

CALL BOX

Official Newsletter of

THE SHIELDS - LONG ISLAND, INC.

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LONGISLANDSHIELDS.COM

February/March 2025





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NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING Thursday February 13th Noon

@ The Coral House

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday February 14th St. Valentine's Day

Monday February 17th Presidents Day

Wednesday March 5th Ash Wednesday

Sunday March 9th Daylight Saving Time

Sunday March 17th St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday April 15th Tax Day

Thursday April 17th LI Shields membership meeting, Coral House, Noon

> Sunday April 20th Easter Sunday

Sunday May 11th Mother's Day

Monday May 26th Memorial Day

Thursday June 19th LI Shields membership meeting, Coral House, Noon Scholarship Awards

THE SHIELDS OF LONG ISLAND ON THE WEB: LongIslandShields.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas, Hanukkah or whichever holiday you celebrate. It is always very festive for me but goes by way too fast. Decorating, putting all the lights up, the trees and all the other decorations always seems to take so much time but transforms the house and neighborhood into a vibrant theme that always comes down much quicker than it took to put it up. I miss it but look forward to it every year.

Great work again by Lou DeMarco with wreaths across America dressing the graves of deceased members of the service. Artie Chin provided some photos of members' graves that he visited and decorated at Christmas. Can't thank you guys and everyone else that remembers and takes the time out to remember our fallen brothers and sisters.

I want to thank everyone who donated unwrapped gifts for the children at St. Christopher's (SCO). Luke Johnson and myself loaded up the cars and dropped off a boat load of presents for the children who reside there. We made the trek the day after our December meeting as Christmas was only a couple of weeks away. While loading up the presents and making numerous trips to then unload them, I couldn't stop thinking about the generosity of this membership. We are truly blessed and as a group are extremely benevolent. Thank you.

Also, from your generosity we were able to send another check to the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees. This check was for a thousand dollars. Coupled with the last check we sent for seven hundred made a nice year to date seventeen hundred dollar donation. It appears raffling off a hundred dollars in scratch off lottery tickets is a nice way to get donations rather than just "passing the hat". At our next several meetings we will once again be raffling off the lottery ticket board and this time a basket of cheer as well. We will have the drawing at our June meeting before the summer break.

Great news. On December 17th, 2024 the NYS Court of Appeals, the state's highest court ruled in our favor. Retirees win again. This was the Campion case. The Court ruled that NYC cannot defund retiree healthcare. The City must continue to pay the entire cost of any health plan a retiree chooses. Understand, this was the first case the retiree organization brought against the City and there are still two other cases on appeal by the City. Copays are a separate case as well. If you don't know, we are being represented by Walden, Macht, Haran & Williams. They have won for us everytime in court and won unanimously every appeal. Lead partner Jim Walden is running for mayor of NYC. He left the Democratic party years ago and is running on the Independent line. Jim worked in the US Attorney's office as a prosecutor for nine years before leaving to the private sector. Please support Jim. His law firm is doing exceptional work for our cause.

Dues notices have been mailed out, so if you haven't already sent it back please get dues in as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who made additional donations. Little things like this really make a big difference when we put our scholarship's together. Like everyone else we are all feeling the effects of inflation, the prices of food and everything else. I simply ask that you be as generous as your means allow.

A reminder of the February 28th mass at St. Sebastian's RC church in Woodside commemorating the 55th anniversary of the LOD death of Ptl. Michael Melchiona, NYCTPD. Mass will be at 10:45am followed by a luncheon at the Knights of Columbus, George Hudson Council on 49th Street and Queens Blvd. Transportation will be provided by the NYPD from Ronkonkoma. Contact Henry, Michael's brother to reserve seating. H(631) 467-6091 C(631) 662-5567.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, February 13th - noon at the Coral House.

Stay safe, Mike Villa, President



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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

HINDERD BY HOARDING

Working with wood is something I have always found pleasurable. Such a hobby exerted a powerful need to have various kinds of lumber (no matter how short or thick!) on hand. I have had the habit of "saving" almost any odd piece of all kinds of boards, mostly short things.... but in such quantity in our garage that it took every nook and cranny of space to hold it.

A friend needed some kind of small box to hold cuff links and tie clips in his dresser drawer. Of course, said I... that such a thing would be easy to make! The sycamore branch that I had trimmed years ago offered an interesting yellowish and fine grained stock from which to make an unusual and useable container.

It worked. Sanding made the box smooth and the polyurethane made it shine! It was a hit! A snaffoo came in the form of my finding it impossible to discard the leftovers - I could barely find a place to put them - even so few as they were.

That's when my wife insisted that we "clean out" the garage. She could see how difficult it was for me to find just the right materials with which to work: it took pulling out the top pieces to reach the bottom ones - and that took time and effort. What she couldn't see was how "my stuff" was made up of so many individual elements

- some special grain patterns, so many varied tones, such a multitude of great ideas of how each one could be used! All she saw was clutter.. and the time had come that we begin to "declutter."

It really was difficult to deal with the insisted tone of the required "clean-up" project. It was hard to hear someone call so much potential treasure - unwanted trash - and to accept no "no" as an answer to the challenge that the de-cluttering must begin. -And putting so much material in bundles, prepared for trash pick up.... felt horrible. But which is the course that one's promise to be faithful must take in circumstances such as this? Should a commitment to one's spouse be discarded in favor of a pile of wood that every hobbyist might consider as valuable?.... Heavens, no.

It is no exaggeration to describe years-long pattern the "savinģ" potentially valuable materials as.... hoarding. Such a habit of keeping excessive amounts of objects, no matter how valuable... is a hindrance to peaceful relations other's whose feelings must be respected. Easy? No,... it's difficult. Very.

Yours in the fellowship, Chaplain JG Anderson



THE SHIELDS of Long Island Inc.

PLEASE SEND ALL APPLICATIONS TO:

Luke Johnson 99 MEYERS AVE. HICKSVILLE, NY 11801

2025 Scholarship Application

COMPLETE APPLICATION AND SUBMIT TO SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN LUKE JOHNSON Must be Received BY JUNE 1, 2025

QUALIFICATIONS: You must be a fully paid member for the PRESENT and TWO PRIOR YEARS. Your dependent child must be entering the first year of an Accredited Undergraduate College or Accredited Trade School during September 2025. Only one child per family may win (per year) however more than one child per family may apply. Submit a \$20 check made out to The Shields of Long Island for each child. Awards will be chosen by lottery. Students attending college tuition free are not eligible.

Member:	Shields#	
Address:		
Phone:	Child's Name:	
Relationship & applicants SS#:		
School Name & Address:		
Registrar's Phone #:		

Dependent child for the purpose of our scholarship award includes the actual child or grandchild of a member (as defined by law). Any child who the member is a legal guardian, adopted or otherwise, or a child who resides with a member and is totally dependent of the member's financial support.

SPECIAL NEEDS AWARD

Handled Confidentially. This award will be presented to a dependent child of a fully paid member for the present and two prior years, who is developmentally and/or physically challenged. The child must be attending a state recognized, be it at work, training or school program, for the Developmental and/or Physically Challenged. Previous award recipient are not eligible.

Submit applications and a \$20 check to The Shields of Long Island, indicate for the Special Needs Award. Must be received by June 1st, 2025

Donations

"The Shields would like to Thank everyone for additional donations on top of their Dues"

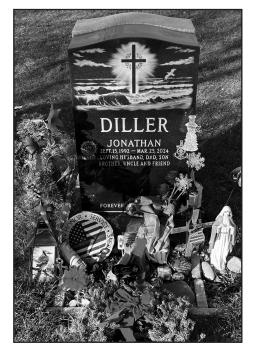
Last Name	First Name	Donation	Last Name	First Name	Donation
ANDREWS	LAWRENCE	\$100	LAWRENCE	CHRIS J.	\$22
ANNUNZIATO	RICHARD V.	\$200	LEONARD	ROBERT	\$10
BRENNER	BRUCE	\$10	LEVEY	MITCHELL.F.	\$40
BROOKS	DAVID	\$20	LIMOLI	ANTHONY	\$25
BROWN	STEPHEN	\$10	LOMANTO	TONY	\$20
CASO	PETER	\$20	MARGRAF	PETER	\$16
CASSAR	EDWIN	\$40	MATTHEWS	KEVIN	\$10
CHECO	JUAN	\$20	MCGUNNIGLE		\$20
CIRILLO	DENNIS	\$15	MELCHIONA	HENRY	\$30
CIRILLO	JOSEPH	\$10	MORALES	RAFAEL	\$10
COLORUNDO	JOHN A	\$40	MORAN	CHARLES	\$25
COONEY	EDWARD	\$100	MORRIS	ROBERT E	\$40
COPPOLA	DOMINIC J.	\$10	MURPHY	PAUL J.	\$30 0
D'ARCY	JACK	\$60	MURRAY 3rd	DAN	\$40
DALTON	RICHARD	\$35	MUSA	NANCY	\$20
DEL CASTILLO		\$40	NEWMAN	GEORGE H.	\$10
DELURY	JAMES	\$20	NIEPERT	KENNETH	\$100
DIPALMA	MICHAEL	\$10	NUNNS	WALTER	\$25
DOUGHTEN	GLEN	\$2	O'BRIEN	THOMAS J.	\$10
DUFFY	GARY	\$10	PAREDES	LIZA	\$15
DUGAN	THOMAS	\$20	PIGNATARO	ALBERT	\$25
FARINA	ALPHONSE	\$15	PRYOR	MEGAN	\$40
FARRELL	JOHN	\$21	REDMOND	MICHAEL	\$50
FROEHLICH	GEORGE	\$50	ROTTKAMP	RICHARD	\$100
GANLEY	ROBERT	\$40	RYAN	JAMES	\$140
GEORGENS	EDWARD	\$15	SEIFERT	JAMES	\$10
GIBBONS	ROBERT	\$20	SORGER	CHARLES	\$8
HOWARD	ARNOLD	\$100	STACHURSKI	JOSEPH	\$14
KALT	KATHLEEN	\$100	STRIPP	GREGORY	\$20
KING.	JOSEPH	\$50	THORNTON	RICHARD	\$40
KISELEWSKI	ROBERT	\$10	VILLA	MIKE	\$100
K0EHLER	ROBERT	\$50	WEBSTER	MARCK	\$40
KRUSE	WILLIAM F.	\$10	WILDE	JOHN	\$40
LaGOIS	LOUIS	\$40	WOLFF	JOSEPH	\$10
LAMBIASE	RALPH	\$10	RAJECKI	ED & EILEEN	\$125
LAVELLE	MICHAEL	\$50			

Never Forget











Karen Cummings encourages Organ Donations.



Rev. Anderson Leads meeting with Opening Prayer.



Dan Murray updates us on Medicare Case.

PO of the Month December 2024



P.O.'s Honahan ,Messeria & Thomas receive P.O. of the Month

On Wednesday, July 17, PO Honahan received a call for a subject smoking onboard the train refusing to pay his fare. PO Honahan conducted a subject on the platform at Hicksville Station. at which point the subject fled on foot. The subject met with PO Masseria and PO Thomas on the platform and eludedthemby iumping onto the tracks. At this point the subject landed on the third rail and was electocuted multiple times. The subject freed himself and fled down the embankment, over a few fences and across Newbridge Rd. this point the subject attempted to car jack a victin who was

awaiting a family member on an eastbound train. At this time, as PO Dumancela arrived on scene he went hands on and ultimatelytased the subject. All four officers converged on the subject, successfully placing him in custody without injury to any officer.

Once identified, the subject was revealed to have two extraditable warrants out of Pennsylvania (Assault on PO and Grand Theft Auto). The subject ultimately pled guilty before trial, time served and was extradited to Pennsylvania and is currently awaiting his charges in detention



2025 Shields Long Island Dues Renewal

2025 Dues \$40 (\$50 after 1	2/1/24)					
Raffle Tickets \$20						
Challenge Coins	# X \$10 each					
Extra Membership Cards	# X \$2 each					
Extra Decals	# X \$2 each					
Donation Thank you!						
Total - Payable to: Shields Long Island						
Please include in the return envelope this dues renewal form, your						
check, your raffle ticket stu	bs, and your membersl	hip renewal form.				
With membership going do	own a little each year, t	he money from				
the raffle tickets and your	generous donations ha	is become a				

Let's work together so we can keep the Shields Long Island around for many years to come.

tremendous help in allowing us to assist our law enforcement community. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Please check the address label of this envelope, to the right of your membership number is the last year you paid your dues. If you have any questions or ideas, please reach out to us. We always appreciate your thoughts on how to help improve our organization. And if you have an address change let us know.

Mike Villa

President, Shields Long Island

GOOD TO KNOW

Peter J. Caso, Esq.

The holidays are over and the decorations are all put away. Now it is time to prepare for the next season. No, not Spring, but tax season, and with it brings scammers.

These scams usually occur in this manner; you receive a telephone call from an individual who alleges to be an IRS agent. At times, they can trick a caller ID to make it appear that the call is coming from an actual IRS office. In some cases, they may even have your birth date and some or all of your Social Security number. This individual then attempts to convince you that you have outstanding taxes and demands immediate payment. Once persuaded, the victim is encouraged to pay the fictitious tax bill through a debit or credit card, money order or, at times, by prepaid gift cards.

In 2023, the IRS paid out more than \$334 billion in tax refunds. That number represents a golden opportunity for criminals. From October 2013 through March 2021, the Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration logged more that 2.5 million reports of scam calls from IRS impersonators, with some 16,000 victims collectively losing more than \$82.6 million.

There are several ways to protect yourself and your finances when it comes to these tax scammers:

The best initial defense when you perceive a scam caller is to hang up.

Should you receive such a call, do not provide any personal or financial information over the telephone to an unverified individual claiming to be associated with the IRS.

Do not agree to pay any alleged owed taxes with a prepaid gift card, debit or credit card.

Never provide debit or credit card numbers or banking information over the telephone to anyone claiming to be from the IRS.

Don't be bullied by a scammer who will make threats or demands regarding the alleged outstanding tax bill. If you owed back taxes, you would get a bill from the IRS and be informed of your opportunity to appeal the amount in question.

Besides the telephone, scammers utilize false emails, referred to as "phishing emails," conveying the same scheme in an attempt to obtain your personal and financial information.

Verify if you owe back taxes, by calling the IRS Help Line at 800-829-1040.

To report an IRS scam call, contact the Treasury Department's Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484 or file a report on line at: https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/reportcrime_misconduct.shtml

When receiving such questionable calls or emails be skeptical and remain vigilant, you'll be thankful that you did.

Disclaimer:

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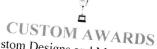
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