



The Fourword

Volume 53 Number 3

March 2025

54th Annual Bull, Oyster & Shrimp Roast

Sunday, March 30, 2025
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Boumi Temple
5050 King Avenue, Rosedale, MD

\$55 per person

Music and a Money Wheel
Food provided by Atlantic Catering
Open Bar
Music Provided a DJ

Call the lodge for tickets, 410-668-0004

The last printed Fourword for Retired members will be April 2025. Please use the QR code to update your information so we can send you the newsletter and other information electronically. This will enable us to communicate with the membership more efficiently. To receive a digital copy, we need your email address in our database. Please use your phone to scan the QR code and enter your updated information. Thank you for assisting us in this transition.



Representing the Professional Police Officers of Baltimore County



FEBRUARY 2025 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police was held on Monday, February 24, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at Lodge #4. President Rose called the meeting to Order. Brother A. DiCara led the membership in prayer and President Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of officers was conducted, Past President Folderauer, Chaplain Kraemer, and Brother Brzozowski were excused. All other board members were present as was Legal Advisor, Kieran Dowdy. A motion was made by Brother Zito to accept the minutes from the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Brother Jagoe.

REPORTS OF OF

- January 28- Spoke with members at in-service training.
- January 30- Testified on SB326 Peer Support Confidentiality, in front of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee in Annapolis.
Met with representatives from SF&C Insurance.
- February 5-7- Attended the Public Safety Union Leadership Seminar.
- February 11- Met with Deputy Director Young to discuss some pay scale issues.
Chaired the Pension Board of Trustees meeting.
- February 12- Spoke with members at in-service training.
- February 17- Attended a negotiations team meeting; Met with our social media consultant.
Attended the State FOP Legislative Committee meeting.
- February 19- Attended a contract negotiation meeting with the administration.
Spoke with members in attendance at in-service training.
- February 20- Met with a member to discuss retirement options.
Attended an Investment Committee meeting.
Attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting with the Chief and his staff.
- February 21- Submitted written testimony on legislation affecting our members.
Met with Tom Quirk and Dave Weaver from Retirement and Investment Group.
- February 24- Attended an Executive Board of Directors meeting and the General membership meeting.

First Vice President Mike DiCara

- February 4- Presented the Lodge update at In-Service Training.
Met with members of the Tactical Team about their working conditions.
- February 7- Attended a graveside gathering to honor Fallen Brother Bruce Prothero.
- February 10- Attended the February meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- February 14- Attended the County Council's Spending Affordability Meeting.
Attended the Department's Lateral Officer Draft.
- February 17- Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee with Lodge Counsel.
- February 19- Attended a contract negotiations session with representatives of Baltimore County Government.
Presented the Lodge update at In-Service Training.
- February 20- Attended the Department's Officer Draft for the 173rd Recruit Class.
Attended a meeting between Lodge Leadership and Chief McCullough.
- February 24- Attended a meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
Attended the February General Membership Meeting.
- February 26- Attended a contract negotiations session with representatives of Baltimore County Government.
Presented the Lodge update at In-Service Training.
- February 27- Presented the Lodge update at In-Service Training for the Tactical Team.

Second Vice President Ryan Massey

- February 10- Attended State Legislative Meeting.
Attended Executive Board of Directors Meeting.
- February 19-23- Attended National FOP Leadership Matters.
- February 24- Attended State Legislative Meeting.
- February 26- Attended Negotiations meeting with County Administration.

- January 7- Conducted grievance training at the New Administrator School.
Attended an event for County Councilman Izzy Patoka.
- January 9- Attended the Investiture Ceremony for a Circuit Court Judge.
- January 13- Attended the January meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- January 15- Attended a contract negotiations session with representatives of Baltimore County Government.
- January 20- Attended a meeting of the Executive Board of Directors.
- January 21-22- Attended 2025 In-Service Training.
- January 24th- Attended a meeting with County OHR for the Sergeant's promotional process.
Attended a meeting of the Contract Negotiations Committee.
- January 27- Attended the County Council's Spending Affordability Meeting.
Attended the January General Membership Meeting.
- January 28- Presented the Lodge update at In-Service Training.

Lodge Secretary Donna Patterson

- No report.

Treasurer Caskey

- Reported on Lodge Finances.

State Trustee Don Patterson

- No report.

Executive Board of Directors Chair Steve Comegna

- The Executive Board of Directors met on February 10th and 24th.
- There were at total of eight motions brought before the Board during both meetings, all passed. One motion made by the Bylaw committee.
Two motions made by the donation review committee, please see committee report.
One motion and seconded out of the Legislative committee to renew our one-year contract with Venable LLP, John Stierhoff, Esq. as our lobbyist. \$3500.00 per month total \$42,000.00 per year no increase from last year.
Two motions were made from the Wellness Committee, please see committee report.
One motion was made by the Political Action Committee, please see committee report.
President Rose proposed the 2025 Budget to the Board. It passed unanimously.
- A motion was made by Brother Barresi and seconded by Brother Schubert, to approve the reports of Officers. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Bullroast - Don Patterson

- Tickets are now on sale for this year's Bullroast. It will be on Sunday, March 30, 2025, 1-5 p.m. at the Boumi Temple, 5050 King Avenue, Rosedale, MD. \$55 per person.
- Please contact the lodge for tickets. 410-668-0004.

Bylaws - Ryan Franks

- The Bylaw Article submitted for an amendment, “Station Coordinators & Shift Representatives”, was discussed. The Bylaw is printed on page 6.

Donation Review - Ryan Franks

- A motion was made and seconded to donate \$150 to the Detective WenJain Liu Foundation. This foundation was started after the murder of NYPD Detective Liu in 2014. The Foundation’s mission is to offer family members a highly trained therapy dog. Request made by Brother Stadler.
- A motion was made and seconded to donate \$500 to the 2nd annual Badges for Bass to be held on May 31, 2025 at the Loch Raven Reservoir. The donation will offset the expense to provide child attendees with rods, reels, tackle boxes, tackle and SPF50 shirts. Baltimore County Rec and Parks granted the use of 12 boats/motors and batteries for this event. Requested made by Brother G. Bandurchin.

Events - Don Patterson

- The FOP Lodge 4 golf tournament is September 5, 2025 at Rocky Point Golf Course.

Expenditure Review - Matt Krauch

- No report.

Finance - Bob Caskey

- Investments were discussed.

Grievance - Mike DiCara

- The Sean Brennan promotional grievance is still pending at Step 4.
- President Rose will meet with County Attorney Benjamin on March 3rd to finalize the details of the Military Pension Grievance.

Healthcare Review Committee - Mike DiCara

- No report.

Legal Advisory - Ryan Massey

Pending Trial Boards

- Cpl. Small (2-13-25). Verdict: Not guilty for use of unnecessary force.
- PFC S. Jones (2-14-25). Found guilty of an integrity violation and has been terminated.
- PFC Baldwin Jr. resigned on 2-14-25, pending the department revoking his MPTC certification.
- PFC Junior (3-4-25 through 3-5-25).
- PFC Davis (trial board is pending).

Legislative - Ryan Massey

- The committee is concentrating its efforts working on four bills, specifically, Order of Show Cause (Police Discipline), Police Accountability (Public Safety), Confidentiality (Peer Support), and Retired Law Enforcement Officials (Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition). Committee hearings were scheduled for February 25th.

Membership - Matt Krauch

- No report.

Memorial - Donna Patterson

- Memorials are being held in Baltimore County on the first 2 Fridays of May. Look for details in next month’s newsletter.

Military Affairs - Mahindra Saywack and Dave Rose

- No report.

Negotiations - Dave Rose

- An arbitrator has been selected.

Pension - Dave Rose

- No report.

Policy Review - Mike DiCara

The Policy Review Committee received the following projects for consideration:

- Command Review P24-51, Legislative Changes - EEO, Bias Incidents, Catalytic Converters, and Wellness Checks.
- End of Command Review P24-52, Conduct and Misconduct - Miscellaneous Changes.
- EMU SOP Update- 1999-01, 1999-02, 1999-03, 1999-04, 1999-05, 1999-06, 1999-07, 1999-09, 1999-10, 1999-12, 1999-13, 1999-14, 1999-16, 1999-17, 2017-01.
IRMU SOP Update- 2013-01, 2013-02, 2014-01.

No bargaining issues were identified in any of the above policies.

Political Action- Mike DiCara

- A motion was made to purchase a \$1500 Sponsorship to an event on April 10, 2025 for Baltimore County Councilman David Marks.

Retiree Matters- Carroll Bollinger

- Fielded numerous questions regarding how to calculate the enhanced Social Security Benefit from the WEP/GPO.

Scholarship -Tim Caslin

- March 1, 2025 was the deadline to submit scholarship applications. The lodge received over 40 applications.

Uniforms/Equipment– Joe Brzozowski and Kevin Jobe

- No report.

Wellness - Rob Graff

- The next Peer to Peer meeting will be April 10th at 4:30.
- A motion was made to supply a pizza lunch for “field trip day” during the upcoming C.I.T. training class. Pizzas are brought into Prologue for lunch. It will cost about \$400.00, plus or minus.
- A second motion was to send up to six (6) members to the Concerns of Police Survivors National conference in New Orleans from November 13–16, 2025. Approximate cost is about \$1700.00 per member.
- A motion was made by Brother Scally and seconded by Brother Tollen to approve the Reports of Committees. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Legal Counsel-Keiran Dowdy

- There has been an increase in IAS interviews.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Good of the Order

- Please join the most current page for Lodge 4. <https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreCountyFOP>

Sick and or in Distress

- None.

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 or on the app. Also, IRS publications have information on the topic that refer to pensions of retired public safety officers.

As of 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. “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. Go to this link to see if you qualify:

<https://marylandtaxes.gov/faq/individual-tax.php#q29>

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 “v” on pages 9 of the Maryland 2024 State and Local Tax Forms and Instructions book published by the Comptroller of Maryland.

<https://interactive.marylandtaxes.gov/forms/24-forms/Resident-Booklet.pdf>

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

LODGE 4 OFFICE
dge4.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
410-409-0293

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-CACU

Ken Schubert
Retired

Joe Brzozowski
PC-8

LODGE STAFF

Nancy Skinner — Administrative Assistant

LEGAL ADVISORS

Schlachman, Belsky, Weiner And Davey
IAS Cases Michael Davey
Phone (410) 685-2022

FOURWARD EDITOR

Kathy Kraemer

BEREAVEMENTS

Josephine M. Palmere
Mother of Brother Nick Palmere
Aunt of Brother Phil Palmere and
Brother Charles (Chip) Henry

Brother Dennis “Denny” Wayne Huckeba

Brother Joesph L. Good

Brother Joseph Ulatowski

Brother Roger Lee Sheets

Bradley Garland
Father of Brother Rich Galand

Brother George Melvin Mullaney, Sr.

**Amendment to the Constitution and
Bylaws of FOP Lodge 4**

Whereas: The Committee titled “Station Coordinators & Shift Representatives” under Article Section 5 of the Bylaws is not utilized or filled.

Whereas: Lodge 4 has expanded their communication abilities with the membership by developing not only an “app” but several social media platforms with which to communicate.

Whereas: Access to these platforms and the “app” accomplishes the purpose/goals of the committee as described.

Therefore: Article V (Duties of Committees) of the Bylaws of the Lodge 4 Constitution will be amended by removing Section 5 “Station Coordinators and Shift Representatives” and renumbering Sections 6 through 10 to reflect the removal.

This proposal is submitted by Douglas Jess to
President Dave Rose on the 22nd day of January, 2025.



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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 PERMIT 5418

Change of Address Form

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

The April
FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING

will be held on

Monday,
April 28, 2024
4:00 p.m.

at
 FOP Lodge 4
 9304 Harford Road

The May
FOP Lodge 4
GENERAL
BUSINESS
MEETING

will be held on

Monday,
May 27, 2025
4:00 p.m.

at
 FOP Lodge 4
 9304 Harford Road