



THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

FEBRUARY 2017

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Here I am again, writing my second President's Message. The holidays are over and I hope everyone had a safe and happy time. It looks like the Middle Atlantic will get away with no snow this year. That doesn't make snow lovers happy, but it sure makes the no-snow lovers ecstatic. If you live up north, you have already been shoveling. Even the south has been shoveling. Just remember, the start to baseball season is only two months away!

I wanted to address a few thoughts of mine regarding our meetings:

- We have noticed that a lot of our female members have stopped coming to our monthly meetings; and many of our new female members have not attended at all. I would like to encourage you to attend the meetings and become involved in the fight for our benefits. Every voice needs to be heard. This is also a great way to keep up with current events and to socialize with other retirees.
- In addition, several of our members are disabled and cannot attend the meetings. Therefore, from this day forward, we would like to extend an invitation to spouses and significant others who would like to bring our members to the meetings. We believe nothing should interfere with our members being able to attend.
- We typically have about 80-100 people attend the monthly meetings. I, personally, would like to see 150-175 or more members at each meeting. We have large numbers at the June and December meetings; why not all the time? Call your side partner and attend together, have a good dinner, meet new members, and get informed of where we stand with our healthcare and benefits.

In other news:

- We are trying to set up a meeting with the new mayor, Catherine Pugh, to go over a few issues. The first is, of course, our healthcare and benefits. The second is the never ending pension lawsuit and to get her views of this issue: And finally, to address the problem of retirees having to wait until they are fifty-five (55) to get a measly 1% raise. We have quite a few folks who retired medical LOD 66 2/3 and cannot work. They have a long way to go to reach 55 for a 1% raise. That's not fair to those who spent years protecting the citizens of Baltimore City. We will keep you informed with any progress or roadblocks.
- We are actively searching for volunteers for some of our committees. We can always use an extra pair of hands and the hours involved are minimal at best. Could you spare an hour or two a month?
- The By-Law committee is doing a work-in-progress on the entire By-Law pamphlet from cover to cover. Stand by for updates on when we will present the changes for votes. Once this is completed and voted upon, a copy will be mailed to everyone.
- Maryland Handgun permit renewal: As of October 2016, you will no longer need to do the finger print scan, but you are still required to have a photo ID (passport type).
- The Delta Dental Plan: Your point person is Brian Druschel (410-598-1350). Feel free to contact him if you want to make any changes or upgrades to your plan. He is the one who can answer your questions; please call him only.

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**BALTIMORE RETIRED
POLICE BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION
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Baltimore, MD 21206**

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- The Baltimore City Police Museum. Retired member Kenny Driscoll is the founder and curator for this museum, which details the history of the Baltimore City Police Department. It is an amazing collection of memorabilia and historical facts. Kenny is looking for retirees who would like to be tour guides beginning in March, on Saturday's only. If you are interested, please contact Kenny at thedriscolls@live.com or call 410-285-6108. A safe and secure parking space will be provided for the tour guides.

Daryl Buhrman

RECENT DECISIONS OF INTEREST

Recently, federal and state courts made decisions affecting law enforcement personnel in one way or another. One decision involved a reversal of a termination of a Sheriff's Deputy fired for expressing his concerns about a cover-up. Another involved the constitutionality of a police stop of a person in a high crime area, as occurred in the Freddie Gray situation, which culminated in the unsuccessful prosecution of 6 sworn Baltimore police for doing their jobs. The actions of the prosecutors resulted in their being sued. Several weeks ago their attempts to avoid responsibility for the damage their conduct caused, by filing a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, met with failure.

***Lane v. Anderson*, 669 Fed. Appx. 185 (4th Cir. 2009)**

On September 15, 2008, Deputy James Lane of the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office's Warrant Apprehension Task Force suffered a gunshot wound to the face, allegedly at the hands of the subject of the warrant, at least according to an internal investigation. Still having doubts and believing that another deputy shot him accidentally, Lane expressed his concerns to his superiors who told him to forget about it. He and two other deputies persisted in questioning the internal investigation's conclusions and received transfers from the Task Force.

Two years later, Lane gave a couple of media interviews expressing his doubts about the investigation and his suspicion about a cover-up. He also said that he thought that the officer he suspected of having accidentally shot him lied because that officer failed a polygraph.

Three months after that, the Sheriff's Office lodged charges, and a trial board found him guilty of two counts of engaging in conduct that reflected unfavorably upon the Sheriff's Office, two counts of representing the Sheriff's Office without permission and one count of publicly criticizing the Sheriff's Office. Significantly, the Board found him not guilty of making a false statement and recommended a five day suspension. Sheriff Anderson fired him, "explaining" that his actions represented "sullenness and anger" toward the Sheriff's Office, that they were "divisive and disloyal," that Lane had become a "polarizing force" and that Sheriff Anderson could no longer trust his "reliability and credibility," notwithstanding the fact that a board found him not guilty of making a false statement.

The United States District Court dismissed the lawsuit entirely. The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit reversed the District Court. The court first held that the *Rooker-Feldman* doctrine, which bars United States District Courts from reviewing state court decisions did not apply because Deputy Lane was challenging not a state court decision but Sheriff

Continued Page 3

Anderson's decision to fire him.

Clearly matters of public safety implicate public concern. Then, because Deputy Lane's speech articulated a suspicion that friendly fire resulted in a person's being killed and that there was a cover-up, the facts did not tip the balance in favor of the Sheriff's Office. Certainly Sheriff Anderson offered no concrete examples to back up his claim that Deputy Lane brought ill repute to the agency and was a divisive, disloyal and polarizing force. The court noted that he asserted nothing more than "lip service" and "vague references." Finally, the appellate court found that Sheriff Anderson fired Deputy Lane for what he said. Indeed, Sheriff Anderson admitted as much.

The appellate court reversed the district court's decision and remanded the matter for trial. Since then, Sheriff Anderson and Deputy Lane settled the case.

***State v. Sizer*, 230 Md. App. 640, 149 A,3d 706 (2016)**

The case begins with a quote from the book of Proverbs: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion." In this case, the defendant acted more like a pussycat.

On November 20, 2015 at about 5:30 PM, three Howard County bike patrol officers patrolled a high crime area, much like the Baltimore Police Department bike patrol officers patrolled the area where they pursued Freddie Gray. The officers approached a crowd of people who appeared to be drinking alcohol, and one of them threw a bottle. As the officers approached, they said, "Police.. Stop. Don't run." The defendant ran, and two of the officers chased him. As they caught up to him, he threw up his hands, saying, "Okay, I have a pistol. I have a pistol." At that point, the officers wrestled him to the ground and started to place him in cuffs. Seconds later, their supervisor arrived, recognizing the defendant as someone with whom he had had numerous prior interactions. The supervisor also knew there was an active warrant out for him. While this was going on, the officers looked in a back pack the defendant was wearing during the chase and found a .38 caliber revolver. Then the police took the appellant from the area because a potentially hostile crowd was gathering. When they got to the satellite office, they removed the fully loaded .38 caliber revolver and additional ammunition from the backpack and, shockingly, a baggie containing 27 pills from his sock.

The trial court granted the defendant's motion to suppress the evidence, but the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland reversed the trial court. As to the stop, Judge Moylan wrote, "The reasonable articulable suspicion for the *Terry* stop, moreover, was by no means based merely on flight. It was far more multi-factored than that. It was based on an unprovoked flight upon the approach of the police in a high crime area. This case was a paradigmatic replay of *Illinois v. Wardlow*..." Notably, the opinion cites the *Wardlow* case apparently ignored by the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office for some time in its prosecution of the Baltimore 6. Interestingly, the prosecutors of the Baltimore 6 also complained about a purported absence of probable cause although the standard for a *Terry v. Ohio* stop, as both the Supreme Court in *Wardlow* and the Court of Special Appeals in *Sizer*, note is not probable cause, but the much less rigorous standard of reasonable articulable suspicion.

***Nero et al v. Mosby et al.*, 2017 WL 68643 (D. Md. 2017)**

Five of the Baltimore 6 sued Marilyn Mosby, Esquire, the State's Attorney for Baltimore City and Major Samuel Cogen, who signed the Statement of Charges, which he now says he did not prepare, alleging that the Baltimore 6 were variously guilty of multiple crimes, up to and including second-degree depraved heart murder. When Marilyn Mosby Esquire held a press conference to announce the charges, in addition to assuring those who felt victimized by the police that it was "[their] day," shouted, "I can tell you that from day one, we independently investigated. We are not just relying solely upon what we were given by the Police Department, period."

After she was sued, Marilyn Mosby Esquire filed a motion to dismiss, essentially alleging that she merely acted as an advocate for the State, as a scrupulously fair and objective champion of the community. After all, Marilyn Mosby Esquire, when she was shouting from the steps of the War Memorial, said that "the actions of these officers will not and should not, in any way, damage the important working relationships between police and prosecutors as we continue to flight together to reduce crime in Baltimore."

Judge Garbis of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland denied Marilyn Mosby Esquire's motion to dismiss. As to what is known as the fair reporting privilege, the judge noted that the plaintiffs "have



plausibly alleged that Mosby, at a press conference, read false statements in the application [of charges] that she had created and knew were false for such purposes as ‘appeasing the public and quelling the riots.’” As to what is known as the fair comment privilege, which Marilyn Mosby Esquire also used in an attempt to escape liability, Judge Garbis found that the plaintiffs presented a plausible case that Marilyn Mosby Esquire presented not only facts, but also opinions, ostensibly based on her “independent” investigation.

Judge Garbis also cited the 1993 case of *Buckley v. Fitzsimmons* because Marilyn Mosby Esquire claimed that she was entitled to absolute immunity from any consequences for her behavior. The Buckley case, and then Judge Garbis, explained to her that “[t]he conduct of a press conference does not involve the initiation of a prosecution, the presentation of the State’s case in court, or actions preparatory for those functions.” Thus, even though “statements to the press may be an integral part of a prosecutor’s job,” and “may serve a vital function... A prosecutor is no different position than any other executive officials who deal with a press....” Once Marilyn Mosby, Esquire entered the realm of investigation, she lost some of her immunity. Apparently, her independent investigation did not disclose that to her before she began shouting from the steps of the War Memorial.

Michael P. May

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT REUNION!

Saturday, March 18, 2017

7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

\$40.00 per person.

Cancun Cantina

9501 Telegraph Road

Hanover, MD

Contact Nick Constantine for further information (410-365-3904).

Income Tax Deduction for Law Enforcement

For Maryland State taxes, under article MD Tax General Code S-10-20T, a law enforcement officer can claim an income tax subtraction notification for the first \$5000.00 of income earned if the law enforcement officer lives and works in the same subdivision and the crime rate in the political subdivision exceeds the state's crime rate.

Officers, who must be on active duty, should check with a knowledgeable tax authority before unilaterally claiming the deduction.

IF “PLAN A” DIDN’T WORK, RELAX, THERE ARE 25 MORE LETTERS IN THE ALPHABET!

Today I buried a former side partner and friend. His name was Robert "Bobby" Cope. I write this to maybe ease my mind or just vent.

Bobby was a good man. We hear that at most funerals that the person that has died was a good person. In this case it was true. Bobby had a way of making you feel at peace even when the world around you was falling apart. Bobbie was on the same shift as I was in the Western District. He transferred to our squad. He brought with him a vast knowledge of police work. In the Western District we declared that we not only had the best shift in the district but in the entire Baltimore City Police Department. We were proud of that fact. Bobby was one of the best. He was a go to guy when we needed an answer on a question. He was a good back up.

I left the Western District and transferred to the K9 unit. I would see him from time to time in the Western and then the Southern District.

When I transferred to the Southwestern District, Bobby was promoted and joined me there. He cared deeply for his squad members that worked for him in the Southwestern District. When Brian Winder was murdered it took a toll on Bob. However, on that hot 3 July 2004 Bobby kept his head. His squad was young they had not been through this before. Brian was well respected and a great street cop. Bobby did his best to help his folks along from the funeral to the process of grieving.

I have stood next to Bobby at Ira Weiner's funeral and heard the pipes playing. I have been on many a call with Bob. No matter what was going on Bob would look at you with a complete deadpan look and say "All this fun". That was Bobby. In the thirty five years I have known Bobby he never changed. He was always a good cop and supervisor. And most of all a good person.

I will miss Bobby for the man he is in my heart. A good decent man that wanted to do a good job and did so.

So today I helped carry Bobby to his final resting place. It was fitting as he carried me at times while we were in the Western District.

Rest now my Brother in Blue.

Patrick Youells



On Wednesday, 2/8/17, at the most recent board meeting for the BRPBA, a motion was made to have a Facebook page for the BRPBA members to keep them up-to-date on items of interest within the organization. This is especially beneficial for those who cannot make the General Meetings because of being out-of-state or for whatever reason. The motion was carried.

Here is the link to request to join. We will only make this link available for a few weeks for members to request to join the group. You must be a member of the BRPBA. Any requests will be checked against our roster. If you are not a member, please message one of the page Admin's and they will be more than happy to get you the information.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/839018866236399/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Leonard A. Delozier, Jr.

Certified Public Accountant

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Newsletter

January 2017

HOW WILL THE DONALD TRUMP PRESIDENCY AFFECT YOUR TAXES?

Donald Trump made a lot of promises during his presidential campaign. But he cannot do everything he said on his own – Congress must pass all changes in the tax law, and President Trump faces a certain amount of opposition. There will be many negotiations. I'm sure that some of what he said will happen, and some will not.

First, do not believe all of the predictions (good and bad) that are being reported. Wait until something is passed, and then see how it affects you.

Next, nothing will change for 2016. The tax returns you file in the coming weeks will follow the tax law that existed last year. (That includes the requirement to have health insurance or pay a penalty.) Any changes will be for 2017 and beyond.

I will keep you informed, via my Newsletters, of any changes if and when they actually occur.



SOME CHANGES THAT WILL AFFECT YOUR 2016 TAX RETURNS:

Some tax laws and procedures were changed prior to the election and will be effective for your 2016 tax returns. These changes again add an extra layer of time and effort in preparing your tax returns.

- * Tax preparers must receive and keep copies of all receipts used in the calculation of the Education Credit. (A worksheet listing those amounts is not sufficient.) So, if you don't provide me with those copies, I can't calculate and apply the credit.
- * Tax preparers must now document the taxpayer's identity. Even though I've know many of my clients for 25 years or more, that is not enough. Information from your driver's license should be included in my records.
- * Small businesses can now expense items costing \$2,500 or less. This includes individual items of furniture and equipment. (The previous threshold was \$500.) So instead of depreciating those items over several years, small businesses can take the deduction in the year of purchase.
- * Maryland is now requiring a new, additional form (Form 502R) to be included in your tax return if you receive a pension or Social Security payments.

POSSIBLE REFUND DELAYS IN 2017

A new law requires the IRS to hold refunds until mid-February 2017 for people claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

In addition, new identity theft and refund fraud safeguards put in place by the IRS may mean some tax returns and refunds face additional review.

February 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4

STANDARD MILEAGE RATES FOR 2017

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017 standard mileage rates for the use of a vehicle will be:

- * 53.5¢ per mile for business miles driven (down from 54¢ for 2016);
- * 17¢ per mile driven for medical purpose (down from 19¢ for 2016);
- * 14 ¢ per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (unchanged).



HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD QUALIFICATIONS

Generally, single people must file as “Single” on their tax return. However, single people might be able to file as “Head of Household” instead of “Single”, if certain tests are met. Head of Household filers get a higher standard deduction than Single taxpayers (\$9,300 vs. \$6,300) and get to use a more advantageous tax table to compute their taxes. The tests for Head of Household are as follows”

1. Marital Status:

- * Only unmarried (or legally separated) individuals can qualify for head of household filing status.

2. Expense Requirements:

- * You must have paid more than 50% of the costs of maintaining your home during the tax year. Qualifying expenses include your rent or mortgage interest (but not principal), repairs, utilities, groceries, homeowners insurance and real estate taxes.



3. Qualifying Dependent:

- * You can't qualify for head of household status if you don't have any dependents. And your dependent must have lived in your home for more than ½ of the year. (Students living away at college and parents living in their own home or in a nursing home are an exception.)
- * Qualifying Children: Your most obvious dependents are your children. A qualifying child must not yet have reached his 19th birthday as of Dec. 31 of the tax year, unless they are a full time student. Student status extends the age limit to 24. If your dependent is your sibling, he must be younger than you, unless he is disabled.
- * Qualifying Adults: Certain adults may be your dependent as well. A qualifying adult must live in your home for more than half of the year. (Your parents are exempt from this rule.) Also, adult dependents must have earned less than the amount of the IRS dependent deduction for that tax year – \$4,050 for the 2016 tax year.

4. Other Factors:

You must actually claim your dependent on your tax return. (There are special rules for divorced parents.)

If your dependent files a tax return, they cannot take the standard deduction.

This quarterly newsletter provides business, financial planning, and tax information to clients and friends. None of this general information should be acted upon without first determining its application to your specific situation. For additional copies of this newsletter or further details on any article, please contact me.

EMAIL SCAMS TO AVOID!!!!

PHISHING:

This is the most widespread internet and email scam today. It is the modern day "sting" con game. "Phishing" is where digital thieves lure you into divulging your password info through convincing emails and web pages. These phishing emails and web pages resemble legitimate credit authorities like Citibank, eBay, or PayPal. They frighten or entice you into visiting a phony web page and entering your ID and password. Commonly, the guise is an urgent need to "confirm your identity". They will even offer you a story of how your account has been attacked by hackers to lure you into entering your confidential information.

The email message will require you to click on a link. But instead of leading you to the real login https: site, the link will secretly redirect you to a fake website. You then innocently enter your ID and password. This information is intercepted by the scammers, who later access your account and fleece you for several hundred dollars.

The Nigerian Scam, also known as 419

Most of you have received an email from a member of a Nigerian family with wealth. It is a desperate cry for help in getting a very large sum of money out of the country. A common variation is a woman in Africa who claimed that her husband had died, and that she wanted to leave millions of dollars of his estate to a good church. They will use your emotions and willingness to help against you. They will promise you a large cut of their business or family fortune. All you are asked to do is cover the endless "legal" and other "fees" that must be paid to the people that can release the scammer's money.

The more you are willing to pay, the more they will try to suck out of your wallet. You will never see any of the promised money, because there isn't any. And the worst thing is, this scam is not even new; its variant dates back to 1920s when it was known as 'The Spanish Prisoner' con.

Lottery scams

Most of us dream of hitting it big, quitting our jobs and retiring while still young enough to enjoy the fine things in

life. Chances are you will receive at least one intriguing email from someone saying that you did indeed win a huge amount of money. The visions of a dream home, fabulous vacation, or other expensive goodies you could now afford with ease, could make you forget that you have never ever entered this lottery in the first place.

This scam will usually come in the form of a conventional email message. It will inform you that you won millions of dollars and congratulate you repeatedly. The catch: before you can collect your "winnings", you must pay the "processing" fee of several thousands of dollars. Stop! The moment the bad guys cash your money order, you lose. Once you realize you have been suckered into paying \$3000 to a con man, they are long gone with your money. Do not fall for this lottery scam.

Advanced fees paid for a guaranteed loan or credit card

If you are thinking about applying for a "pre-approved" loan or a credit card that charges an up-front fee, ask yourself: "why would a bank do that?" These scams are obvious to people who take time to scrutinize the offer. Remember: reputable credit card companies do charge an annual fee but it is applied to the balance of the card, never at the sign-up. Furthermore, if you legitimately clear your credit balance each month, a legitimate bank will often wave the annual fee. "Sadly, a percentage of all the recipients of their "amazing" offer will take the bait and pay the up-front fee. If only one in every thousand people fall for this scam, the scammers still win several hundred dollars. Alas, far too many victims, pressured by financial problems, willingly step into this con man's trap.

Items for sale overpayment scam

This one involves an item you might have listed for sale such as a car, truck or some other expensive item. The scammer finds your ad and sends you an email offering to pay much more than your asking price. The reason for overpayment is supposedly related to the international fees to ship the car overseas. In return, you are to send him the car and the cash for the difference.

Continued on Page 9

The money order you receive looks real so you deposit it into your account. In a couple of days (or the time it takes to clear) your bank informs you the money order was fake and demands you pay that amount back immediately.

Employment search overpayment scam

You have posted your resume, with at least some personal data accessible by potential employers, on a legitimate employment site. You receive a job offer to become a "financial representative" of an overseas company you have never even heard of before. The reason they want to hire you is that this company has problems accepting money from US customers and they need you to handle those payments. You will be paid 5 to 15 percent commission per transaction.

If you apply, you will provide the scammer with your personal data, such as bank account information, so you can "get paid". Instead, you will experience some, or all, of the following:

- identify theft,
- money stolen from your account, or
- may receive fake checks or money orders for payments which you deposit into your account but must send 85 – 95 percent of that to your "employer".

Soon you will owe much money to your bank!

Disaster relief scams

What do 9-11, Tsunami and Katrina have in common? These are all disasters, tragic events where people die, lose their loved ones, or everything they have. In times like these, good people pull together to help the survivors in any way they can, including online donations. Scammers set up fake charity websites and steal the money donated to the victims of disasters. If your request for donation came via email, there is a chance of it being a phishing attempt. Do not click on the link in the email and volunteer your bank account or credit card information.

Travel scams

These scams are most active during the summer months. You receive an email with the offer to get amazingly low fares to some exotic destination but you must book it today or the offer expires that evening. If you call, you'll find out the travel is free but the hotel rates are highly overpriced.

Some can offer you rock-bottom prices but hide certain high fees until you "sign on the dotted line". Others, in order to give you the "free" something, will make you sit through a timeshare pitch at the destination. Still others can just take your money and deliver nothing.



Proudly state your retirement from the Baltimore City Police Department by purchasing your own license tag. Visit our website for more information at: www.brpba.com under Member Information or call Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293.

WANT TO PLACE A FREE AD? PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD OR FOR SALE ITEM IN THIS SPACE . (Send to P.O. Box 6217, 21206.)

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A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC.

The one who falls and gets up is so much stronger than the one who never fell.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

- George Davis
- Victor Gearhart
- Scott Gerber
- Matthew Johnson
- Kimberly Parks
- David Reitz
- James Schuler
- Edward Vogt
- Brandon Williams

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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1st VP: Richard Nevin 410-876-1027
Distress Fund 410-803-2293
Heritage Gardens 410-254-2272

Website www.brpba.com

Email Address: J8518@aol.com

*The phone number for the Heritage Gardens
to be used only in an emergency.*

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please remember, monthly meetings may be canceled due to inclement weather when:

- Baltimore City Schools are closed because of snow or inclement weather; or,
- There is a snowfall after schools are dismissed and the Baltimore City snow emergency plan is placed in operation.

SICKNESS OR DEATH OF MEMBER

Please arrange for someone to call Ditty Baldwin at 410-666-7279 whenever a member is sick. This is the only way our Association is aware of it. Remember, upon your death, your spouse or immediate family should notify the Police Personnel Board at 410-396-2546.

Newsletter Chairman: Patrick Youells
(cody7762@hotmail.com).

Newsletter Editor: Karen Rader
(J8518@aol.com).



WITH OUR NEW STREAMLINED DISTRESS FUND APPLICATION, IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER TO ASK FOR HELP.

CALL DARYL BUHRMAN, 410-803-2293 WHEN YOU NEED A HELPING HAND.

THE BRPBA WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS PROFOUND APPRECIATION TO MR. BRIAN KEELTY OF KEELTY REALTY FOR HIS EXTREMELY GENEROUS DONATION TO OUR DISTRESS FUND.

IT'S THE GENEROUS HEARTS OF PEOPLE LIKE MR. KEELTY THAT ALLOW US TO CONTINUE HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

Dear Members,

On September 5, 2016, Labor Day evening, our home was completely destroyed by fire. Regina, myself and our dog, Bitsy, were able to get out with just what we were wearing.

The response for help from family, friends, and neighbors has been overwhelming. I consider the help from the Benevolent Association to be from family.

There are no words that could express the gratitude we have for all of your help.

I am looking forward to coming to Baltimore to attend a meeting to meet the members and the Board to personally thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tomsho, Regina, and Bitsy.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR WANT TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES?

Are you in the process of moving? Please notify the BRPBA of your change of address so that you won't miss any important mailings. Also, if anyone would like to be included on the email updates, please send us your email address.

Name: _____

Old Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Personal E-Mail Address: _____

Return to: BRPBA, P.O. Box 6217, Baltimore, MD 21206

YOU WILL NEVER HAVE THIS DAY AGAIN, SO MAKE IT COUNT!

With the charitable time of year just passed, a lot of emails crossed our desks regarding Charities and who to donate to. A lot of what we read was fiction, so we did some investigating. Here is what we found:

American Red Cross. It was reported that the CEO made \$651,957 plus expenses. The actual salary for the CEO is \$517,000. This salary is only .01 percent of the organization's expenses. This charity has been rated at a 83.33 out of 100 by Charity Navigator.

March of Dimes. It was reported that only a dime from every dollar went to the needy. This was also false. In actuality, March of Dimes generates about \$195.8 million in revenue with 66 percent going to the needy, 22 percent to fundraising, and 10 percent to administration costs. This charity rated an overall performance of 71.86 out of 100 by Charity Navigator.

United Way. The emails claimed that President of United Way receives \$375,000 in salary, plus benefits. Actually, the President receives 1.3 million in salary, which accounts for about 1.4 percent of the nonprofit's total expenses. Charity Navigator ranked United Way's overall performance at a 92.99 out of 100.

UNICEF. The claim was that the CEO received \$1.2 million per year plus expenses, when she actually received \$515,000 in 2015. This salary accounts for 0.09 of the organization's total expenses. Charity Navigator rates this company at an 85.64 out of 100.

Goodwill. The claim was the CEO had a salary of 2.3 million per year. Actually, the CEO's salary is \$585,604. Eighty-three (83) cents of every dollar it receives goes to programs and services for people in need.

Salvation Army. CEO makes \$13,000 per year in salary. This claim is again, false. The CEO makes \$131,243 in salary and benefits. About 18 percent of the Salvation Army's income is spent on administrative costs.

Make A Wish Foundation. The claim is they dedicate 100% of their funds to programs. This is not true. 73% of their revenue goes to programs, while the rest is dedicated to administrative costs and fundraising.

St. Jude's Hospital. The claim is 100% of their income goes to programs for children. Again, false. St. Jude spends 70% of its budget on programs for children. Administration accounts for 10%, and fundraising accounts for 20%.

Ronald McDonald House. Claims have been sent that 100% of their donations goes to programs when in actuality 89% goes to programs. Administration accounts for less than 1% and fundraising accounted for 9%. Charity Navigator rates Ronald McDonald House at 97.72 out of 100.

The bottom line? Investigate before you donate and don't believe the emails that you receive or those Facebook posts.. Charity Navigator is a good site to follow. They investigate each charity yearly and put a report on their website. I was amazed at the amount of police charities that it gave a poor rating to (in fact, they did not give a good rating to any police-related charity). Do your homework before giving!

ALERT: If you receive a phone call and the person says "Can you hear me"... do not respond. They will steal your "yes" response and use it to purchase products in your name. The calls are originating from the following locations and unless you know someone from these areas, do not answer calls from 268 (Antigua), 809 (Dominion Republic, 876 (Jamaica), 284 (British Virgin Islands), and 473 (Grenada).

DISTRESS FUND NEWS

Time to change hats and address you as the Chairman of our Distress Fund.

Since 2004, the Distress Fund has helped about twenty (20) widows in their time of need. We still are fortunate enough to have nine of these ladies with us. For the past several years, at the holidays, we continue to reach out to the widows the Distress Fund has helped in the past.

This past year, the Distress Fund sent each of these widows two (2) \$200.00 gift cards to be used towards their holiday expenses. Each of these grateful ladies called me personally to thank the BRPBA Distress Fund for the gifts, and each one shed a tear in appreciation. For anyone who doubts what we do with our Distress Fund, you can see that the money is put to good use.

Over the history of our Distress Fund, many members and widows have had devastating house fires; one household lost a daughter from a fire. Considering the number of fires, we are grateful that only one life was lost; although that life was an extremely important one to her family and her fellow Brothers in Blue.

House fires do not discriminate; they attack whoever they want. The money we raise helped these families, and so many more who are experiencing financial strife for one reason or another.

Each year we do a raffle. Most folks participate in our raffle. For those who do not because of their beliefs in gambling, we would welcome a small donation. This would help to offset some of the raffle expenses and increase our bottom line.

We cannot stress enough how important the Distress Fund to those in need.

Now, I would like to address those who are currently in need. Please reach out to us. The application has been streamlined and is much easier to complete. The help is here if you need it. It only takes a phone call. Don't struggle alone... NEVER struggle alone. We are always here for you.

Daryl Buhrman

2016 RAFFLE WINNERS

Ray Bryant
Joyce Whittingham
Dee Howard
John Gavrillis
Ruth Swingle
Edward Weichert
Gaynel Hanas
Deb Kirk
James Cappuccino, Jr.
Brian Russell
Christopher Graul
Bobbi Guizzotti
Leonard O'Connor
Charles Brawner
Brian Keelty
Chrissy Siadel
Lee Zumbach
Un Parks
Wayne Oursler
Henry Uttenrither
Catherine Cree
Howard Wolff
Jules Denitto
Stephanie Youells
Edward O'Byrne

2016 RAFFLE TOP SELLERS

B. Tom Joyce	710
Ken Lang	440
Chuck Milland	265
Jerry Landsman	260
John Boyd	210
Joseph Hamilton	110
John Gavrillis	110
Mrs. Joanne Kline (widow)	105
Jacqueline Goodwin	100
John Emrick	100
Anthony Molesky	100

(OVER 2500 TICKETS)

Saying thank you is not good enough. We are eternally grateful.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Josephine Bedsworth (12/13/16)

Widow of deceased member Arnold Bedsworth

David C. Bruce (01/16/17)

Retired Police Detective

Stella Thornton-Fullwood (01/08/17)

Wife of Everett Fullwood

Helen Younkins (12/08/16)

(Crime Lab Photographer)

DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE

NO ONE CAN HEAL,

LOVE LEAVES A MEMORY

NO ONE CAN STEAL.



BRPBA FINAL ROLL CALL

Wayne Adams (01/05/17)

Harwood Burritt (02/02/17)

Robert Cope, Jr. (02/04/17)

Charles Eder, Sr. (01/31/17)

John Hailey, Sr. (01/19/17)

Charles Ittner (11/27/16)

Robert Leonard (01/02/17)

Milam Minor (01/20/17)

Warren Smith (11/30/16)

Edmund White, Jr. (01/13/17)



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General Meetings on the third Wednesday at Heritage Gardens,
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