



The Fourword

Volume 52 Number 3

March 2024

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)

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

Music, Wheels, Raffles
Food by Atlantic Catering

Open Bar

Music by DJ Steve Wolf

Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County



**FEBRUARY 2024
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police was held on Monday, February 26, 2024, 4:00 p.m. at Lodge #4. President Rose called the meeting to order. Brother Tony DiCara led the membership in prayer and President Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of officers was conducted, Chaplain Kraemer and Past President Folderauer were on vacation and Brother Sweren was working. All other board members were present as was Legal Advisor, Chaz Ball. A motion was made by Brother Zito to accept the minutes from the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Brother Bollinger.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President Dave Rose

- January 23- Had settlement discussion with county representatives about our military and COVID grievances.
- January 24- Met with Baltimore County Association of Women Police representatives Lieutenant's Chemelli and Greenbeck; Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
- January 25- Spoke at in-service training; Met with members at Precinct 1; Spoke with Colonel Delp about upcoming issues; Discussed the COVID grievance with legal counsel.
- January 26- Communicated with legal counsel about upcoming city grand jury.
- January 27- Attended the state FOP meeting at PG County Lodge 89.
- January 28- Attended an emergency EBOD meeting.
- January 29- Attended a negotiations committee meeting with the county; Met with our members and counsel about upcoming grand jury.
- January 30- Met with Kevin Flaherty about training priorities; Attended the Spending Affordability Committee meeting.
- January 31- Met with counsel to discuss the Brennen grievance.
- February 1- Attended Grand Jury Proceedings in Baltimore City with several of our members.
- February 2- Testified at a Pension Board of Trustees appeal at the Office of Administrative Hearings.
- February 3- Chaired a negotiating meeting; Met with House Judiciary Chairman Clippinger and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Vice Chair to discuss HB 15 and HB 188.
- February 6- Met with PHR personnel to discuss employee pay issues; Attended a preview of the BWC video of the Pikesville shooting with the involved officers; Discussed grievance procedures at First Line Supervisor School; Attended the grievance meeting with Cpl Brennan.
- February 7- Met with a member to discuss retirement options; Discussed SB 1 with the State Legislative Committee Chairman; VP DiCara and I placed a wreath at the memorial to mark the anniversary of Sgt Bruce Prothero's Line of Duty Death; Met with counsel and members of Pc 1 in reference to a use of force.
- February 8- Spoke at in-service training; Discussed several issues with the state lodge president.
- February 9- Met with a member to discuss pension calculations.
- February 12- Met with the county administration for negotiations; Attended the Executive Board of Director's meeting; Attended the legislative committee meeting.

- February 13- Attended the Pension Board of Trustee's meeting; Met with Major Gorman from IAB.
- February 14- Met with several members at headquarters to discuss retirement options; Met with Captain Trivett to discuss several pay issues.
- February 15- Spoke to members at in-service training; Attended the emergency Executive Board of Director's meeting.
- February 16- Spoke with Randallstown NAACP President Ryan Coleman about the Precinct 1 incident.
- February 17- Discussed the Precinct 1 incident with Chief McCullough.
- February 19- Discussed the Precinct 1 incident with Baltimore State's Attorney Bates; Discussed negotiations proposals with our legal counsel; Attended the state legislative committee meeting.
- February 20- Met with the Chief's staff to preview the BWC video being released to the public; Attended a negotiations team meeting; Met with representatives from Nationwide.
- February 21- Met with Chairman Bollinger of the Expenditure Review committee; Met with legal counsel and our charged members from Precinct 1.
- February 22- Spoke with members at in-service training.
- February 23- Attended an investment committee meeting; Held a conference call meeting with County Attorney Benjamin and Deputy Administrative Office Rebecca Young to discuss settling the military grievance.
- February 26- Attended the Executive Board of Director's meeting and the General Membership meeting.

First Vice President Mike DiCara

- February 5- Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee.
- February 6- Attended an officer review of BWC video from a recent OIS, attended a step 3 grievance hearing, and attended a meeting at Planning and Research.
- February 7- Placed a wreath in honor of Sgt. Bruce Prothero at the Police Memorial.
- February 12- Attended a Contract Negotiation session with Baltimore County and attended the February meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- February 13- Represented the Lodge at a Recruit Graduation Ceremony.
- February 15- Attended a special meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- February 20- Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee, attended a Departmental review of BWC from a Use of Force Incident and attended a Deferred Compensation Plan review with Nationwide.
- February 26- Attended the February 2024 General Membership meeting.
- February 27- Attended a meeting between Lodge leadership and Chief McCullough.
- February 28- Attended a Contract Negotiation session with Baltimore County.

Second Vice President Ryan Massey

- February 5- Attended Negotiations Committee meeting.
- February 7- Attended Trial Board for PFC Alecia White.
- February 12- Attended Negotiations Committee meeting with the County and attended monthly Executive Board of Directors meeting.
- February 13- Chaired Legal Advisory Committee meeting.
- February 15- Attended Special EBOARD meeting (Officer Indictment meeting).

February 20- Meeting with Nationwide (Deferred Comp) and attended a Negotiations Committee Meeting.

February 21- Met with Attorneys and officers in reference to City Indictment.

February 26- Attended the Lodge #4 General Membership meeting.

Treasurer Caskey

- Reported Lodge #4 finances.

Executive Board of Directors Chair Steve Comegna

- The Executive Board of Directors met on January 28, February 12, February 15 and February 26, 2024.
- There were twelve motions brought before the Board during these meetings and all passed.
- The first motion was brought before the Board in an emergency meeting on January 28, 2024. The motion was to retain Ms. Oana Brooks as a conflict attorney at the cost of \$10,000.00 to represent up to 8 of our members who may be called to testify before the Grand Jury in Baltimore City.
- The second motion was to donate \$3,000 to Dulaney Valley Memorial for the Healing Hearts luncheon.
- The third motion was to purchase a Bronze Sponsorship for the Annual Police Foundation Dinner at a cost of \$1,500.
- The fourth motion was to donate \$1,500 to the Concerns of Police Survivors to assist with the Police Week activities.
- The fifth motion was to donate \$500 to Lynn Parry for her participation in the Police Week Charity Bike Ride.
- The sixth motion was to donate up to \$500 for the Caprio family to attend a dinner at the Brothers Before Others headquarters in New Jersey.
- The seventh motion was to donate \$500 to the Garrett Tazwell Bakhsh Memorial Fund.
- The eighth motion came from the Legislative Committee to donate \$1,000 to the State Lodge to offset the cost of a reception for the House and Senate Judicial Committees.
- The ninth motion was from the Grievance Committee to accept the negotiated COVID sick time settlement.
- President Rose made the tenth motion to retain Brian Thompson to represent Zach Small in his case in Baltimore City.
- Treasurer Caskey made the eleventh motion which was to have the Expenditure Review Committee investigate whether check #16601 for the amount of \$7,500.00 was properly presented and appropriately approved by the membership.
- The final motion was to present and pay for legal defense for the 3 members indicted in Baltimore City.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Bull Roast– Donna Patterson

- 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.

Expenditure Review –Carroll Bollinger

- The Committee has met in reference to the motion to investigate the \$7,500.00 check written by President Rose. The investigation is ongoing.

Finance- Bob Caskey

- An Investment Committee meeting was conducted on 2/23/2024 where we were able to make a new investment to add to our portfolio.

Grievance- Mike DiCara

- There is intent to settle the military grievance for all except for Brother Hamby. The decision in the Hamby case was due by December 20, 2023 and we still have no decision.
- The COVID grievance, which goes back several years was intended for the County to give back the leave used by our members who were ordered to go home. The County's settlement was reviewed by our counsel and was deemed to appropriately satisfy the intent of the grievance. It will reimburse all employees any leave used prior to November 29, 2021 regardless of vaccination status. For any day after that date it will be for members who received a vaccination, even members who chose not to upload the status to the portal.
- Sean Brennan's case was heard at Step 3 before Acting Labor Commissioner Phillips on February 6, 2024. She ruled in the County's favor, that the Chief can promote or not promote any one he wants to that is on the promotion list.

Legal Advisory– Ryan Massey

- On February 7, 2024, the trial board was held for Officer White. She had several charges that were pled out and there were 4 remaining, in which Chaz, represented her. She was found not guilty on the termination charge. On two charges she received loss of leave and one charge she received a written reprimand. Chaz Ball did an excellent job representing her.
- Committee received a complaint from Brother Jess via President Rose. The meeting scheduled to talk to members involved was cancelled due to other issues at the Lodge. The investigation is ongoing.

Memorial-Donna Patterson

- The County Memorial will be held on May 10, 2024. The reception to follow will be held at Charles Village Pub.

Negotiations- Dave Rose

- Negotiations are going very slow. The County has not been prepared. We have asked the County and the Chief to bring forth some ideas to negotiate because all the ideas to fix the department cannot come from the FOP. To date they have proposed nothing.

Pension—Dave Rose

- The Pension Board of Trustees met on February 13, 2024 and approved 18 total retirements , 3 from the Police department.
- We discussed the Brian Rowe case, 178 people included in the class action suit and the total money to be paid out to those is about \$3.9 million. That expenditure was approved from the pension system.

Policy Review- Mike DiCara

- The Policy Review Committee reviewed 3 policies and none contained any issues.

Political Action- Mike DiCara

- With the legislature in session no one can request money. There is an opponent to the 4 sitting judges and he has reached out to us and we are scheduled to meet with him.

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.

Wellness –Rob Graff

- The next Peer to Peer meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL-Chaz Ball

- Annapolis is keeping us busy. The main bills we are focusing on are getting the statute of limitations back and the show cause bill. Mike Davey testified on February 21, 2024 on both of those bills.
- Chaz is testifying against a bill to take away no knock warrants.
- Mike Davey is testifying on several other bills.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Treasurer Caskey was notified that our 501C3 was approved by the IRS so he will be working with our tax attorney to open the appropriate account. This project has taken about a year from inception to approval. The idea is to have tax deductible donations to grow our scholarship program.
- President Rose advised his meeting was cancelled in reference to discussing the staffing study with the Chief.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- President Rose thanked Sister Sydney Roussey for her help with recovering all of our social media access.
- Brother Jess advised that the person responsible for murdering Brother and Sister Bakhsh's son pled guilty to life without parole.

BEREAVEMENTS

Retired Brother Charles D. Dorsey

Retired Brother Franklin Pugh

Retired Brother Richard McFillin

Chaplain Hugh Mills Jr.

Kent Schiner, Grandfather of Brother Jon Schiner

Carli Lehmann, Step-Daughter of Retired Brother Bill Lalley

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.

RETIREMENTS

Rick Freund
Jason Zahn

The Fourword

LODGE 4 OFFICE

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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



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

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

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road

The March
FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING

will be held on

Tuesday,
May 28, 2024
4:00 p.m.

at
FOP Lodge 4
9304 Harford Road