



# The Fourword

Volume 52 Number 2

February 2024

## President's Message

As we progress through the 2024 Maryland General Assembly legislative process, the Maryland State FOP including members of lodge #4, will be monitoring the many issues of concern to our members. This year the top 5 priority items on the State Lodge agenda are listed below.

**Police Discipline - Order of Show Cause** - This important right was not included in the new legislation when the LEOBR was repealed and replaced in 2021. This legislation is sponsored by Delegate Cardin (HB15) and Senator Folden (SB606).

**Public Safety- Police Accountability** - The time limit of filing administrative charges was originally included in the LEOBR and was not included when it was repealed and replaced. There is a limit for external complaints, however there is not one for internal complaints. This legislation is sponsored by Delegate Cardin (HB188) and Senator Folden (SB608).

**Scholarships and Police Recruitment** - We believe this legislation will provide an incentive for those who are considering a career in law enforcement.

**Preservation of Qualified Immunity** - We will continue to oppose any legislation that would limit or eliminate the qualified immunity protections provided to all government employees.

**Preservation of Pensions** - We will continue to protect the pensions that are part of the benefit packages we have collectively bargained.

Please go to the Maryland General Assembly website and support this legislation and email senators and delegates urging their support.

Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County



**JANUARY 2024  
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, 4:00 p.m. at Lodge #4. President Rose called the meeting to order. Chaplain Kraemer led the membership in prayer and President Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of officers present was conducted, Secretary Patterson, Chair of the Board Comegna, and Trustee Patterson were excused. Sgt-at-Arms Gonzalez and Brother Sweren were running late. All other board members were present as was Legal Advisor, Chaz Ball. A motion was made by Sister Knox to accept the minutes from the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Brother Bollinger.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**President Dave Rose**

- January 2- Met with the County Executive to discuss upcoming contract negotiations and various pending grievances; Attended the County Spending Affordability Committee meeting; Attended the Association of Baltimore County Retired Police meeting.
- January 4- Met with a member to discuss pension options.
- January 5- Met with a member to discuss pension options; Met with Vice Presidents DiCara and Massey to discuss committee appointments; Chaired a negotiation committee meeting.
- January 8- I took the mental health assessment; Attended the executive board of directors meeting; Attended the state legislative meeting.
- January 9- Attended in-service training; Attended the pension board of trustees meeting; Responded to the officer involved shooting in Pc 4.
- January 10- Attended in-service training; Responded to the in-custody death in Pc 3.
- January 11- Attended in-service training; Discussed an officer suspension status with Colonel Kelly and arranged for the officers involved in the Pc 4 shooting to watch their BWC videos.
- January 12- Met with the negotiations committee to prepare for our meeting with the County.
- January 16- The negotiations committee met with the County to present proposals; Discussed a suspension status with a member.
- January 18- Met with 2 members to discuss retirement options; Discussed the status of our members who were involved in the Pc 3 and Pc 4 incidents, and the modified duty policy draft with Colonel Delp
- January 19- Met with a member to discuss retirement options; Placed a wreath at the memorial in memory of Mark Parry; Met with Tom Quirk.
- January 22- Attended the general membership meeting.

**First Vice President Mike DiCara**

- January 3- Represented the Lodge at a Departmental Promotional Ceremony.
- January 5- Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee

- January 8- Attended the January meeting of the Executive Board of Directors; Attended a meeting at Planning and Research over a new County policy.
- January 9- Responded to Pc4/Pikesville for Officer Involved Shooting.
- January 10- Submitted Campaign Finance Report to State Board of Elections.
- January 11- Presented Lodge update at In-Service Training.
- January 12- Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee; Assisted members from Pc4 during BWC review for Use of Force Incident.
- January 16- Attended a Contract Negotiation session with Baltimore County.
- January 22- Attended the January 2024 General Membership meeting.
- January 24- Attended a Promotional Process meeting with the Office of Human Resources.
- January 28- Attended a Special Meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- January 29- Attended a Contract Negotiation session with Baltimore County.
- January 31- Attended a meeting in reference to an upcoming Grievance hearing.

**Second Vice President Ryan Massey**

- January 5- Met with President Rose and 1st VP Dicara to discuss committee assignments.
- January 8- Attended State Legislative Committee Meeting.
- January 12- Attended Negotiations committee meeting.
- January 15- Attended State Legislative Committee Meeting.
- January 16- Attended Negotiations meeting with County Administration
- January 22- Attended State Legislative Committee Meeting.
- January 25- Met with member about IA case.
- January 27- Attended MD State Quarterly Meeting at FOP 89.
- January 28- Attended emergency board meeting (reference to City Grand Jury)
- January 29- Attended Negotiations meeting with County Administration; Attended State Legislative Committee Meeting; Met with Attorney Brooks and members summons to City Grand Jury.

**BEREAVEMENTS**

**Retired Brother Jeffrey A. Welch**

**Retired Brother Howard J. Wyant**

**Leslie James Duty III, Father of Brother Brian Duty and Cousin of Retired Brother Bill Duty**

**Diane Lucchesi Stone, Mother of Sister Gina Stone Socha and  
Mother-in-law of Brother Erik Socha**

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## **The Fourword**

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### **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  
Phone (410) 685-2022  
IAS Cases                      Michael Davey

### **FOURWARD EDITOR**

Don Patterson

### **Executive Board of Directors Vice Chair Ryan Franks**

- A meeting of the Executive Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 8, 2024. There were three motions brought forth by the committee and all were passed by the Board, unanimously.
- The first motion was to pay \$42,00.00 for a one year contract with Lobbyist John Stierhoff.
- The second motion was to spend approximately \$1,300.00 per person to send three members to FOP National Wellness Seminar, to be held February 19 and 20, 2024 in Nashville.
- The third motion was to renew our contract with Docu-Free at a cost of \$3,000.00.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **Bull Roast- Ken Schubert**

- The Annual Bull Roast is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Boumi Temple Shrine 5050 King Ave. The cost of the event will be \$55.00 per person.

#### **Finance- Bob Caskey**

- Spoke with Dave Schmeltz from RBC reference to the account, amount of money in the money market, and the projected amount after interest and dividends payment to the account at the end of January.
- The new committee has met and hopefully by the end of the month we will have some new investments.

#### **Grievance- Mike DiCara**

- The Sean Brennan Promotional Grievance is still pending at Step 3. A hearing in front of A/Labor Commissioner Lauren Phillips is scheduled for February 6th.

#### **Healthcare- Mike Dicara**

- Any changes to a member's Healthcare plan that they selected during open enrollment should have gone into effect on January 1st. All members, including retirees, are encouraged to check Workday to ensure that they are on the correct plan and that their FSA or HSA was funded correctly.
- The Lodge recently learned that a member selected a Medicare Advantage Plan through Retiree First when they turned 65 in 2022. Unfortunately, that member didn't qualify for Medicare, and should not have been enrolled. This resulted in a very high plan cost. Members who are approaching 65 should check their Social Security Statement to ensure that they qualify for Medicare. If they do not, they are permitted to stay on the County's active/pre-65 Healthcare plans.
- On January 18th, the Lodge asked the County for an update on their study to add prescription weight loss medications to our coverage. They have finished with their cost analysis and anticipate making a decision in the next few weeks.

### **Legal Advisory- Matt Krauch**

- On January 10, 2024, the committee met with IA Major Gorman to discuss IA related issues and pending cases.
- On February 10, 2024, the trial board will start for Officer White, PC 11.

### **Legislative- Dave Rose**

- The State FOP Legislative Committee is meeting every Monday at 4:00 p.m. via zoom. A list of bills has just come out for the committee to review.
- Delegate Grammer reached out to President Rose and advised he put a bill in to strengthen the quota bill from several years ago. Your enforcement stats can not be used in performance ratings or discipline.

### **Negotiations- Dave Rose**

- The first meeting of the committee was held on January 16, 2024 with the County virtually.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 29, 2024.
- Our attorney is getting the list of arbitrators together. Impasse date is February 1, 2024.
- We hope to continue negotiating. It is going to be tight due to a budget deficit.

### **Policy Review- Mike DiCara**

- The Policy Review Committee received the following projects for consideration:
- P23-27, Imposition of Discipline (New disciplinary counseling form/language).
- P23-33, Legislative Changes for Sex Offense and Human Trafficking Notifications.
- P23-45, Abandoned Vessels.
- P21-46, Expungements
- Ops SOP Revision 2020-03 Night Commander Duties.
- Ops SOP Revision 2023-03 GPS use.
- Ops SOP Revision 2011-01 IST Procedures.

### **Political Action- Mike DiCara**

- Submitted the annual PAC report and with the legislature in session no one can request money.

**Retiree Matters- Carroll Bollinger**

- Attended the retirees meeting on January 2, 2024. Sgt. John Haddaway was the guest speaker, he spoke about the wellness unit.
- The retirees appreciate the lodge's donation to help with the cost of the meeting.
- Retirees that are being summoned to court do not get any compensation. Carroll is going to meet with Scott Shellenberger to see if there is something his office can do.

**Scholarship Tim Caslin**

- The applications are in Nancy's office and the return date is March 1, 2024.

**REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL-Chaz Ball**

- Chaz advised the FOP was extremely helpful with the last officer involved shooting. The Attorney Generals' investigators responded. They asked two questions, date of birth and whether they were laterals.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Treasurer Caskey advised the missing packets for expenditure review were returned from the accountant. They are now waiting to be reviewed by the Expenditure Review Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Sgt-at-Arms Gonzalez brought a request from Brother Greg Huber to have FOP Lodge #4 make an MPIA request to the Chief's office for the manpower and staffing study that was done. President Rose advised he has already made an official request.

**RETIREMENTS**

**Joseph Cherry  
Brian Goetz  
Timothy White  
Joseph Alex  
Natalie Bakhsh  
Mark Johnson**

**Burl Joseph  
Matthew Moore  
Dennis Quirk  
Shane Stuff  
Terry Wilson**

## Reminder for Retirees at Tax Time

The Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) Retirees Act allows a deduction of up to \$3,000 annually for health care and long term care insurance premiums. The federal law went into effect Jan. 1, 2007. The deduction is for the federal income tax return only. More information can be obtained from the Lodge 4 website in the Contracts & Legislation section. Also, IRS publications have information on the topic that refer to pensions of retired public safety officers.

Beginning January 1, 2016, “law enforcement officers” can claim an income tax subtraction modification for the first \$5,000 of income earned if:

- (1) The law enforcement officer resides and works in the same political subdivision; and
- (2) The crime rate in the political subdivision exceeds the State’s crime rate.

A “law enforcement officer” is an individual who is authorized in his or her official capacity to make arrests and is a member of a law enforcement agency, including officers serving under a probationary status or at the pleasure of the appointing authority of a county or municipal corporation. Federal law enforcement officers do not qualify for the subtraction modification.

A list of the political subdivisions that have crime rates exceeding the State’s crime rate is provided to the Comptroller’s Office by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

If you are a Baltimore County Police Officer and you live in Baltimore County, you qualify for this tax credit.

A law enforcement officer may claim the subtraction, if applicable, by reporting it on Form 502 and Form 502SU.

## Pension Subtraction Modification

In 2017 Governor Hogan signed the bill passed by the state legislature to provide for a \$15,000.00 Pension Exclusion for Retired Law Enforcement, Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Services Personnel starting at age 55. Information can be located in section rr on pages 9 and 10 of the Maryland 2017 State and Local Tax Forms and Instructions book published by the Comptroller of Maryland.

Each member is encouraged to consult with their individual tax preparer to determine how these provisions may apply.





# **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**





**Fraternal Order of Police**  
Baltimore County Lodge #4  
9304 Harford Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
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BALTIMORE, MD  
PERMIT 5418

Change of Address Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

The February  
**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

The March  
**FOP Lodge 4**  
**GENERAL**  
**BUSINESS**  
**MEETING**

will be held on

**Monday,**  
**April 22 2024**  
**4:00 p.m.**

at  
FOP Lodge 4  
9304 Harford Road