive heart attack right across from where we were sitting and he fell immediately to the floor. I watched my son Robbie and another Off Duty Detective who happened to be there to as a patron and who works out of Woodlawn first name Vick (**Detective Evan Vicarini, PC-02 IST**) perform CPR on this man for 30 minutes prior to the Ambulances arrival. Both these young man were with their families and jumped up to immediately save this unknown man. Both exercised their training and jumped into action as if they were working out on the road to save this unknown man's life. It is not known to me if the man lived or died. However, he was transported to the hospital breathing because of these detectives actions. I witnessed this with my own eyes. I am proud to say I was a police officer but even more proud to say I'm a father of one of the "finest". It is people like these two detectives that make this world a safer and better place. I only wish that our department would show the gratitude to these two detectives that they deserve. Not to say that the other officers in our department would not do the same but just to actually see it in person. There is nothing better then to save a life, "except", a father, me, watching his son with another fine detective by his side saving this man's life. Again, I'm not sure if the man made it but what these two guys did was give him a chance to survive. I'm proud of you "Robbie" and proud of you to sir, only known as Vick because my son told me he works with him."*



Rob Knudsen

At the time of this event, these men weren't representing themselves as Officers, Detectives, FOP Members, or anything for that matter. They were simply taking action. The action that they took exemplifies what most of us strive for...to be good men and women, regardless of a badge or patch, and to set an example for our children, our friends and our fellow citizens to follow. This isn't a circumstance where we want to say congratulations, nor would either accept it. This is an occasion to say THANK YOU, for what you did and for WHO YOU ARE.



Evan Vicarini

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS...**

"Ruff" days...

On Monday, August 14th, Detective Ken Brown suffered a medical emergency. The FOP was in Las Vegas for our National Conference, but was able to arrange for Ken's son (Jordan) to be flown to Baltimore from Florida, but Jordan was unable bring his dog, Gohan, with him. He quickly made arrangements for Gohan, but as life goes, things got complicated by time. In order for Jordan to stay with his father, we needed to find someone to care for Gohan. We reached out to retirees in the Orlando area, and started to talk with FOP members from Florida, but couldn't make things work. Out of Nowhere, Stephanie Ruffino Sodd, stepped up and said that she spoke with her brother-in-law, who agreed to help. Early the next day, he drove from Deland to Orlando, where he picked up and cared for FIDO, until Ken Brown was well enough for his son, Jordan, to return home. Thanks for stepping up, Stephanie!

## **BEREAVEMENTS**

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

JOANNA GUTERMUTH

Sister of Sister Monica Steinacker

LISA MARIE PARR

Mother of Brother Tim Kreft

CHARLES THOMAS TRENARY, SR

Father of Brothers Chuck and John Trenary

Father-in-Law of Sister Lauren Trenary

TERRY LEE HORNER

Daughter of Brother Mike Horner

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION**

- Aquarium passes are available, and easy to obtain. Electronic passes / information can be emailed to you for access from your phone.
- Nancy Skinner, the Lodge's Office Manager, is a registered Notary. She can assist our members with their notary needs at no cost, and non-members for a nominal fee.
- Nominations for our Elections (Line Officers and Board Members) will take place at the September 25th General Business Meeting.
- Scholarship Applications will be available on the App and at the Lodge for pick-up.



**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 October

FOP Lodge 4  
**General  
Business  
Meeting**

will be held at **4:00 PM** on  
Monday, October 23, 2023  
at:

Lodge #4  
**9304 Harford Rd**

The November

FOP Lodge 4  
**General  
Business  
Meeting**

will be held at **4:00 PM** on  
Monday, November 27, 2023  
at:

Lodge #4  
**9304 Harford Rd**