



The Fourword

Volume 52 Number 1

January 2024

PARDON OUR DUST NEWSLETTER IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

AS WE WORK TO CONSTRUCT A NEW DESIGN PLEASE WELCOME OUR
NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

DAVE ROSE

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

MIKE DICARA

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

RYAN MASSEY

SECRETARY

DONNA PATTERSON

TREASURER

BOB CASKEY

CHAPLAIN

KATHY KRAEMER

STATE TRUSTEE

DON PATTERSON

SGT-AT-ARMS

MATT GONZALEZ

BOARD MEMBER

TOM SCALLY

BOARD MEMBER

DAVE SWEREN

BOARD MEMBER

JOE PEACH

BOARD MEMBER

MATT KRAUCH

BOARD MEMBER

DOUG JESS

BOARD MEMBER

CARROLL BOLLINGER

BOARD MEMBER

RYAN FRANKS

BOARD MEMBER

KEN SCHUBERT

BOARD MEMBER

STEVE COMEGNA

BOARD MEMBER

JOE BRZOWSKI



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County





MEETING MINUTES December 2023

- The December General Business meeting was held on December 18, 2023 at Lodge #4. President Rose called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Chaplain Kraemer gave the invocation and President Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

- Treasurer Caskey and Brother Bollinger were excused, all other board members were present. Legal Advisor, Chaz Ball was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- A motion was made by Brother Zito to accept the minutes of the November meeting. A second was made by Brother King. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ROSE

- Attended a State FOP Legislative Committee meeting at Lodge 3 to prioritize an agenda for the upcoming Legislative session which begins on January 10, 2024. The Committee will meet on January 8, 2024 and every Monday through the session.

1st V.P. DICARA

- Will be heard under committees but wants to talk about an insurance policy for \$2,500.00 for accidental death that everyone should have received in the mail. This is legitimate and completely free to the member. The beneficiary card does not have to be returned unless someone wants the company to contact them with information on additional insurance policies. If not, just fill out the card and file it with your will and other important documents. The Lodge organized the mailing and our member's information was not given to the insurance company. In event that a claim needs to be filed, the estate can contact the Lodge for assistance. Just to clarify, this policy covers accidental death or dismemberment and is not a whole life policy.

2nd V.P. MASSEY

- No report.

TREASURER CASKEY

- Treasurer Caskey was excused.

SECRETARY PATTERSON

- Advised we signed up the 12 new recent academy graduates as FOP members.

TRUSTEE PATTERSON

- Advised the next State FOP Board meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024. I will be on vacation.

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

David M. Rose
President
(443) 956-2643

Mike DiCara
1st Vice President
FOP Lodge#4
(410) 299-8835

Ryan Massey
2nd Vice President
CIB Homicide
(443) 865-0237

Donna M. Patterson
Lodge Secretary
Retired
(410) 365-8481

Robert W. Caskey
Treasurer
Retired
(443) 956-2615

W. Don Patterson
State Trustee
Retired

Matt Gonzalez
Sergeant at Arms
Training

Kathy Kraemer
Chaplain
Retired

Dave Folderauer
Past President
Retired

EXECUTIVE BOARD of DIRECTORS

Steven Comegna
Chairman

Ryan Franks
Vice Chairman
OSS

Thomas G. Scally
Retired

Doug Jess
PC-3

Dave Sweren
SOD/TAC

Carroll Bollinger
Retired

Joe Peach
PC-11

Matt Krauch
CIB-Homicide

Ken Schubert
Retired

Joe Brzozowski
PC-8

LODGE STAFF

Nancy Skinner—Administrative Assistant

LEGAL ADVISORS

Schlachman, Belsky, Weiner and Davey, 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 Editor
Don Patterson

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

- An Executive Board of Directors meeting was held December 12, 2023. The first order of business was to swear in the new officers and Board of Directors. The second order of business was to elect the Chairman of the Board. Steve Comegna was elected as the Chair and Ryan Franks was appointed as Vice Chair.
- There were 3 motions to be considered, the first was a \$300.00 sponsorship for Patty's Dancing Angels annual fundraiser for research for people suffering from sarcoma. It was a request from Brother Al Webster. The motion passed unanimously. The second motion was for \$750.00 to cover the registration fee for 2 members to attend the Maryland First Responders Mental Health and Wellness Conference to be held March 25 and 26, 2024. Request made by Brother John Haddaway. The motion passed unanimously. The third motion was to accept the Legal Advisory Committee's report in reference to the complaint filed at the State level against Past President Folderauer.
- Another Board meeting was held prior to the General Membership meeting to fill the Board position vacated by Brother Massey when he was elected as 2nd V.P. Chairman Comegna nominated Brother Joe Brzozowski, the motion was seconded by Brother Peach and it passed unanimously.

RETIREMENT

***Ken Busick
Gary Huth
Spike McElfish
Shelby Pace
Doug Irwin
Harry Ricketts
Pat Stonko***

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

- No Report.

DONATION REVIEW

- Nothing to add to what was previously reported by Chairman Comegna.

EXPEDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Met on December 6, 2023 and reviewed all available and unreviewed packets including April, May, June, July August and November. All in order except the following April 2023 only had copy of American Express bill, not original, but was in order otherwise, July 2023 was incomplete so it was not reviewed.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

- There is no update on the class action grievance on the COVID leave. We still are considering the settlement offer. Need to get in the room with the County and

get it finalized. There is one open grievance on the Sergeant promotion process. Waiting on date for a Step 3 hearing.

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

- Met with the County on December 11, 2023, open enrollment ended and overall enrollment in the healthcare plans was up but for some reason participation in the high deductible plan which we are still pushing for the younger members was down. The high deductible plan comes with a healthcare savings account which the County matches. Its free money that goes into that account and it grows interest and when you turn 65 it turns into tax free bank account that you can use for anything. County still working on consolidating pre and post 2007 healthcare plans.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- A complaint was filed against Past President Folderauer. The complaint was sent to the State Lodge President who had a committee look at it and Lodge 4 bylaws. They determined the complaint should be heard by the Lodge 4 Legal Advisory Committee. On November 28, 2023 Brother Sweren received a packet with the complaint. The committee met twice and looked at all information and determined that Past President Folderauer did not maliciously act or attempt to mislead the membership. The findings were sent back to the State to make sure it was properly conducted.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

- Past President Folderauer sent the letter to the County in October to advise we are ready to open negotiations. The County set up meetings on all Mondays and the meeting last week, which was cancelled by President Rose. The new committee met for a couple hours, took info and ideas that members have sent into the lodge. We will schedule a meeting with the County to start forming proposals.

POLICY REVIEW

- Several new policies have come over to the lodge, some required no input from the committee, one of which is the new grooming policy which is adopted into the Administrative Manual. There is a new Disciplinary Counseling form, counseling is now considered discipline due to the new law. The big one is the new biennial mental health assessment policy. This policy was implemented by the legislature 2 years ago and it went into effect this year. The County did not put a policy together so every member of the agency will be required to have this done in 2024. They are using Atlantic Occupsych, we use them now when an officer is involved in a critical incident and need have a psych review prior to returning to full duty. This is mandatory.

RETIREE MATTERS

- At the December 12, 2023 Pension Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved 39 total retirements, 12 from Police Department. Several of our retirees did not make the December list.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

- Applications are available and are due back by March 1, 2024.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

- The Peer to Peer meeting was held on December 19, 2023. Next year there is going to be 2 morning meetings that start at 8:00 a.m., the rest will be at 4:00 p.m.

LEGAL COUNSEL

- As you know we are switching from the LEOBR to the Police Accountability Act. It went into effect for the rest of the state on July 1, 2022 but for us in went into effect on July 1, 2023 since we were in a 2 year MOU. The Administrative Charging Committee is meeting once a month, they will receive complaints and investigate whether someone is charged and they will eventually set punishment in line with the matrix.

BEREAVEMENTS

***Patricia L. Beitz, Wife of
Retired Brother Mel
Beitz***

***Francis J. Pilarski,
Father of Sister Jean
Pilarski Slattery***

***Thomas Edward Irwin
Sr., Father of Retired
Brother Doug Irwin***

***Felix C. Mayer, Father-
in-Law of Brother Stu
Dowell***

***Stephen Bruce Prince,
Father of Brother Lee
Prince***

Instructions for the Lodge 4 App

- On the **Google Play Store** (Android) or **App Store** (Apple)
- Search for and Download the "**NFOP App**"
- Open the App and select "Sign Up"
- Enter your Personal email address (gmail, yahoo, etc.) NO Department email addresses
- Create a password.
- On the next screen, populate all required (*) fields.
 - o Lodge State = Maryland
 - o Lodge Name = Lodge 4 Baltimore County
 - o Lodge Number = 004
 - o Membership Number = the number on the back of your National ID card

This was just mailed out in December

If you can't find it, call the Lodge and we can track it down for you

- Enter all required info and click "Sign Up", your info will be verified by Clowder/National.
- You'll be automatically assigned to the Lodge 4 App as "Pending" until we can mark you approved.
- You don't need to allow Location Services, but we recommend accepting Push Notifications, so that you'll know you have something to read in the App.
- When you receive a notification from the App, open it. Newer posts and info show at the top of the feed.
- To see the info specific to Lodge 4, select the "My Groups" button toward the top of the page.
- Next, select MD004 and tap the check mark at the top of the page and hit the check mark at the top of the page. This will limit what you see during this session to just the Lodge 4 posts.

You can view all of the National Lodge posts, at any time, by selecting "All Users – National FOP", but selecting MD004 keeps it easier to find our specific info.

Android Users: To see additional features, tap on the three small lines on the left side, toward the top of the page. This will show you a host of other options.

Apple Users: To see additional features, on the first page of the App, tap on the "More" field at the right side, at the bottom of the page. This will show you a host of other options.



53rd Annual Bull, Oyster & Shrimp Roast



Saturday

April 20, 2024

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Boumi Shriners Hall
5050 King Ave
Rosedale, MD**

\$55.00 per person

(Reservations are being accepted)

**Music, Wheels, Raffles
Food by Atlantic Catering**

Open Bar

Music by DJ Steve Wolf

**For Tickets & Information
Contact Lodge 4 at (410) 668-0004**



Membership Passes to the National Aquarium

The Executive Board of Directors of Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4 has a one year business partnership under the Corporate Membership program with the National Aquarium. We have four passes for use by our members.

If you are interested in using the passes:

Call the Office at (410) 668-0004 between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

You will need to choose a **date**. If they are available on the date, we will reserve and send you a confirmation via **non-county email**.

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.

ARE YOUR BENEFICIARIES UP TO DATE ?

Please ensure that your beneficiary designees are current. Take a moment to verify that your loved ones are provided for in the manner you intend. The following offices can assist you.

<i>Pension</i>	<i>Retirement Office</i>	<i>410-887-8246 or 1-877-222-3741</i>
<i>Life Insurance</i>	<i>County Insurance</i>	<i>410-887-2568 or 1-800-274-4302</i>
<i>PBA</i>	<i>Police Personnel</i>	<i>410-887-2208</i>
<i>Deferred Comp.</i>	<i>Karis Cox</i>	<i>877-677-3678</i>
<i>Baltimore County Employee Federal Credit Union</i>		<i>410-828-4730</i>

The February

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
February 26, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge #4
9304 Harford Road

The March

**FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,
March 25, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

at
FOP Lodge #4
9304 Harford Road