



FOP 34

Volume 2 | Issue 1 March 2020



Presidents Corner

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2020. FOP 34 had a fantastic year in 2019 and we are striving to make 2020 even better. Your FOP 34 Legislative committee is hard at work in Annapolis to build on the achievements that we made last year with legislation to benefit our members. We have 3 Bills this year all pertaining to our LEOPS pension benefits.

I would like to welcome our new Board Members and look forward to working with them to benefit our members in every way possible. As always, don't hesitate to contact the FOP or me personally if you have any questions about labor or union matters.

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FOP 34 would like to welcome the following newly elected members:

Executive Board

Secretary Mike Shaffer

Board Of Directors Members

Chaplain Scott Ritzes

&

Conductor Nina Bowser

Lodge 34 Commission of Trustees

Tim Morandi and Tom Shepke

The Lodge 34 Commission of Trustees is now composed of 4 retired members which is the most in our history! We are honored to have so many of our retired members elected to the BOD and Commission of Trustees of FOP Lodge 34.



FOP 34 Executive Board

President

James Kruszynski
mdfop34@gmail.com

1st Vice President

Ernest Fischer
1stvpmdfop34@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

James Myers
2ndvpmdfop34@gmail.com

Secretary

Mike Shaffer
secretarymdfop34@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jeff Goetz
treasurermdfop34@gmail.com

FOP 34 [website-www.mdfop34.org](http://www.mdfop34.org)

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/mdfop34.org/>

Twitter- <https://twitter.com/mdfop34>

Email-mdfop34@gmail.com

Presidents Corner (continued)

With the Corona Virus outbreak I understand that the next few weeks or months will be trying times for all of us. This is an unprecedented event and we are all in this together. Understand that the FOP is working hand in hand with the Agency, other state Unions and with the Governors Office to ensure that the safety of all of our members is the top priority during this time of uncertainty. With schools closed and businesses shut down we understand that the demand on our members and their families is greater than ever. The agency has committed to working with our members to meet individual needs in addition to meeting the needs of the state and what is required from us as Law Enforcement Professionals. Rest assured the FOP is in this with you and we are working every day behind the scenes to protect our members. If you have any questions or need help don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our Board Members.

Fraternally,

J. Kruszynski
Jim Kruszynski
President

A word from the FOP **Conductor**

The spread of the Coronavirus has hit the US, but there is no need to worry, go into hysteria or panic. Most of us are most likely considered “low-risk”. If you are under the age of 60, don’t have any underlying illnesses or ailments, are a non-smoker, haven’t traveled outside the country and/or come in contact with someone who IS infected with the COVID-19, you are most likely considered low-risk.

Some guidance from the FOP of OHIO, as well as many if not all local and national health facilities and experts have listed many ways to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Some examples are as followed: Use general health and hygiene guidelines. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at LEAST 20 seconds, not only the palms and backs of your hands, but also your fingertips. Dry your hands with a clean towel or air dryer. Don’t touch your face (eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces). Stay at home if you feel sick. Avoid encountering anyone who is sick. Get your flu shot (contact your local pharmacy or your PCP to see if flu shots are still available). If you have gotten your flu shot and do become ill, it is most likely not the flu, but another sickness. GO TO THE DOCTOR to be 100% sure. Cover your

mouth with a tissue or use your elbow area when you cough and/or sneeze, not your hands. Clean and disinfect any and all “high-touch” areas often. Be sure to saturate those areas to let the liquid settle before wiping even if using a Lysol wipe as the longer the moisture sits, the more germs are killed.

If you would like to wear a mask, the World Health Organization website gives a great tutorial on how to properly wear one and when. Visit the following link for that information. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>. You will also see a section on myth busters that’s an interesting read in regard to the coronavirus.

Remember to always err on the side of caution. We encounter many people throughout the course of our workdays. Be sure to do what you can do to stay healthy and if you have any concerns at all....TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF FIRST.

Will Preparation Events

We have booked two more events already this year and we are planning to schedule another event soon. Demand is still EXTREMELY high for these events so don’t hesitate to RSVP as soon as Secretary Shaffers sends out the invitation email. Also, don’t forget that if you do not have a Will and do not want to wait until the next Lodge Sponsored event you can always call the Law Firm at 410-685-2022 to have it completed at their office.

Secretary News

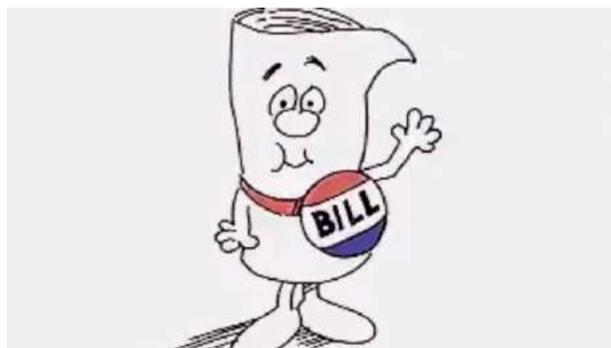
AS your newly elected Secretary, I want to let everyone know that I fully appreciate and support every member of this lodge, active sworn, retired and associate. My ultimate goal would be to try to reach out to every one of our retired members who are not currently active and get them back into the fold to increase our membership numbers. However, I can't do this all on my own. If any member knows of a retiree that wants to get back to having an active membership, have them reach out to me. A good indicator that there might be a problem with your membership would be if you don't receive your membership card before the middle of March.

One of my duties is maintaining the roster for the lodge. This includes names, addresses, emails and phone numbers. If you have any of those changes, please be sure that I always have the updated information. For the purposes of information dissemination, Email is the most cost effective and quickest form of communication. In order to communicate efficiently with each of our members, an active current email account is essential. If anyone wishes to provide a cell and/or phone number, I will use that as a secondary method of communication. And of course, if you happen to change residences, please email me with a new address.

I want to thank everyone for their patience, help and understanding during the secretarial transition. I am always available for comments or suggestions that improve the efficiency conducting our lodge business.

Be safe,

Brother M. Shaffer



2020 Legislative Session

Once again the FOP 34 Legislative committee is hard at work in Annapolis supporting legislation that will benefit our members and opposing legislation that is bad for law enforcement.

We have submitted the following bills this year to benefit Lode 34 members:

Unfortunately, due to the current coronavirus pandemic the 2020 Legislative Session abruptly ended almost 3 weeks early. This early end to the session created problems for many bills and unfortunately our HB 659 ran out of time and did not pass this year. Rest assured we will revisit this bill next year.

Senate Bill 587 and House Bill 588

President Kruszynski testified in the House and the Senate in support of these bills that allow our members who reach the current maximum pension benefit of 65% to stop contributing to LEOPS at the time. Currently when you have maximized your pension benefits our members still are required to contribute 7% of their salary to the pension system each year even though they are no longer able to increase their benefit. This is unacceptable and unfair to our members.

Passage of this bill will essentially give each of

our members a 7% Longevity raise at 32 1/2 years of service!

We are happy to announce the this bill has passed both the House and the Senate and is now awaiting the Governors Signature!!!

House Bill 659- LEOPS Parity Bill

This bill will increase our year of service multiplier from 2.0% to 2.5% for each year of service allowing LEOPS members to retire at 28 years of service with 70% benefits. This adjustment will bring LEOPS members in line with other Law Enforcement members of the Maryland Retirement System. Lodge 34 has taken the lead on this initiative and is working closely with the other unions involved in LEOPS to pass this bill.

Disputes and Grievances

*Reminder: If you have a dispute or grievance concern your first method of resolution is to discuss the issue with your immediate supervisor. If you do not get satisfactory results then contact your detachment Shop Steward. Your shop steward will present you with the FOP Dispute Resolution form to fill out and submit back to the Shop Steward. (The FOP Dispute Resolution form is an internal FOP Document and is not released to the Department) Once completed your Shop Steward will assign the correct STEP to the Dispute and being the process. **Disputes CAN NOT be initiated without a completed Dispute form.** FOP Shop Stewards are Union Officials and thereby afforded certain rights and protections and are able to meet directly with the detachment commander in an attempt to resolve the issue. The majority of disputes are resolved without filing a formal Dispute. For a complete list of Shop Stewards please refer to the lodge website www.mdpop34.org.*

Also keep in mind that Dispute Resolutions and Grievance are two separate procedures.

-Dispute Resolutions pertain to complaints concerning the application or interpretation of terms of our Collective Bargaining Agreement. This procedure is defined in our Collective Bargaining Agreement Article XVI

-Grievances are complaints on issues NOT covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement and are subject to the procedures set forth in Chapter 13 of the Directives Manual.

Upcoming Events

- Our Breakfast with the Easter Bunny has been cancelled in compliance with the Governors Executive order banning all public



gatherings of 50 or more people. We apologize for the inconvenience and look forward to next years event. The FOP will refund all money already sent in for tickets and vendors.

FOP Legal Services



The FOP Law firm has added Attorney Mike Davey to the name of the firm and will now be known as Schlachman, Belsky, Weiner & Davey, P.A. and will be abbreviated as SBWD Law

Remember, if you need legal help call 410-685-2022 or 1-888-685-2022 immediately. Our attorneys are available 24/7.

Reminder that if you have criminal or departmental accusations against you **DO NOT** provide any statements, written or oral, to anyone before consulting with legal counsel.

If you are accused of a *crime*, remember that you have an ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE to remain silent.

If you are ordered by a superior officer to provide a statement without counsel, write the following statement:

I have been ordered to provide this statement without being provided access to my attorney. I assert that my rights are being violated and I note my objection to this order. However, failure to abide by this order could result in disciplinary action being taken against me. In submitting to this statement, I do NOT waive any of my rights



Promotions

Lieutenant Colonel

Joseph Scott

Major

Ronce Alford

Captain

Donnae Reedy

Elwood Leath

Lieutenant

Marty Dillow

Christina Anderson

Brian Lawrence

First Sergeant

Brandon Brookshire

Gregory Sampson

Kathleen DeSantis

Maryland Transportation Authority Police Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 34

Sergeant

Michael Shaffer

Robert Rose

Mark Woodland

Brian Mullin

Michael Frock

Corporal

David Barcikowski

Michael Galliher

James Kruszynski

James Myers

Daniel Blubaugh

Renato Guarnaccia

Jesse Remsburg

FOP Hall

In an abundance of caution and in accordance with Governor Hogans Executive Order our FOP Hall will be closed until further notice.

Need a hall to hold an event? We can handle anything from birthday parties to weddings. Our hall can fit over 200 people and we have dates available. Complete information and package information can be viewed on our website www.mdpop34.org by clicking on the FOP HALL link.

Ask about FOP 34 Member discounts on rentals!!

FOP Lodge 34 Hall is looking for volunteers to help with events each month. Volunteer duties include delivering orders to event participants from the kitchen to the hall and finalizing the renters contract at the end of the event. Volunteer to help at 4 events and receive a **FREE HALL RENTAL** for your own event!!

If interested in helping out please contact
2nd Vice President Myers
2ndvicemdfop34@gmail.com

FOP 34 Lounge

In an abundance of caution and in accordance with Governor Hogans Executive Order our FOP Bar will be closed until further notice.

Are you looking for a place to celebrate a member birthday party? Want to have a shift get together? Then look no more!! You can use the FOP Lounge for your event at no cost! We can host events of 75 people or less in the Lounge for our members at NO RENTAL COST! Buffet style food from the lounge kitchen is also available for parties with advanced notice! 🎉🎈🎊

Our normal hours of operation are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6pm-2am.

If you are interested in using the FOP Lounge for your member event or Shift party please email mdfop34@gmail.com and the Lounge Manager will schedule your event.