



THE SHIELD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

SERVED WITH HONOR

SPRING 2014

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I want to start with an apology. I am sorry for the lateness of this newsletter. The fault lies solely at my feet. I realize that many of you live a great distance from Baltimore and for some, this newsletter is your primary source of news about the many important matters that are of deep concern to you.

At this time, the big concern to all of us is the pension suit. We have received notice that our appeal, which will be heard by the 4th Appellate Court, is scheduled for May 14, 2014 in Richmond, VA. Keep in mind that it could be months before a ruling is issued. Each side will be limited to 20 minutes in order to argue their appeal. Doesn't seem like enough time for such an important matter. I have been told that a full transcript of the hearing will be posted on the Courts' website within three days of the argument. We have made many attempts to settle this matter by negotiations with the City, but the City does not seem to want to sit down with us and reach an agreement. The City was offered something less than what I would consider our bottom line in the first place. The City already feels that we are asking too much; anything they would offer us would be way below what would be acceptable and meet our needs. It seems to me that the Mayor has decided to cure the ails of the City on the backs of its retirees. Then, because we had a partial victory in our court suit stating that the COLA provision that was based on age was

unconstitutional, the Mayor had a bill introduced at City Council to provide Fire and Police Retirees a 1.3% COLA. Was that spiteful?

Every year insurance rates rise, cost of co-pays for medications also rise and formularies are changed causing medications that we have taken for years to be placed in a higher classification, which again causes the price to increase. Where it stops nobody knows.

While this happens, the Mayor pushes tax breaks for major corporations that deprive the City of hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. This is money that could be used to pay its debts instead of breaking a contract with its employees. Developers who own valuable waterfront property in Baltimore are going to build whether the city gives them a tax break or not. They already have too much time and money invested to quit a project. These are the same people who will demand enormous services from the City while at the same time pay little or no taxes. Just look at all the money spent to protect the businesses around Harbor Place.

The City already has too many hotels and only on very rare occasions will anyone have trouble finding a room. So what does the Mayor do? Why she builds a great big hotel in downtown Baltimore. Yes, the City of Baltimore is the proud owner of a big hotel and it loses money

Continued on page 2

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every day. So what we have is an albatross that costs the City money 365 days a year. I can't seem to get a grasp on the Mayor's thinking here. If smart-thinking hotel chains believed that building another hotel in Baltimore would be a smart investment, they would have been lined up begging for the chance to build one. At least we could have received some money from property taxes; that is unless the Mayor offered them another hundred million dollars in breaks over the next twenty years.

I want to thank Dan Fickus, former President of the FOP, who volunteered to serve on our Health Care Committee. Dan has attended many meetings with the City and several health care providers to keep abreast of any upcoming changes. I will be attending a seminar in Ocean City next week given by the FOP State Lodge to discuss the latest government trends.

I also would like to thank the entire Executive Board for all their help this past year. It has been an absolute pleasure working with them. I must single out Daryl Buhrman for his outstanding work on the Distress Fund. Each and every year Daryl spends an enormous amount of time raising money for this fund and helping our less fortunate members in their time of need. You will read elsewhere in this newsletter the plight of one of our Widows who was burned out of her home and lost her daughter whose last act was to make sure everyone else in the house got out safely before she passed out. She was placed on life support and finally succumbed to her injuries. I was immediately notified by one of our members and called Daryl who made sure that these folks had a check to tide them through this rough time.

Many of you are currently receiving notices I send out via email telling you of upcoming events or the passing of our members. However, some of you who are on our mailing list are not receiving these notices either because your email carrier has decided it is spam or the program you use for email automatically is sending it to your spam folder. Only you can correct this.

Nick Caprinolo
410-686-6380
Km3h@comcast.net

A FAMILY'S TRAGEDY

A house fire that occurred on March 6 in the 2900 block of Glendale Avenue, in Parkville, MD, took the life of Tracy Lynn Williams. Tracy was instrumental in saving the lives of her mother, Margie McCallister and her daughter, Emily McCord, but succumbed to her injuries from smoke inhalation at Bayview Medical Center on March 7, 2014. Tracy was an organ donor and her organs were harvested at the time of her death. Tracy's liver, corneas and bone marrow were able to save four lives. Tracy was truly a giving person. If it wasn't for Tracy, all three would have perished in this awful fire.

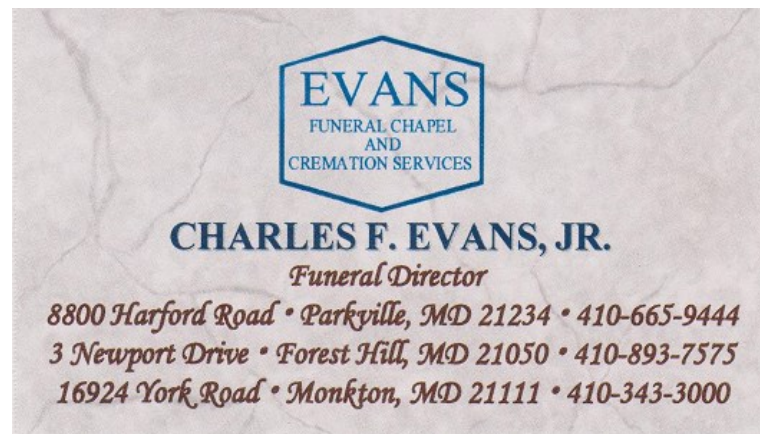
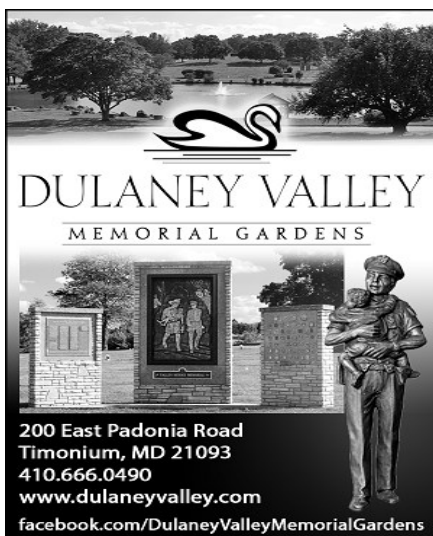
Margie McCallister is the widow of the late William "Mac" McCallister; a BRPBA member who passed in 2006. Mac retired from the NE District on March 8, 1995.

Having experienced a similar circumstance after a house fire in his own home, one of our BRPBA Board Members, Patrick Youells, contacted Evans Funeral Chapel of Harford Road. They donated the costs of Tracy's care and viewings. A family member of Tracy's contacted Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens who donated a burial plot and funeral services. We are extremely grateful to both of these fine businesses for helping this family who lost everything in this devastating fire.

A member of the BRPBA, Kathy Irwin-Conrad, is organizing a Bull Roast and all proceeds will go to help this family. If you want to help or donate, please contact Kathy. Her number is 443-468-9856. The Bull Roast will be held on May 30th, from 7 p.m. to midnight. The location is Tall Cedars Hall, 2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, Maryland. The cost is \$35 a person; no tickets will be sold at the door. Kathy will also be selling raffle tickets to benefit Mrs. McCallister and her granddaughter, Emily.

In addition, the family pet, Raven, was also lost to the fire. Kathy had her privately cremated and the remains given to the family with a plaque stating "Raven 2006-2014, In Our Hearts Forever."

The BRPBA would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Evans Funeral Chapel, Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, our Board Member, Patrick Youells, and our BRPBA member Kathy Irwin-Conrad for services above and beyond the call of duty.



F & P TRUSTEE NEWS

To: F&P Members

From: Bob Haukdal
F&P Trustee

Re: F&P Board Meeting, March 18, 2014

Today's F&P Board meeting was of particular interest that will continue what I believe is a very positive benefit for all F&P retirees and beneficiaries.

But first, as of February 28, 2014, the assets of our fund stand at \$2,440,861,841. That is up 8.82% for the fiscal year and 1.73% for the calendar year.

You may remember last year I advised that the administration of the F&P wanted to go to paying us on a monthly basis. This would mean getting paid 12 times a year and doing away with our getting paid 26 times a year. Apparently they get a lot of calls regarding missing checks, incorrect checks and normal snafus that go along with the issuance of more than 6,000 checks every two weeks. Going to monthly checks would cut back on those aggravations considerably. They also said going to a monthly pay would save more than \$137K. It should be noted that the administrative expenses for the F&P are part of the City's annual contribution to the fund and do not come directly from investments.

For today's meeting, they had provided the board members with a PowerPoint presentation that showed where the cost savings would come and provided numerous reasons why it would be good to go that route. I received the presentation last Friday and during my review I checked their calculations. Using their numbers, my result came differently than theirs by \$36,000. However, that \$36K added to the projected savings to the F&P. They made the corrections in time for their presentation to the Board. Total savings would be \$173,681 per year. The plan called for the change to be made January 1, 2015. We would then receive our first monthly check January 15th and the 15th of every month thereafter. It would cover the first two weeks of the month that preceded the check and the next two weeks that were coming up. So two weeks of that check would have been an advance. A positive effect would be that when a primary dies, his/her beneficiary would not have to return the money that was paid in advance of the death. He/she could keep the extra payment and then receive the survivor benefit the 15th of the next month.

During the discussion an issue came up that was not in the PowerPoint presentation that would only affect active members when they retire. Right now the last working day of a member can be any day of the month and as long as the member provides a window of 30 days. Then when the first retirement check is received, it will pick up after the last working day. However, the new plan would mandate that the first retirement period start on the first of a month. So if a member wanted to retire, for example, on the 14 of a month, he/she would not receive retirement pay for the remaining days of that month.

(continued on pg. 5)

(Cont. from page 4)

That is an issue that could be prevented through proper planning, but would still take away some discretion on the part of the member.

During the presentation and after, we had discussions as to the pros and cons, and the legitimacy of the Board making such a request to the City. I voiced my contention that the bi-weekly pay was a benefit to the beneficiaries and was not something the Board should recommend eliminating. It was my opinion that if the City wanted to do this, they should negotiate the issue with the unions.

When it was time for the vote, the proposal to recommend to the City to change the City Ordinance to go to a monthly payroll was defeated 6 to 5. So the proposal will not go forward at this time. However, today's action does not mean the City Administration will not present this to the City Council. And if that happens, it will be up to the unions and retiree associations to convince the Council not to pass the ordinance.

That's it for this time.



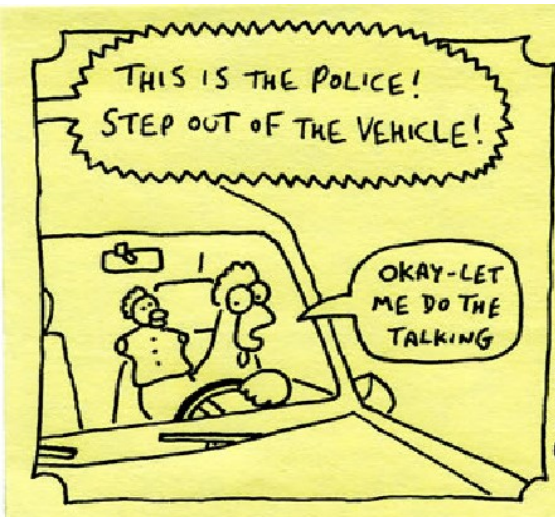
Proudly state your retirement from the Baltimore City Police Department by purchasing your own license tag. Visit our website for more information at:

<http://www.baltimoreretiredpolicebenevolentassociation.org>. under Member Information.

LOOK WHO'S JOINED!

Frank M. Alston
David E. Blumberg
Raymond D. Buda
Stewart Carlton
Ernest M. Coppage
Scott A. Dickson
John A. Eichler
Chad R. Ellis
Lewis Ely, Jr.
John C. Ganovski
Melvin E. Jones, III
Edgar F. Manning, Jr.

Sean C. Mayo
William M. Murray
Bernice Myer
Carter Myer
Bruce C. Neill
Todd Nock
William J. Painter
Americus Rambeau
John G. Szuba, Jr.
Penny A. Teal
Michael A. Wood



FOUND: A set of keys in DC with the older version of the BRPBA tag, # 2746. Contact Patrick Youells at (443) 695-4202 if these are your keys or you know who they belong to.



We send our gratitude to the following who made Memorial Gifts to the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Associations' Distress Fund.

In Memory of William Miller (donation from Gateway Community of Faith)

In Memory of Helen Lorenz (donations from Jane Cook, and Sam and Dawn Walters)

In Memory of Carl Sich (donation from Agnes Panowicz)

Your kindness is appreciated.

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**

REUNIONS

STATUS UPDATE:

By John Gerard Groncki

Attention all Baltimore City K-9 Unit members, both past and present:

We will be holding our 2nd annual K-9 Reunion on October 3-5, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. All rooms are oceanfront. For a single, it's \$353.24; double is \$388.24, and that price includes tax, gratuity, and dinner on Saturday night. If you are only able to attend the dinner, it's \$35.00.

It was a great time last year and we are looking forward to seeing even more of our old friends this year. So come on out and spend some of that money we all saved eating at Jack's, Lenny's and Attmans all those years.

To make your reservations, please call 410-524-1600, ask for Kim and mention "K-9 Reunion" for our special rate.

See you there!!!



FINALIZED PLANS FOR WESTERN DISTRICT REUNION III:

The Western District Reunion will be held on May 10, 2014 from 1400 x 1800 hours at Tropic Thunder, located at 44 Thomas Ave., Brooklyn Park, MD, 21225. \$35 per ticket. Open pit, wings, lasagna, crab soup, etc.,etc.,etc.

Make checks payable to Ernie Wright, 247 Altamont Ave., Catonsville, Md. 21228 by May 4, 2014. Any ???'s....call me at 410-440-3753.

Spread the word!

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT 3RD ANNUAL REUNION

Saturday, May 31st, 7:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

\$40.00 per person

Location: The Harp, 8706 Belair Road, Perry Hall, MD, 21236.

Contact Nick Constantine, 410-365-3904 for tickets.

If you have questions about your insurance or any other issues, please feel free to call your President, Nick Caprinolo at 410-686-6380.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Nick Caprinolo 410-686-6380
1st VP: Richard Nevin 410-876-1027
Heritage Gardens 410-254-2272
Website
baltimoreretiredpolicebenevolentassociation.org

The phone number for the Heritage Gardens to be used only in an emergency at home is: 410-254-2272

MISSING IN ACTION

We are missing information for the following members.

Do you know how to reach them?

Please let us know.

Rajeeyah Abdussalaam

Richard Bernhardt

Wanda Campbell

Thomas Clemons

Rufino Garcia

James Hicks, Jr.

Randy Humes

Darryl Moore

David Renfrow

John Sauer

Some of you have expressed an interest in receiving information on how to obtain a gun permit. We spoke with the Maryland State Police and they gave us the following information:

As of 2013, the State is only allowing licensing electronically. The website address is: MDSP.org. When you go into this site, click on Licensing Division on the left hand side, click on the picture "Firearms" in the center of the page, and then click on Wear and Carry Permit on the left hand side. From there, you can follow their step-by-step instructions.

Unfortunately, if you do not have computer access, you will need to either go to the library to do this, or have a friend or family member help you.

If you have any further questions, you can call the Supervisor, Sgt. James Kozlowski (who is a former Baltimore City Police Officer) at 410-653-4448.

DISTRESS FUND NEWS

2014 RAFFLE

The 2014 Raffle will be mailed in the beginning of September. We have increased the chances of winning again!. This year there will be:

- 12- \$100.00 winners
- 4 - \$200.00 winners
- 2 - \$300.00 winners
- 4 - \$500.00 winners

22 chances to win!

Each year, your purchase of tickets and/or your donations goes to help our members and/or widows and families in need, i.e. helping the family of Tracy Williams. For this, we thank you.

=====
As usual, sellers of the winning tickets receive \$25.00 each. Top Seller of over 200 tickets receives \$100.00. The next top seller of over 100 tickets receives \$50.00, and any sellers of over 100 tickets receive \$25.00 each.

=====
No business or corporation will be considered for any of these awards for selling tickets. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (410) 803-2293.

Thank you,

Daryl J. Buhrman, Sr.
Chairman

TO ALL MEMBERS:

The **BRPBA Distress Fund** is looking for a few giving people to help assist their committee. The volunteer time requirement would only be a couple of hours a month at the most, and you would be helping fellow retired officers and/or their families in their time of need. All mileage is reimbursable.

Without the support of our volunteers, there would be no Distress Fund, which provides a much needed service.

If you are willing to give a bit of your time to help your brethren, please give Daryl Buhrman a call at 410-803-9616.

IN MEMORIAM

- * **Barbara Jean Baker**, wife of Sgt. Ralph Baker, 12/07/13
- * **David J. Brown, Sr.**, Retired detective, 12/29/13
- * **Mary L. Booker**, wife of William A. Booker, 01/09/2014
- * **Mrs. Anna Bradshaw**, Widow of Waldemar Bradshaw, 11/13/13
- * **Detective William J. Denford**, 01/03/14
- * **Charles Hinchon**, Retired Officer, 11/24/13
- * **A. Theresa Lawson**, wife of Sonny Lawson, 03/18/14
- * **Joan E. Reed**, wife of Charles Reed, 02/26/14.
- * **Jacqurene Youells**, mother of Board Member, Patrick Youells, 11/20/13.

If you would like a family member honored in our Newsletter, please just let us know. Contact information is noted under Emergency Phone Numbers.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS WITH A VISIT, CARD, OR PHONE CALL.

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.

FINAL ROLL CALL

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bernard Amrhein
(2/15/14) | Eugene MacCausland
(9/25/13) |
| Vernon Barclay
(9/9/13) | Lawrence D. Merri-
field, Sr. (12/12/13) |
| Edward C. Belt
(03/28/14) | Leonard Podgorski
(2/22/13) |
| David Brown
12/29/13) | Michael Rachuba
(12/12/13) |
| John H. Brown
(1/11/14) | Francis Ryan
(02/09/14) |
| William Burch
(1/21/14) | James E. Schamma
(01/01/14) |
| James Cadden
(12/16/13) | Mary C. Schleupner
(04/02/13) |
| Norman Cutsail
(9/9/13) | Martin Schmitt
(12/15/12) |
| Lewis Davis
(11/19/13) | Carl Sich, Jr.
(1/8/14) |
| Bernard Fabiszak
(11/3/13) | Thomas D. Siecinski
(9/20/13) |
| Kenneth Corell
(6/19/13) | Richard Simmons
(8/13/13) |
| Albert H. Fischer
(11/11/13) | Allan Stephens
(9/25/13) |
| Forest Fox
(12/17/12) | William Swingle
(02/20/14) |
| William Furlong, Sr.
(03/21/14) | Wade Teves, Jr.
(01/03/14) |
| Robert C. Gettier
(01/03/14) | John Vesely
(12/3/13) |
| Dino P. Gregory
(02/10/14) | |

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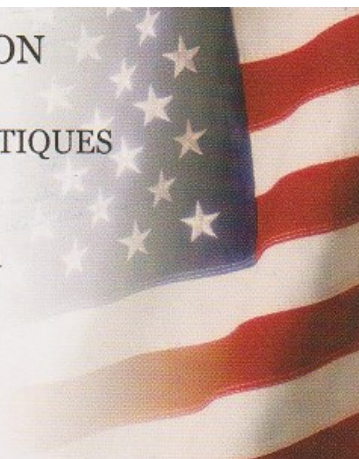


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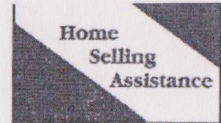
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***Executive Board Meetings held the second Wednesday
of the month and General Meetings on the third
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