

# NYCPD VERRAZANO



## ASSOCIATION

Volume 6, Issue 5

Member of the National NYCPD 10-13 Organizations, Inc.

October, 2007

# The RMP

Representing  
Members  
Proudly

Published Quarterly



*Photo courtesy of Robert Storyguy*



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*The RMP is published quarterly by the NYC Verrazano 10-13 Association.*

*Send all correspondence to:*

*P.O. Box 061725*

*Staten Island, New York 10306*

*Tel./Fax# 718-987-6354*

## President's Message



It seems that we were just closing shop for the summer and now we are getting ready for the fall. A lot has been going on during our summer break. The National 10-13 Convention was held at the Friar Tuck Resort. I am proud to say that the Verrazano 10-13 had the largest contingent of members present. To say that a great time was had by all would be an understatement. Chris Gonzales was with his family and also entertained the members not only in the hospitality room, but also on stage with songs from the 50's. Joey Armenio and Family were present and gave a delightful performance. Harry Morse was up from Florida and so was Eddie Woods.

Tony Perrone, President of the Hudson Valley 10-13 made a motion which was passed to lower the dues of the local chapters to the National. The extra few dollars that will be saved will go far in more benefits to our members.

*Continued on next page*

One note of concern was the situation of a missing member, who got lost while traveling the haunted halls of the Friar Tuck. Thank God that after several hours, Chef Al Russo finally found his way back to his room after a night of cards in the dining room.

Health and Welfare Chairman Tony DeNatale will elaborate in his column about our health bill again being knocked down. What I don't understand is why some other 10-13 organizations are sitting back thinking that our health benefits are written in stone. If they were, why is there a reluctance for this bill to be passed? Is it because Mayor Bloomberg has seen that there is money for the city in having us pay a larger portion for these benefits? When most of us came on the job we were told that you could retire after 20 years with half pay and maintain all your health benefits. We have seen a decrease of health coverage in copayments to doctors, drugs and glasses. We need to get together with "ALL" 10-13 organizations to fight as one.

I still have been getting calls regarding HR218. As previously stated in my column, if you carry in other states and get involved, New York City will let you out to hang. They "DO NOT" and "WILL NOT" recognize any range that you qualified at. They are afraid of legal ramifications that could be involved.

Approximately 15 members have obtained a package from the Staten Island Yankees. With the price of admission, you get hot dogs, chicken sandwiches and hamburgers. This also included sodas. The Verrazano 10-13 was also welcomed on the scoreboard in centerfield. It is a great night out with plenty of laughs.

I have been approached about setting up another trip to Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City, NJ. I have given this much thought and a trip to Atlantic City has been planned. See flyer on page 6. Many of you do not realize the work that goes on behind the scenes. I get calls from people stating they are

going and then back out; the purchase of the snacks and beverages; the dealing with the bus company whose rates are always going up. Our organization does not make very much money on these trips.

We are attempting to obtain speakers at our next few meetings that will be informative to the organization. Bring along a retired or active member to our meetings. Chef Russo has had the summer to think up some culinary fares to prepare for the upcoming meetings.



Richard Comnesso  
President



**MEETING LOCATION**

**Knights of Columbus  
S.I. Council  
22 Hillside Terrace, Staten Island  
(718) 317-0343  
Meetings are held on the  
3rd Wednesday of the month**

**November 21**

## Here's To Your Health!



by Anthony G. DeNatale

### Health Protection Bill Update

On August 15, 2007, Governor Spitzer vetoed S. 6030 and S. 6031. Although these bills did not call for the protection of health benefits for retired New York City Police Officers and Firefighters, our organization and the NYCPD National 10-13 still supported them. It was our hope that the Governor would have signed them into law, thus giving us giving us an opportunity to present the case that we too deserved such a bill.

The Governors' veto message did indicate that he has some understanding of the difficulties facing retirees. The Governor has called for the formation of a Task Force for the purpose of exploring the impact of public retiree health insurance protection legislation. It should be noted that findings, compiled by a similar Task Force in 1994, led to the signing into law a bill that provides school district retirees with the health protection we are seeking. This willingness on the part of Governor Spitzer is more than we received from the previous administrations. I am optimistic that we will be able to strongly state our case.

Our organization will be monitoring any new developments.

As we paused and reflected upon the 6th anniversary of the most horrific attack against our nation, I found it most disconcerting that so many New Yorkers, and possibly others across our nation, seemed to have forgotten the magnitude of this cowardly attack, that was carried out by an enemy that is still a threat to our nation. As I drove through my neighborhood and surrounding towns in the metropolitan area, I seemed to get the feeling that many now view September 11th as just another day. The lack of American flags flying and/or yellow ribbons being displayed tends to lend credence to my beliefs. I do hope time will prove my skepticism unwarranted, and that in the years ahead, we will never forget the victims and the scores of heroes that made the supreme sacrifice for God and Country.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

## Treasurer's Report

The word 'Treasurer's' is written in a large, blue, serif font. To its right are two blue dollar signs (\$\$). Below 'Treasurer's' are two more blue dollar signs (\$\$). To the right of the word 'Report' is another blue dollar sign (\$).

by Anthony Franzese

At the September 19th meeting, the two winners of the 2007 Joseph "Buffalo" Bellestri Memorial College Scholarship were announced. Each candidate will receive a \$500.00 check. The winners are Sean Disken, son of Timothy Disken, who will be attending St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, NY, and Gregory Grant, grandson of Louis J. DeVito, who is headed to Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. On behalf of the entire Board and membership, we wish all of the applicants our best wishes for success in the future.

*Continued on next page*

The Board of Officers voted unanimously to discount the price of newsletter advertisements. We hope this endeavor will attract additional merchants and service providers. Our fees were reduced by approximately 40%. At this time, we seek the help of our members in securing new participants. Please reach out to family members and those businesses in the community that you frequent. Reach out to your doctors, barbers, lawyers, plumbers, car salespersons, etc. See new rates on page 16.

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 16th! Our Atlantic City Bus Trip to Bally's has been reserved. We hope to once again fill two buses. All tickets must be purchased in advance and are available on a first come basis. This trip is open to all our members, family and friends. This is a popular event and for the lucky ones, it could be a profitable one. Join us as we try our luck and socialize. Ticket cost is \$30.00 which includes \$18.00 in coin, a meal voucher for the Virginia City Buffet, beverages and snacks round trip on the bus, and a pleasant day out. Please plan on joining us!

Modell's Sporting Goods is offering our organization 10% discount coupons from 11/09/07 to 12/06/07. This coupon may be used multiple times at any location. The 10-13 will receive a 5% rebate on all sales, once a \$1,500.00 minimum has been met. Start your holiday shopping early - and we will all benefit!



## Recording Secretary's Notes

by Jack Hellman

### September Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Commesso with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for our sick and departed members and also our troops serving overseas. Rich welcomed the members back from our summer break and informed them of our Board of Directors meeting. Unity was the topic of conversation and he stated that when there is a problem facing any retiree, all 10-13's should band together as there is strength in numbers. Rich brought up the subject of the IRS attempting to tax our ¼ retirees in a portion of their pension over 20 years. This situation is being looked into and when we have a definite answer, the membership will be notified. Rich informed the members that our semi annual trip to Atlantic City will be on Friday November 16. Once again we will go to Bally's Park Place. The cost will be \$30.00 per person and you will receive \$18.00 back in coin, The Virginia City Buffet and treats back and forth on the bus. A slight raise was instituted to cover the rising cost of the bus and such. Michael Ryan, who is running for District Attorney for Staten Island addressed the group. He gave his views on what he would do if elected. He then received questions from the floor with the touchy subject of Capital Punishment. We also had in our attendance members from Survivors of the Shield. Tony Franzese gave his Treasurers Report. In this issue, he breaks down all the donations made and our expenses. Chef Al Russo won the 50/50 and donated a large portion of it back to the organization. Donald McElligott won second prize. It was announced that DA Dan Donovan would address the members at our next meeting and members from the Police Relief Fund would also be present. The two Joseph Bellestri scholarships were drawn and once the information is verified, they will be awarded at the next meeting.

# *Corresponding Secretary's Corner*

*by Joe Cammarata*

By the time you read this another election would have passed and we probably already have the official results of who will be our District Attorney of Staten Island for the next four years. I hope we all got involved in the election whether you voted for Mr. Donovan or Mr. Ryan. Just vote - it's so important!

I really think we put ourselves on the political map by having both candidates come to our meetings, one in September and one in October. We did get some flak from both sides, some of our guys are democrats and some are republicans, feeling only their side should be heard but, in all fairness, we have to give equal opportunity to each. Believe me, I've been to a number of these events and when a politician sees a group like we have at our meetings, they salivate. That's why I keep insisting that we get all our friends and relatives registered and to actually vote. Voting and strength through organizing in numbers is the only way we can achieve a voice in New York City and Albany in order to keep and gain our hard-earned benefits. It was a pleasure to see the intelligent and pointed questions offered by our members to both candidates.

Speaking of politics, I'd like to know if any of our members would like to get involved with running for public office. I know you're probably smiling but believe me, win or lose, if we can get cops and city workers to put up their own candidate (and maybe even create a new party, "The Blue Party,") we'll wake up our representatives in Albany and the City Council who are supposed to be our friends securing a future for all active and retired members.

A great politician in Staten Island once told me "Joe, if you can get the cops in New York City to stick together and vote as a block you'd have a tremendous force in local and state government." Check the figures: 37,000 active police; 35,000 retired living in the NYC area plus wives family and friends, my God! Give it some thought, people, we have a year to prepare!

Have a happy, healthy and blessed holiday to you and yours.

Joe Cammarata  
Corresponding Secretary

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## **CONDO FOR RENT** **MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA**

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Just pack your suitcase and enjoy the best  
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development.**

**For further information, please call:**

**Tony Franzese  
917-748-9552**

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*Bally's Park Place*



**First Come, First Served**  
**Meet in Macy's Parking Lot**  
**(S.I. Mall) at 8:45 AM**



**\$30.00 gets you:**



**Round-Trip Transportation**

**Refreshments on board (going and coming)**

**Virginia City Buffet (a \$23.00 value!)**

**and an \$18.00 voucher upon arrival**

**Call now! Don't be shut out!**

**Bring friends and family!**

**Call Rich Commesso**

**at 718-979-1411**

**to make your reservation!**



**Payment MUST be made in full by 11/02/07**



# The 10-13 Club of Northeast Florida A Chapter of the National NYCPD 10-13 Organization, Inc.



Honoring Phillip Gardillo

SPONSORED BY  
NORTHEAST FLORIDA NYCPD 10-13 CLUB and  
FLAGLER BLIZZARD OF OLDIES 93.3 FM WFBO



## REMEMBER PATROLMAN CARDILLO CRUISE

Cruise on the *Sovereign of the Seas* with NYCPD retired and active police officers plus family & friends as we honor a fallen comrade. Sponsored by the NE Florida 10-13 Club & Blizzard 93.3 FM

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Mon Port Canaveral  
depart 5pm  
Tue Coco Cay 9hrs  
Wed Nassau 7am  
Thur Nassau depart 1am  
Fri Port Canaveral  
disembark 9am

Includes roundtrip Private  
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NYC Verrazano 10-13 Association  
**ARIZONA 10-13 ASSOCIATION**

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**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION  
AT  
DON LAUGHLIN'S  
RIVERSIDE RESORT HOTEL & CASINO  
LAUGHLIN, NEVADA**

The Riverside Resort is the only privately owned Resort Hotel in Laughlin and offers more activities and amenities than any other resort property. There are 1,404 beautiful rooms and suites, full hook-up RV park, 34 lane bowling center, top name entertainment, two fabulous pools, six restaurants, from buffet to gourmet, beauty salon, cinema six plex showing first run films, classic car museum, bingo room, luxury tour boat on the Colorado River, video arcades, four lounges, and twenty four hour Nevada style fun!

Our package will include: a Hospitality Room which has a large terrace over looking the Colorado River and open to all convention participants for the entire convention.. One buffet breakfast per guest and the Convention room on Monday for 3hrs. w/coffee, iced tea and danishes .

Check-In 12/2/2007– Check-Out 12/4/2007

Package rate is \$85.00 double occ. Extra days are \$21.00 Tues.-Thur. & \$54.00 Fri.-Sat..  
Single occ. package rate is \$75.00 . For further information & Link to Riverside Hotel  
see our website :  
[www.AZ10-13.org](http://www.AZ10-13.org)

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**ARIZONA 10-13 ASSOCIATION**

**Dec.2 – Dec.4, 2007**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_ No. Rooms \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable To: Wallace R. Meeteer      Contact Wally@520-749-3529  
11221 E. Hash Knife Circle  
Tucson, Arizona 85749-8105



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NYPD General Information ... 1-646-610-5000  
Pension Section ..... 1-212-693-5100  
Out of State, call Toll Free ..... 1-866-692-7733  
PBA Health & Welfare ..... 1-212-349-7560  
PBA Toll Free ..... 1-877-844-5842  
DEA ..... 1-212-587-9120  
SBA ..... 1-212-431-6555  
LBA & CEA ..... 1-212-964-7500  
Social Security ..... 1-800-772-1213  
GHI ..... 1-800-358-5500  
Empire Blue Cross ..... 1-800-433-9592  
Medicare "A" ..... 1-800-433-9592  
Medicare "B" ..... 1-212-306-7300  
Caremark ..... 1-877-722-7911  
Ret. Health Ben. (Rector St.).. 1-212-513-0470  
Police Relief Fund /  
Emergency Medical Sqd..... 1-718-626-9320  
or ..... 1-718-626-9321  
NYC Health Line ..... 1-800-521-9574  
VA Benefits ..... 1-800-827-1000  
NYC Pension Web Site:  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycppf/home.html>

### Keep Informed

Visit our Website at  
[www.nycop.com](http://www.nycop.com)  
to find out all the latest  
information concerning *your*  
NYC Verrazano 10-13  
Association!



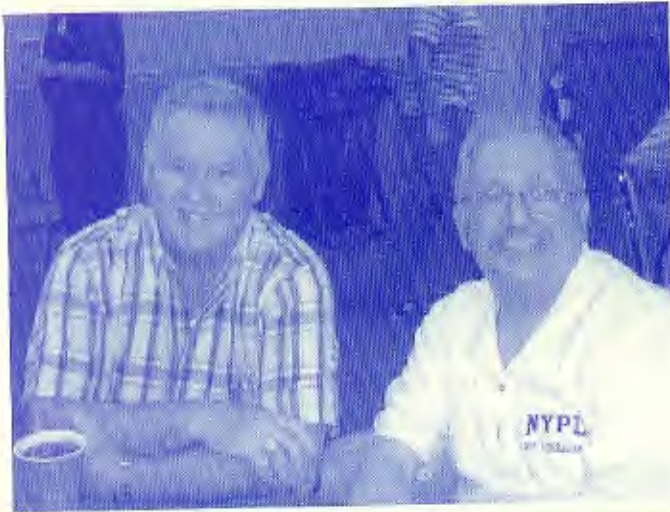
DA Dan Donovan accepts VZ 10-13 golf shirt from President Rich Commesso at October's meeting.



Corresponding Secretary Joe Cammarata, DA Dan Donovan, President Rich Commesso, and Sgt. at Arms Joe Massella



# SEPTEMBER MEETING



# NATIONAL 10-13 CONVENTION AT THE FRIAR TUCK INN





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# MEETING NOTE

**There will be no regular December meeting at the  
Knights of Columbus.**

**The ONLY meeting in December  
will be the Holiday Luncheon  
at King Buffet on Richmond Avenue on  
Friday, December 28, 2007 at 12 Noon.**

## **SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS**

*Mention that you are a member of the NYC Verrazano 10-13 Association*



**NYC Verrazano 10-13 Association  
P.O. Box 061725  
Staten Island, NY 10306  
Tel. / Fax (718) 987-6354**



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\*Rates include one (1) year membership in the NYC Verrazano 10-13 Association.  
If you are a current member, please deduct \$25.00 from sponsorship rate.  
Please include remittance with this application and forward to above address.