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Official Magazine • December 2023



Our 100th Issue



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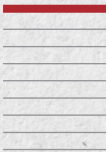
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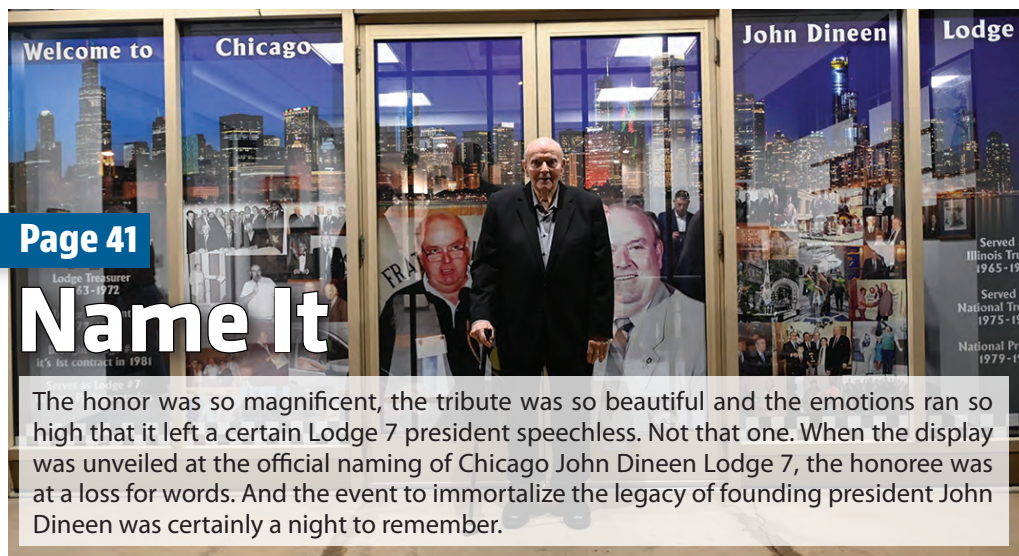
You're Going To Like Buying A Car This Way.

COVER STORY
PAGE 35



On A Hundred

The 100th issue of *Chicago Lodge 7 Magazine* serves as a tribute to so many and so much. The unwavering dedication of Chicago Police Officers to protect and serve is the spirit of every story that has been published in the previous 99 issues, dating back to September 2015. The relentless devotion of Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7 to serve its members and protect their rights drives every issue to convey the messages and information that make the magazine a must-read every month. For all of those who have enabled us to get this far – and there are far too many to mention, but they know who they are – let’s raise a virtual glass and toast to what a great run it has been. For the full history of one to 100, here is the latest must-read.



Page 41

Name It

The honor was so magnificent, the tribute was so beautiful and the emotions ran so high that it left a certain Lodge 7 president speechless. Not that one. When the display was unveiled at the official naming of Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7, the honoree was at a loss for words. And the event to immortalize the legacy of founding president John Dineen was certainly a night to remember.

MESSAGES FROM LODGE 7

President’s Report	Page 5	FOP Labor Report.....	Page 18
First Vice President’s Report.....	Page 8	FOP Legal Report.....	Page 20
Second Vice President’s Report.....	Page 9	Legislative Report.....	Page 22
Third Vice President’s Report.....	Page 10	Compliments of Rabbi Moshe	Page 24
Recording Secretary’s Report.....	Page 12	From Your Directing Chaplain.....	Page 26
Financial Secretary’s Report	Page 13	FOP Benefits	Page 28
Field Representative’s Report.....	Page 14	Officer Awards	Page 30
Deceased Members.....	Page 16		



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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



100 Proof



JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.

When putting together what you see on the cover of this historic issue of *Lodge 7 Magazine*, Publisher Mitchell Krugel asked me if I could guess who had graced the cover of the magazine the most times. As you (or if you) look through the 99 previous covers pictured, let me save you some time. It's not me.

In fact, a certain former president and I have appeared just about the same number of times. When you look at this cover, commemorating this 100th issue, I feel it's truly representative of Lodge 7 that Carlos Yanez Jr. has been pictured on the magazine cover the most since our administration was elected in 2020.

As we celebrate the 100th issue, I distinctly remember the switchover from the old newsletter to the new, glossy, color magazine and how appreciative I was as a member at the time. And that it just was a better product all the way around: informationally, visually, journalistically.

We have tried to take advantage of this upgraded publication to bring valuable and memorable content to our members. I have tried to encourage everybody who has contributed to this magazine to go off script if they feel the need to bring up a topic that membership would like to hear about.

I hope there's a tangible difference in the articles Lodge 7 has written for members the past 3 ½ years as opposed to the first 60 or so versions of this magazine. We've tried to make it a little more diverse in content and presentation. I'm absolutely pleased with the product we put out at this point.

We have strived to meet a standard with each issue. I think the membership deserves a perspective of honesty about news and situations. I think all that members ever craved was being honestly informed about where things were at and not basically given a bunch of jumble that really didn't answer anything.

As you know, I try to be as blunt and honest and candid as I can be. I hope I have met that mission in these pages. I'm just being me.

So getting rid of that archaic newsletter was a must back in 2015. When he made the decision to turn the newsletter into a magazine, President Dean Angelo knew that from so many perspectives, the biggest Lodge in the entire FOP should not be publishing a paper newsletter.

We have built on the vision to make *Lodge 7 Magazine* represent the vision and voice of our membership. I hope you have enjoyed reading each and every one of the first 100 issues as much as I have. And you will with the next 100.

Have a COLA and a smile

By now, you should know the details of our big win in getting a new COLA bill passed in the state legislature. With the signing of this legislation, every Chicago Police Officer born after Jan. 1, 1966, will now get a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment every year, an increase over the 1.5 percent you had been getting.

And starting at age 55, in perpetuity you will get the COLA. There is no more moving the burden every five, seven, 10 years down the road. It's eliminated altogether and for everybody.

I can understand some of the consternation that brewed over this because the previous administration dropped the ball when COVID hit, and we didn't get this COLA upgrade when the firefighters got it. But I can tell you that we expected the bill to be called and passed during the spring legislative session rather than the fall veto session.

You know me. Promises were made to us by many state reps that we would get our COLA. I expected the promises to be kept, and if they weren't, some actions would have needed to be taken, because when we make a pledge, we keep it. I expect that to be a two-way street.

I was annoyed that it didn't go at the pace it was supposed to go, but I got it. The legislature needed to hijack our bill to make sure everybody else stayed in Springfield until the end of the session because everybody pledged to vote for it. So they made it the last order of business. Again, it doesn't make it any less unpleasant, but I get it.

The bill absolutely puts a couple of extra pennies in our pockets. And it absolutely is a funded liability because members have been paying half a percent of their paychecks into this COLA across the board. For someone born on Dec. 31, 1965, to be getting 3 percent and someone born two minutes after midnight getting only half of that when they're both putting the same amount of money into it, makes no sense.

President's Report continues on Page 6

CHICAGO JOHN DINEEN LODGE #7

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Big Name



Our ceremony at the General Membership Meeting on Nov. 15 for the official naming of Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7 — and unveiling the sign and the tribute out front of and inside the FOP Hall — was humbling, to say the least. You can read all about it beginning on page 41, and you will see that, as the evening developed, it was more and more poignant to absorb John Dineen's history and hear the stories and personal accounts of interactions.

A tribute to a fallen comrade

I want to acknowledge CFD Firefighter Andrew Price, who was lost in the line of duty on Nov. 13 while battling a blaze in Lincoln Park.

I attended the memorial service and had the privilege of listening to his company and his engine mates speak about who he was. I mean, damn, if you didn't listen to that and then wish you really knew the kid, I don't know what to tell you. He seemed like an amazing human being.

Forget the firefighter part of it. He just got life on a different level, and I think it was a great example that all of us can take from what he did and how he lived his life, even outside the firehouse. When you hear the stories from the members in the firehouse and the firefighters who worked with him about who he was — how humble, how laid-back — and just how much he went out of his way for other people... Man. Just a brave, solid dude.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

We will never have to worry about that again. That's the big win.

We have to thank State Senator Bill Cunningham for helping to move the needle on the COLA bill. He represents a lot of officers in the Mount Greenwood area, and there were constant calls about our COLA. So Bill was absolutely a champion, and that got Senate President Don Harmon's attention. And he got Bob Marwick involved, who ended up being the eventual chief sponsor of the bill in the Senate.

On the other side of the legislative coin, Rep. Fran Hurley, also out of Mount Greenwood, pushed the bill. It had nothing to do with Chicago necessarily, but Rep. Stephanie Kifowit from the Aurora area, who is a pension chairman in the House, absolutely carried the torch and fought like hell to make sure that this got done. And then, lo and behold, nobody expected that the chief architect of the SAFE-T Act in 2021, Rep. Justin Slaughter, would end up being the principal sponsor in the House.

And I have to mention House Speaker Emanuele Chris Welch. The votes were there in the spring to get it passed. When the ask came from City Hall to hold it, they honored it, regrettably. But at that point,

It reminded us how when John helped formed this Lodge and served as its first labor president, he sacrificed a lot. He focused on the opportunity in front of him to really lay a foundation that was going to mean something. And thank God he did, because we could be still trying to unwind a shitty collective bargaining agreement had that first one that he negotiated not been rock solid and more focused on benefits than it was on salary.

Seeing that John was speechless when we dropped the curtain on the signage was a little shocking to me. Literally, his breath was taken away. In a good way. Mission accomplished is all I can say. And with that, I'd like to wish his wife a speedy recovery. I know she had a fall and got hurt the day before the dedication, so she couldn't be there. But hopefully she gets well soon.

Having everybody in the organization from National FOP President Pat Yoes and other national officers to Illinois State Lodge President Chris Southwood, as well as family, friends and people who understand what John means to Lodge 7, attend made it just a perfect night. That's the best way to describe it: a perfect night.

And now, even people who don't know John's legacy can look at our front doors. It will trigger a little bit of a Google search, but it won't take long for John Dineen to come up. And his legacy will be carried out forever.



a promise was also made for the bill to be done in a veto session. So I want to thank Speaker Welch for honoring that commitment.

Having Justin Slaughter be a chief sponsor was an ask to which we said, "Absolutely." It sent a signal that we're turning the page and we're not going to focus on the past. We won't forget, but we're not going to focus on it. We're going to move forward and forge a relationship that's productive to everybody in the city of Chicago and our members.

Coming off the COLA bill, I honestly think our political action and influence throughout the state has never been better. In the past, it was pretty much reliant upon one person, the speaker, Mike Madigan. Thankfully, those days are gone. Now, alliances have been forged with other legislators who have leadership's ears and can carry our message. It grows organically that way.

I'd challenge anybody to say they don't notice a difference. But as I am constantly reminded by our lobbyist, Dave Sullivan, and Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino, at the end of the day, it is their sandbox. They don't have to let us play if they don't want to. All we can hope to do is spend some time there and change the sand when we need to change the sand.

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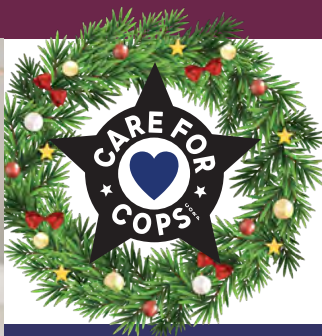


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Looking Forward to Our First Wellness Retreat



MICHAEL METTE

Happy holidays everyone! No matter what your beliefs are, I truly wish you happiness. I don't always know what I am going to write about until my fingers hit the keyboard. This is one of those times.

This December, we will have had our first ever FOP wellness retreat! For our first ever go at this, the retreat will be held at the Phantom Ranch Bible Camp in Mukwonago, Wisconsin. I would like to thank all the people from Phantom Ranch for letting us use their facilities and a HUGE shout out to the 100 Club of Illinois for their gracious donation for the event. I would also like to thank the 15-plus officers who joined us for this event.

I hope to be able to host more of these events as you deserve the time away from the fray and unplug from the city hustle. I would also like to give a big shout out to John Darge from the Cook County Sheriff's Police for getting me hooked up with Chaplain Jim Bontrager from Elkhart, Indiana. Jim was kind enough to come to our retreat and give his presentation on officer wellness and resiliency. I first met Jim in D.C. during Police Week. We have been trying to get something together ever since. I am hoping this won't be the last time we work together for the betterment of our members.

I would like to let you know about a few other things we are doing at Lodge 7. On Dec. 1, we had our first ever FOP Pop-up Shop. If you don't know what that is don't worry, neither did I before meeting the one and only Jamay Fane. With her help and with the backing of the wonderful Crystal Dyer from Gone Again Travel & Tours, we were able to get over 15 vendors to come showcase their products. Since the event has not happened as of this writing, I am only hoping it was a complete success! Big thanks to all the awesome members who provided their services for the event. If you attended the event, I hope you had a great experience, and I would love to hear how we can make it better for the next time. If you do not get our email blasts, please call the office to sign up and stay informed about these events and more.

To all my retirees out there, I am looking to start a new tradition here at Lodge 7. I would like to host a get together for retirees only and would like to have your input. Please email me at Michael.mette@chicagofop.org with your suggestions.

On a closing note, I would like to again wish you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy holiday season! This is a great time to reach out to old friends you haven't talk to in awhile or spend a little more time with the family and less at work! As always, stay safe and healthy!



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Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

My report given at the monthly general members' meetings includes examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at arbitration hearings. Every investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations and redundant alleged "rule violations" (usually piled on by the investigators). However, below are summaries of some recent dispositions that have been awarded by the arbitrators. The following discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigation.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Leverage traffic ticket in exchange for illegal firearm	10-day suspension	Violation Noted
Verbal altercation/Unjustified search of a vehicle	7-day suspension	Violation Noted
Threaten citizen / Verbal altercation	20-day suspension	Reprimand
Disobey Order	30-day suspension	10-day suspension
Excessive Force (Kick)	15-day suspension	Expunged
Threat against co-worker	1-day suspension	Expunged
Unprofessional behavior	5-day suspension	Upheld
Improper search of vehicle	10-day suspension	Expunged

Quote Board:

To add some context to the above listed dispositions, here are some notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrators' written award/decisions.

Quotes from a 7-page arbitration decision re: (Leverage traffic Ticket)

"The grievance is sustained in part and denied in part. The Department has proven by a preponderance of the evidence the Grievant was guilty of violating Rule 2 in his encounter (with the complainant), and that violation should be noted in his personnel records, but due to the extensive and unjustified delay in notifying the Grievant of the allegations and bringing the matter to hearing, no penalty will be imposed."

Quote from a 7-page arbitration decision re: (Verbal/Unjustified search)

"The grievance is sustained in part and denied in part. The Department has proven by a preponderance of the evidence the Grievant was guilty of violating Rule 9 in his encounter with (the complainant), and that violation should be noted in his personnel records, but due to the extensive and unjustified delay in notifying the Grievant of the allegations and bringing the matter to hearing, no penalty will be imposed."

Quotes from a 9-page arbitration decision re: (Improper vehicle search)

"In what was described as "proactive" police work at the hearing, the officers stepped over the boundaries of a property search and violated policy and likely the law. The Department met its burden of proving there was misconduct."

"COPA's two-sided approach, borne out by countless cases where suspensions have been recommended on both sides of the issue, leaves the officers in a quest for the perfect search - that sweet spot where they have searched enough to both find any weapon or contraband, but not too much so as to run afoul of COPA's interpretation of the Fourth Amendment. As noted by the Grievants during the hearing, at some point in time this feeling that one can never be right leaves employees feeling disaffected and disillusioned."

Quote from a 7-page arbitration decision re : (Use of Excessive Force and hiding video evidence)

"As a final observation, even had the Department met its burden of proving misconduct, the fact this case is being brought eight full years after the incident flies in the face of any hint of just cause for discipline."

Quote from 8-page arbitration decision re: (Vehicle search)

"The fact that the Sergeant on the scene and both officers believed a search of the vehicle was appropriate indicates either (1) COPA's assessment of the search was incorrect or (2) the Department's training on searching autos is deficient."

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Duty Disability



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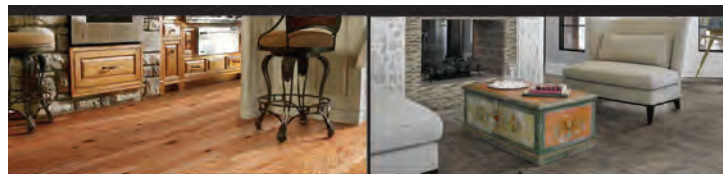
I have written about officers running out of time for an injury on duty (IOD) or a medical illness. I am touching on this topic again because of the time that it takes after an officer files for disability. I will outline the steps for officers who have exhausted all their IOD time and know they cannot return to full or limited duty. If you are 90 days away from being out of your medical time, you should call FOP, and we can discuss your options and devise a plan.

Every active officer is entitled to 365 days of medical time per incident for an injury on duty and 365 medical days within two years. While on the medical roll, a member should prepare for the possibility of applying for disability benefits and begin the disability application process within two months before the 365-day medical time expires. The following steps need to be completed in the order listed:

Applying for Disability Benefits

1. Go to the medical section and let the medical section know you are applying for a leave of absence for DISABILITY. The medical section will have you complete a PAR form. You will also complete a medical release form allowing the medical section to copy and send your medical file to the pension fund.

2. Call Bob Crawford at the pension fund, (312) 676-0428, and let him know you are filing for disability. It would help if you made this call ASAP.



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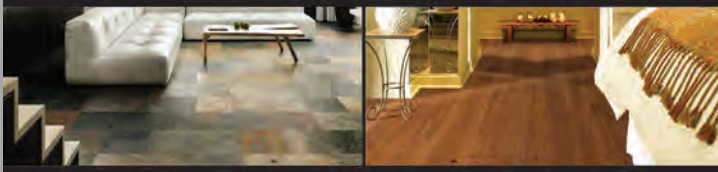
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3. Complete your application with the fund after the disability manager, Bob Crawford, contacts you to notify you that the fund has received your medical files.

4. Attend an appointment for examination by a fund physician called an IME (independent medical exam). Once the fund receives all medical documentation from the fund physician, the member will be scheduled for a hearing before the board of trustees. After the disability hearing, the board will vote on whether to grant or deny the disability benefits application. Please note that if you apply for disability benefits, there will be a period of time when you are without income. That time period will be at least six weeks but could be up to several months. It is essential to know that signing the PAR form to take a leave of absence and the disability application does not lock a member into the disability process. Any officer may rescind the PAR form and disability application, and the claim for disability benefits will be terminated.

3 Types of Disability

Ordinary Disability — Provided to officers who become disabled due to any cause other than an act of duty or occupational disease. You are paid 50 percent of your current salary. You can collect one year of ordinary disability for every four years worked with a maximum of 5 years of ordinary disability. NOT TAX-FREE.

Duty Disability — 75 percent or 50 percent of the member's current salary at the time the disability is allowed. An active member who becomes disabled as the result of an injury that occurred in the performance of an act of duty.

Occupational Disability (Heart Bill) — Paid at 65 percent of current salary, tax-free. For officers with at least 10 years of service who suffer a heart attack or disabling heart disease.

I want to add that officers who apply for duty disability will pay the patrolman rate for medical insurance pending the officer's disability hearing. If you have a change of benefits while awaiting disability and are being charged at a higher rate, please call FOP. I have listed the section of the contract that covers the city's responsibilities.

Section 18.9 — Employer Responsibility for Hospital, Medical and Prescription Costs, and Pension Contributions.

Pending the final determination of benefits by the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund, officers covered by this Agreement who apply for duty, ordinary, or occupational disability benefits will be required to contribute the same amount as active officers for health care benefits, and the employer will continue to provide the same healthcare benefits. Officers who receive duty or occupational disability benefits will continue to receive those benefits at no cost without any refund of their previous contributions. Officers who are awarded ordinary disability benefits will be required to contribute at the Public Health Services Act (PHSA) rate, reduced by the administrative fee of 2% as of the first day of the month following the Fund's final determination of the officer's claim. The employer agrees to pay all hospital, medical, and prescription costs of an officer who is on a leave of absence for duty or occupational disability purposes, all at no cost to the employee. The employer shall make pension contributions on behalf of the employee as if the employee had remained in active service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the lodge.

God bless, and always stay safe.

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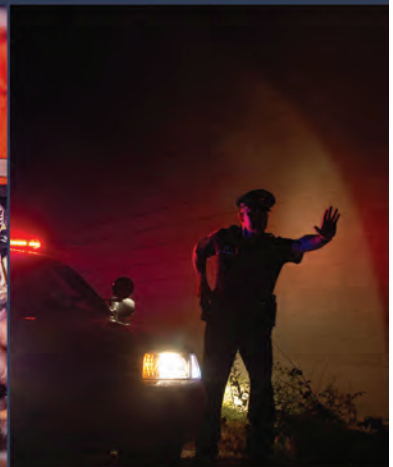
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Wishing You and Yours a Happy Holiday Season



ROB NOCEDA

Greetings, Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7. I pray this time of the year is filled with joy for you and your families. We know the holidays brings out many emotional times for everyone. Please remember to keep the faith and to spend your time being encouraging and uplifting to others.

It is a time when most people are off, but our officers are still working. Our officers have to keep a watchful eye on our city. That being said, we have our members who still serve in the military and are away from home. This is always a rough spot for the members.

To make matters a little better for our deployed members who are overseas, we send care packages to our members who won't make it home for the holidays. This is our fourth year doing it. On behalf of our military committee, it's an honor to help when we can. We commend our military membership's unrelenting sacrifice.

I will thank those who donated their time or resources in the January edition since we are still compiling those donations from our generous membership.

On a personal note, the Noceda family sincerely thanks Lodge 7 for your love and support over this last year. We cannot thank you enough.

Have a Merry Christmas, happy New Year, and wonderful time with your families. May God be with you all.



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Homicide Pilot Program Nojo/Details



**JIM
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello again officers, both active and retired. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with approximately 30 detectives, Chief of Detectives Ursitti, Deputy Chief Bruno, Commander Foster, and Commander Watson, along with a handful of sergeants and lieutenants at the FOP Hall to discuss the new 10-hour day on-call pilot program for homicide detectives. I'd like to personally thank all those that showed up for this information session. The pilot program will be in all five areas with the number of teams based off homicide statistics. Obviously the slower areas will have less teams. This pilot program will be offered through a NOJO process, and any detective can apply. This pilot program was presented by the department in negotiations. When negotiations started in 2017, the department was looking to eliminate the 10-hour day in what was formerly known as Area South/005 and gave the argument that logistically there were 1.5 less detectives at work each day under the 10-hour schedule. The department was dead set against expanding the 10-hour day schedule to any unit or district. We, at FOP, fought to keep and to expand the 10-hour schedule. As time progressed in negotiations, the department's newest argument to eliminate the 10-hour day schedule in Area 2/005 was that the schedule was not conducive to investigations and there was too much of a lapse in investigatory time when detectives had their days off. Well, look at how things have changed.

The new pilot program is modeled after L.A.'s homicide schedule. The department's hope is that this will lead to an increase in the clearance rates, allow the detectives time to work their cases before catching new cases, and incentivize the homicide detective position. As many detectives already know, working homicides

can be taxing. The physical demands of "spinning the clock" and the mental exhaustion and burnout of constantly seeing death and carnage while attempting to seek justice and to be a voice for the voiceless can be draining. Some homicide detectives are even persecuted and sued by bottom feeding attorneys even after their retirement. The numbers tossed around during the meeting were as follows.

- Area 1 610 (54-60 detectives)**
- Area 2 620 (48 detectives)**
- Area 3 630 (24 detectives)**
- Area 4 640 (48 detectives)**
- Area 5 650 (24 detectives)**

The number of detectives assigned to teams and watches can vary but only second and third watch will have homicide teams. The response time to a scene is an hour once the on-call detectives are notified by a supervisor to report. The detectives assigned to be on-call will be compensated for two hours CU if they are not called out during their tour. When they respond they will be paid at the time-and-a-half rate. The on-call detectives will have a take home car solely on days that they are on-call, and we were informed that the department has set aside a portion of the budget to lease these new vehicles.

The NOJO to apply for the homicide teams will be out shortly. A cover letter will be required, a resume, and if you are already a homicide detective you must provide three RD#'s of cases that you have worked on, and if you are not a homicide detective, you must provide three felony files of cases that you have worked on. The NOJO is NOT seniority based but as usual with all NOJO's, discipline, medical usage and attendance will be considered. Remember this is open to ALL detectives, you must follow the NOJO.

Stay safe everyone.



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Reflecting on True Gifts This Holiday Season



**KENYATTA
GAINES**

December is a month that is recognized for its holy observances such as Hanukkah and Christmas. The month of December revolves around the concept of giving and spreading joy. A gift is defined as something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation. Sometimes we can give a gift that grows beyond what we can imagine.

Meet Police Officer Rafael Yanez. Rafael lived in Pilson as a young adult and attended Benito Juarez High School. He is a husband, father of three, and a 20-year veteran of the department. While on CPD, Yanez has worked as a family liaison officer, peer support team member, hate crimes – civil rights investigator, and now immigrant and refugee outreach liaison officer. Each proponent of his employment requires a person to serve with empathy and compassion. About 15 years ago, PO Rafael reconnected with his child-



hood friend and school mate Ramiro. He encouraged Ramiro to take the Chicago police test.

Ramiro remembered being raised in Pilson and the amount of violence he was exposed to. After hearing Yanez speak about how he enjoyed being the police and helping others, it inspired Ramiro. Reflecting on the six homicides that occurred around the corner from his adolescent home, he decided he wanted to help make his neighborhood safer for the next generation. Ramiro went back to school, received an associate degree and applied for the job. Today, Officer Ramiro Alvarez is a husband, father of two and a 13-year veteran of CPD. About 4 years ago, Ramiro met Sgt. Tony Richardson of the bomb squad unit who encouraged him to try out for the honor guard. Deciding to give more of himself, Ramiro proudly became an honor guard member.

While working in the 10th District, DCO Officers Yahdira Garcia and Ramiro Alvarez responded to a hand-waiver who



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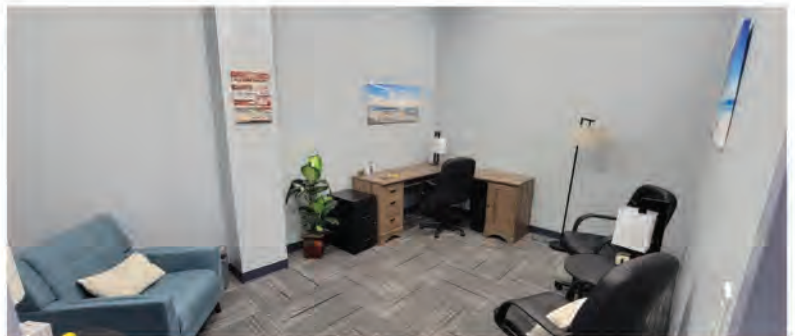


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Dr. Carrie Steiner
Retired Chicago Police Officer
Owner, First Responders Wellness Center



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North Side Location: 540 Frontage Rd. #2125, Northfield, IL 60093



informed them that an 86-year-old village resident had her power scooter stolen from outside her local grocery store while she was inside shopping. The officers reached out to the “Devices 4 The Disabled,” a nonprofit organization that collects and redistributes used durable medical equipment for FREE to those in need in the Chicago area. Within two weeks, the officers spruced up a donated power scooter and gave it to a very happy recipient, Mrs. Dolores Gonzalez.

I am sure that Officer Yanez did not know that his gift of encouragement and knowledge to Ramiro Alvarez would turn into a much-needed gift for Mrs. Dolores Gonzalez.

Remember the words of Mrs. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt:

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift, that’s why we call it the present. “

During this holiday season I hope you are giving. Giving love, giving thanks, showing appreciation, and helping those in need. Most of all, Enjoy your gift – life!

Stay safe.



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Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Michael A. Napoli	Retired	60	October 17, 2023
Linda J. Riess	Retired	78	October 19, 2023
Richard S. Bedran	Retired	91	October 31, 2023
Patricia Mooney	Retired	77	November 1, 2023
George Bowness	Retired	82	November 3, 2023
Thomas J. Daley	Retired	77	November 4, 2023
John Kaput	Retired	72	November 10, 2023
Rodger Heikkila	Retired	75	November 11, 2023
James Kuhn	Retired	94	November 14, 2023
Daniel Muldoon	Retired	86	November 19, 2023
Julien Gallet	Retired	87	November 22, 2023
Edwin Espinoza	Unit 044	35	November 26, 2023

Retiree Meetings

Check the contact info listed with each location to confirm meetings are being held

North

First Tuesday of the month
@ 9 a.m.
D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub
7530 W. Oakton St., Niles
Steve Marchfield 773-771-0877

The Northsiders' Luncheon

Third Wednesday of January, April, July,
October @ noon
Suparossa, Chicago
Paul Vitaioli, 312-402-1040

South

Second Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Jedi's Garden, Oak Lawn

8-Ball Luncheon

Last Wednesday of month
@ noon
Les Brothers, Oak Lawn
Dorothy Piscitelli, 773-972-0139

Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of month
@ 9 a.m.

Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant
Chicago
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

12th District Retirees and Alumni

First Thursday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Southern Belles Restaurant
Bridgeview
12retirees@comcast.net

Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic Services and Mobile Unit

First Tuesday of month @ noon
Flap-Jacks Restaurant, Oak Lawn
Bob Baikie, 773-284-1935

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

Third Thursday of month
@ 7:30 p.m.
Orland Park Civic Center
Orland Park
Don Ade, 708-408-9308

Survivors Lunch

Second Saturday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Beverly Woods Restaurant
Chicago

Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration)

First Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
George's Restaurant, Chicago
Maurice Brown, 773-577-0154

Arizona Retirees

Third Thursday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Eagle Buffet at Casino Arizona
524 N. 92nd St.
Scottsdale, Arizona
Brian DuFour, 623-521-6146 or
bdu4@aol.com

Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of month
@ noon
Elks Lodge

Mountain Home, Arkansas
Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407

Florida Retirees

First Wednesday of month
@ 1 p.m.
Cop Shop, Cape Coral, Florida
Tom Faragoi, 239-770-7896

Michigan Retirees

First Thursday of month
@ 8 a.m.
Macks on Main
101 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, Michigan
John Nielson
989-324-0877
jnnielson@gmail.com

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month
Herner's Hideaway
N202 Williams Road
Genoa City, Wisconsin

*Thank you for
being the police!*

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*Thank you for what you do everyday
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*Thank you for all the sacrifices
that you have made*

*Thank you for your unwavering
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*We truly appreciate all that you do,
you are true american heroes!*

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PAT
FIORETTO

“This Board has interpreted the IPLRA and the parties’ collective bargaining agreement. The Rule of Law is clear showing that slogans and catch phrases do not set contract terms of collective bargaining agreements, but statutes and precedent do. It is really time to move on.”
—Edward H. Benn, Neutral Chair

As you know, on Oct. 19, 2023, after years of negotiations, the Dispute Resolution Board, headed by mutually selected Arbitrator Edwin H. Benn, released its final opinion and award. By the time this article gets published, City Council will be set to vote on whether to ratify the entire award. Regardless of the outcome, I wish to take a moment to address what is considered to be one of the most significant aspects of the new contract, if ratified, which Arbitrator Benn eloquently laid out in the award.

From the outset of the negotiations, the lodge insisted on its proposal concerning a major component of the parties’ existing grievance and arbitration provision. Specifically, arbitrating grievances which challenge disciplinary actions ranging from greater than 365 days suspension to separation. Under the expired contract, officers only could challenge such actions through the Police Board. Given how “fair” and “impartial” the politically charged Police Board has been, the lodge insisted on this change in order to provide officers with an option.

The award adopted “the Lodge’s position that for grievances protesting disciplinary actions in excess of 365 days and separations (dismissals) issued to police officers, the Lodge

can have the option to have those grievances heard and decided in final and binding arbitration rather than by the Police Board.” Further, the change would be retroactive to Sept. 14, 2022.

The award goes into detail by highlighting existing statutes, Illinois Labor Relations Board’s guidance, and precedent, which all supporting the lodge’s position that officers cannot be barred from seeking arbitration for grievances protesting disciplinary action in excess of 365 days. Initially, Section 8 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (“Act”) requires that unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, final and binding arbitration of disputes must be a term in any collective bargaining agreement covering Police officers, firefighters, and security employees.

Next, section two of the act makes it clear that final and binding arbitration is the policy of Illinois for contracts covering police officers because those officers are prohibited from striking. Section 15 of the act, known as a “Supremacy Clause,” negates any statutes or ordinances which deny or limit the final and binding arbitration the lodge sought. Additionally, section 25 of the Illinois Constitution provides for the protection of workers’ rights, which includes the statutory right of police to have final and binding arbitration and prohibits any ordinance which would deny or limit that right.

Moreover, Arbitrator Benn properly noted that “long and well-settled case law in Illinois ... has established that if a party requests arbitration of discipline in an interest arbitration proceeding, that party is entitled under Section 8 of the [“Act”] to have final and binding arbitration of discipline adopted as a contract term. There are 17 published interest

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arbitration cases upholding the right to have binding arbitration in collective bargaining agreements.”

Arbitrator Benn then spent a significant amount of time addressing the right to privacy in the arbitration context. The city had argued that any such proceedings should be held in public. However, Arbitrator Benn disagreed. As he explained, “Arbitration proceedings are private. The practice of the parties for arbitrations of grievances for disciplinary actions between 11 and 365 days is that those proceedings are private and not open to the public. There is no reason that the same practice should not apply to arbitration proceedings for grievances protesting discipline in excess of 365 days and dismissals.”

Arbitrator Benn went on to find, “[the] privacy of arbitration proceedings is also consistent with and required by ethical obligations imposed on arbitrators by the American Arbitration Association and the National Academy of Arbitrators to preserve the privacy of arbitrations.” In response to misconceptions surrounding the private nature of grievance arbitration, Neutral Chair Benn also took issue with the repeated use of the slogan “behind closed doors” as language justifying the need for grievances related to discipline in excess of 365 days to be adjudicated publicly before the Police Board rather than in a private arbitration hearing. Instead, he readily dismissed such rhetoric by stating, “The argument that arbitrations of discipline of police officers should be prohibited or limited because they are conducted “behind closed doors” relies upon slogans and catchphrases.” He went on to opine, “No matter how attractive the simplistic phrase “behind closed doors” may seem to those who do not

understand or seek to defeat the arbitration process for police officers, that phrase and the illusions it conjures cannot succeed to defeat the Lodge’s contract proposal for binding arbitration in this case.” Clearly, the public has no clue how the arbitration process works.

In the end, the city failed to point to any actual law which requires arbitration hearings to be open to the public. Arbitrator Benn even rejected the city’s attempt to use the Police Board’s own rules in arbitration proceedings for grievances protesting discipline grievances in excess of 365 days and dismissals.

Finally, the award requires the city to keep all police officers on the payroll until a final decision is rendered by the mutually appointed arbitrator. As Arbitrator Benn explained, “The line drawn by the City at 365 days as to whether an officer is suspended without pay and kept on the payroll is not reasonable. Why should an officer who is suspended for 365 days remain on the payroll until the arbitration is decided and the officer who is suspended for 366 days be put in non-pay status until that officer’s arbitration is decided? There is no rational basis for such a line drawing.” He further observed that removal from the payroll violates the concept of “innocent until proven guilty.”

The lodge remains hopeful the City Council will do the right thing and ratify the award. The police officers deserve it. The citizens of Chicago do, too. From my perspective, Arbitrator Benn faithfully executed his duties and issued a solid Award which will move the city forward. As he concluded, “this remarkably long labor dispute must now come to an end.”



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Is Arbitration Fair?



**TIM
GRACE**

The talk of the town at is the pending contract that is before Chicago City Council. What is at stake could be a monumental change in termination cases in the Chicago Police Department. It would provide a fairer system and would certainly give officers a choice as to how they wish to make their case. But for some reason, there is a movement against this change. It makes you wonder why and, more importantly, what are they so afraid of.

Currently, the collective bargaining agreement states that officers who go through the disciplinary process have a choice between presenting their case to the Chicago Police Board or to present their case to a single arbitrator in cases where COPA recommends a suspension of 365 days or less. However, when COPA makes a recommendation of termination, no such choice is available. The officers are required to go to the Chicago Police Board. The key to understanding the process is understanding the difference between arbitration and the police board. Arbitrators are attorneys who will sit and listen to both the city and the FOP. The rules of evidence are somewhat relaxed, and arbitrators will render a decision. The arbitrators are agreed to by both the city and FOP, and the parties can request to substitute to a second arbitrator if

they believe that is in their best interests. The FOP has input in the process of choosing arbitrators, and this process keeps the arbitrators honest and fair. If you keep ruling for one party over the other, you may find yourself being substituted. Seems like a fair process.

The Chicago Police Board process is not quite like that. The police board is made up of nine members who come from all areas of the city. The board includes lawyers, business leaders, a reverend, social justice leaders, and an economic development collaborative – whatever that is. They are people appointed by the mayor with no input from the FOP. Yes, elections do matter. While we are all sure they have good intentions and believe they are fair, the end result is that they are chosen by the city. No lawyer would pick a jury where the judge states that the composition of the jury will be determined by only one of the parties. It's an unfair process no matter how diligent the board members try to remain openminded. Any open-minded person who is searching for an equitable and justice-driven process would agree that officers should be given a choice. Not so much.

The arbitration system on termination cases is a system that has been around for many years and is not exclusive to just law enforcement. In fact, all public sector employees in the city have their termination cases decided by arbitration. There is no Chicago Teacher Board or Chicago Streets



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and Sanitation Board. Per state law, all cases involving the discharge of public employees shall be heard before an arbitrator unless agreed to otherwise. As discussed in prior articles, the FOP at one point, years ago, agreed to the police board. However, as held by the recent contract negotiations, the arbitrator overseeing the new contract ruled that FOP members staring down the barrel of a nonsense COPA recommendation of discharge shall have the right to choose between the Chicago Police Board and an arbitrator. This is simply the law. There is no way around it. We are a nation of laws and if you don't like the law then change it. However, many public sector unions would not be too happy to have to have their cases heard by the city's handpicked board. Yes, I'm talking to you, teachers. But the movement never lets the law get in the way of firing a Chicago police officer.

So, what is the truth about arbitration nationally? The movement will tell you that arbitrators favor police. There is anecdotal evidence that arbitrators in Chicago have sided with the officers more times than not. This is not to say no punishment was rendered. However, the draconian recommendation by COPA, is more likely than not rejected by a reasonable arbitrator. But perhaps that is because you have civilian oversight, which is recommending absurd discipline. What happens nationally when a reasonable oversight agency investigates and then makes a reasonable recommendation? Not so good for the officers. A recent study found that in cases that go to arbitration and are not settled by the

parties, employees only prevail 11 percent of the time. That is not a very good statistic. However, in Chicago it will be a breath of fresh air for police officers. This writer would predict that based upon the ridiculous recommendations that come from COPA and rubberstamped by the police board, that the arbitration system will make for a fairer process.

The most important area where we will see gains is the idea of putting COPA on trial. In an arbitration, we are allowed to actually call the COPA investigators and challenge them on their investigations. We are able to cross-examine their qualifications, their methods, and their biases. But at the police board we have no such right. The hearing officers who preside over the board hearing protect COPA like a rabid guard dog. They will not allow us to question COPA investigators or the supervisors. They claim that COPA and the investigation is not on trial and the review by the board is fresh from the beginning. Where this rule is found is a mystery to me, but more importantly when was the last time you were at 26th Street and some lawyer was not attacking your approach and investigation? While this cross is never comfortable for an officer it is a vital part of our adversarial system and keeps us all honest and most importantly lets the defendant know the investigation was done properly. The police board refuses to allow anything that questions COPA. Nobody is watching the watchers. That my friends is what arbitration will bring to the system. Have a safe and great holiday season.

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FOP Praises Passage of COLA Bill in Legislature



DAVE SULLIVAN

With a great team effort, we had another success in the capitol!

After a delay, we were successful in getting the COLA bill passed by both the House and the Senate with huge, bipartisan majorities. The age restriction now goes away with this bill. SB 1956 now goes to the governor.

With a big bill passing like this, there are a lot of thanks to be given. And you should be aware of the legislators who actively helped the FOP. First, all four legislative leaders committed to being helpful and they all delivered. In the House, Speaker Chris Welch and GOP Leader Tony McCombie were there for us. The speaker and his staff made sure the bill was called and supported our efforts throughout. Leader McCombie and her members were very supportive. Only a handful of far downstate members did not support this legislation. Senate President Don Harmon and GOP Leader John Curran were also outstanding in their help to make sure the bill passed unanimously in the Senate. There was not a single Democrat in the General Assembly who voted against our bill. The House vote was 94-8-1 and the Senate vote was 47-0.

South side Democrat Representative Justin Slaughter was our lead sponsor in the House and Northwest side Democrat Senator Rob Martwick was our champion in the Senate. Both worked the issue diligently and delivered huge margins of support. In the House, Representative Stephanie Kifowit was a true leader on this issue in her role as chair of the House Pension Committee. Her tenacity as a Marine served us well. Other key and active House members whose efforts were outstanding include Democrats Mike Kelly, Angie Guerrero-Cuellar, Mary Gill, Lindsey LaPointe and Republican Brad Stephens. Senator Bill Cunningham was, as always, a strong leader on this.

The direction from John Catanzara and the FOP Board was strong and consistent – get this bill passed for the membership. Mike Cosentino has been a tremendous asset in Springfield. He is there when the legislature is in session and is making strong relationships with legislators. He was key to this victory. With their focused leadership, this bill is on the governor’s desk awaiting his signature. We strongly encourage the governor to sign this bill and are hopeful that he will do so.

Enjoy the holidays and stay safe!

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A Time To Look Forward



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

As this goes to print, we join our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department mourning the loss of FF Drew Price who lost his life in the line of duty. A true gentleman and friend, loved by all who knew him. Gone but never forgotten. Please keep FF Drew Price and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

As the year comes to a close, we take a moment to reflect. There have been good times and laughter, hard times, challenges, and tears. But here we are, thank G-d we made it. We enjoyed G-d's blessings and at times we were shown more than we can understand. So let us take a moment to reflect, ponder and meditate as this is a time to look forward.

A time comes in our lives when we finally get it. When in the midst of all our fears and insanity, we stop dead in our tracks and somewhere the voice inside our head cries out - ENOUGH! Enough fighting and crying or struggling to hold on.

Like a child quieting down after a blind tantrum, our sobs begin to subside, we shudder once or twice, we blink back our tears and through a mantle of wet lashes we begin to look at the world through new eyes. This is our awakening. We realize that it's time to stop hoping and waiting for something to change or for happiness to just happen, safety, and security to come galloping over the next horizon. We come to terms with the fact that "he is not Prince Charming and you are not Cinderella" or vice versa. In the real world, there aren't always fairytale endings – or beginnings for that matter – and that any guarantee of "living happily ever after" must begin within us. In this process, a sense of serenity is born of acceptance.

We awaken to the fact that we are not perfect and that not everyone will always love, appreciate, or approve of who we are or what we are, and that's OK. (They are entitled to their own views and opinions.) We learn the importance of loving and championing ourselves and in the process a sense of newfound confidence is born, a sense of self-approval. We stop complaining and blaming other people for the things they did to us (or didn't do for us) and we learn that the only thing we can really count on is the unexpected. We learn that people don't always say what they mean or mean what they say. That not everyone will always be there for us, and that life is not always about 'me'. So, we learn to stand on our own and to take care of ourselves and in the process a sense of safety and security is born of self-reliance.

We stop judging and pointing fingers and we begin to accept people as they are, and we begin to accept ourselves as we are. To overlook their shortcomings and human frailties and in the process a sense of peace and contentment is born of forgiveness. We begin to sift through all that we have been fed, about how we should behave, how we should look, and how much we should weigh. What we should wear and, how and where we should

live and what we should do for a living. Whom we should marry and what we should expect of a marriage, and the importance of having and raising children. We learn to open up to new worlds and different points of view. We learn the difference between wanting and needing, and that it is truly in giving that we receive.

We learn that we don't know everything, and not everything can we understand or do we have to understand. It's not our job to save the world, just to give the world our best. We learn to distinguish between guilt and responsibility, and in life it is okay if you have to say "no."

We look in the mirror and come to terms with the fact that we may never be a size five or a perfect 10 or as in my case, it is okay not to have a full head of hair, (or in plain english - bald). We come to the realization that we deserve to be treated with love, kindness, sensitivity and respect and we don't have to settle for less, and that's okay. We learn, that for the most part, in life you get what you believe you deserve and that much of life truly is a self-fulfilling prophecy. We learn that anything worth achieving is worth working for and that wishing for something to happen is different from working toward making it happen. You also learn that no one can do it all alone and that it's OK to reach out and asking for help.

We learn that the only thing you must truly fear is the great robber baron of all time – FEAR itself. Remember also, that life isn't always fair, we don't always get what we think we deserve and that sometimes bad things happen to unsuspecting, good people. We learn that G-d is NOT punishing us or failing to answer our prayers. It's just in life things happen that we just don't understand. Slowly, we begin to take responsibility for ourselves by ourselves, and we make ourselves a promise, to never betray ourselves. And we make it a point to keep smiling, to keep trusting, and to stay open to every wonderful possibility.

Finally, with courage in our hearts and with G-d by our side and with prayer, we take a stand, we take a deep breath, and we begin to live today, the first day of the rest of our lives, to its fullest. Remember, the famous quote, "We can't turn the clock back to make a new beginning, but we can start today to make a new ending."

And before we close a little humor from the "Moshe Files", to finish your year with a smile. "The Dr. and the Mechanic"

A motor mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a BMW M3 when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car, when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?"

The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the BMW. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged, and then

put everything back in, and when I finished, it worked just like new.

So how is that I make \$40,000 a year and you make \$1.7 million when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running."

On behalf of ALL your chaplains, best wishes and best of blessings to you and your loved ones in this holiday season. Please remember to take a moment and look around at your peers, should there be someone that is alone or lonely during this holiday season reach out to them and have them join your family for the holiday festivities, you will both walk away enriched!

Best wishes to you and your loved ones, for seasons greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a very blessed Happy New Year. May 2024 be one of your best ones yet.

Should you need a shoulder to lean on, or an ear to listen or perhaps have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

May God keep you safe, today and always. Amen

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

I bumped into these heroes above at a restaurant in Pilsen last month. If you'd like to receive a Police Chaplains Ministry challenge coin, send me an email with the name of any of these three. (The answer will be given next month.) Thanks to them and ALL of you for doing God's work!

And then I ran into these good folks below a week later at the German American Police Association pre-holiday dinner. The same offer stands: send me a note identifying any of them, and I'll send you a Chaplains Unit challenge coin!



Last month we teamed up with FOP to send high-quality care packages to 33 CPD members who are serving abroad in the military reserves. Let us keep in prayer our brothers and sisters who still serve, just in a different uniform. In a special way, we remember them (and their families who miss them) during the holidays.

On Nov. 30, we hosted our beloved Gold Star Family members at the annual pre-holiday dinner at Soldier Field. What a wonderful opportunity for us to thank these families for the sacrifice they endured, and to reiterate that their loved one who died in the line of duty will NEVER be forgotten! Thank you to all our supporters who make the annual event possible!

Thank you, also, to the folks at St. Ita Parish in Edgewater who hosted a Blue Mass earlier this month. Our next Blue Mass will be held at Saint Mary of the Woods Parish on Feb. 11, 2024, at 9 a.m. As always, we invite ALL to pray with and for our officers at these Blue Masses.

On Dec. 17, we commemorate the five-year anniversary of the untimely and tragic deaths of Officers Conrad Gary and Eduardo Marmolejo. May they rest in peace, and may



their families be assured of our loving, prayerful support!

Theirs and many other memorial cards may be downloaded from our website. If you'd prefer to have any cards mailed to you, simply email or call me.

During the Advent season, many people try to pray more intentionally. So, just a reminder: every Friday at 1 p.m. the Chaplains Section continues to facilitate a Bible study/prayer/faith-sharing group at the police academy on Jackson. No matter your faith tradition, ALL are welcome to share and hear words of encouragement at these brief Christian-based gatherings

A similar (though more intimate in size) non-denominational Christian prayer opportunity is offered every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Public Safety Headquarters.

And Muslim (Jumma) prayers are offered every Friday at 1 p.m. in room 202 of the academy on Jackson

To confirm times, or if you'd like more information, please email Joseph.Jackson@ChicagoPolice.org, Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org, or Hysni.Selenica@ChicagoPolice.org.

In addition to our regular second and fourth Sunday Masses at Mercy Home (11 a.m. at 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard), we'll gather for Mass on Christmas morning at 10 a.m. note the difference in time for the holiday. More information can be found on the "Police Masses" link at www.ChicagoPCM.org

Please mark your calendar: On Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., we'll be taking over The Klairmont Collections auto museum (near Belmont/Cicero). This is a fundraiser for Police Chaplains Ministry. There will be a grand raffle, so please shake the tree if you have any friends who own restaurants, car washes, bars, clothing stores, whatever! Please ask for a gift certificate. We would appreciate your help!

This time of year can be pretty stressful. Please keep in mind the REAL meaning of the holiday season. If you feel you need an ear or more to cope with these busy times, we're here for you, as are your EAP clinicians. Don't hesitate to call on us.

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy! Thank you for doing God's work.

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain
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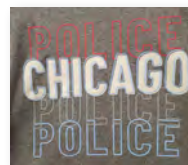


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A Christmas Wish



TOM TUOHY

This has been quite a week for me. Upon reflection, I realized I have been fortunate in the experiences I get to have every week. However, this week stands out.

Yesterday, when I walked into the conference room, my client asked if I remembered him. I smiled and said, I sure do. Could it have been so long ago when Tom Sheehan, his brother Tim, and I, in our early 20s, closed the bar in the basement of Old St. Pats after the Emerald Society meeting, with Father Wall begging us to leave so he could lock the church?

We all have been thrown out of worse places.

Family Legacies

When future CPD Captain Bob Sheehan brought his two sons to the meeting, I was grateful there was finally someone my age. Neither were in the police yet, and now they are both retired, their sons having followed them on the job, and Captain Shields is 93. Tom said, "My father's heart is so strong, I would replace mine with his today if I could."

Jim Riordan was the first person I met in the Emerald Society in the old St. Jude's Hall. Jim's father, Deputy Supt James Riordan's killing rocked the city. It became why the Illinois Emerald Society and its bagpipes and drums band exist, a gift from Mayor Jane Byrne following his funeral. Tim Sheehan became its pipe sergeant.

I did not know Jim's father, but he, his mother, and six siblings became my friends and clients, with five following their father as CPD officers.

In that conference room the day before, I met retired CPD detective Peter Neary and learned that he wore his father's badge num-

ber, which had been his grandfather's and now is worn by his niece's husband. For over 100 years, a CPD badge number has been in the Neary bloodline.

This week, I met with friends and trustees of two clients' estates, who were in the first class of female patrol officers. I'll never forget their stories. They were among the first women CPD officers to no longer wear skirts, and they both still proudly carried their patrolwoman stars.

I also spoke with Terry Hillard, who still worries about the city and its officers, including his two children on the job, a reminder of why he was an example of how a boss should be.

Finally, I met with an old client who had written his estranged son out of his estate. I remembered how sad his eyes were at that time. I told him he could always amend his trust when his son came home. He returned for that amendment today, and his eyes are as happy as a father's can be.



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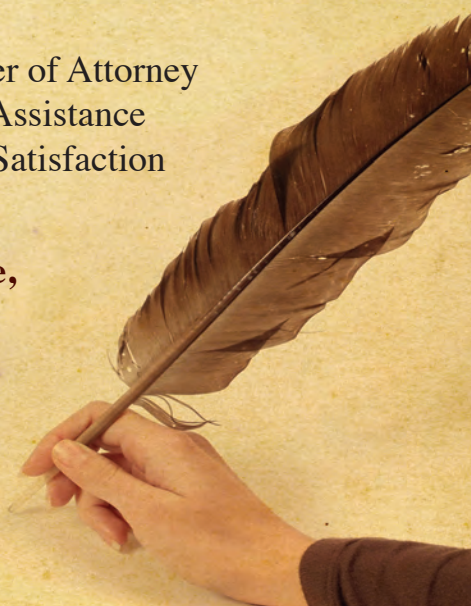
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Carrying on the Legacy

When I meet a client, whether we have met before or are meeting for the first time, I listen to their stories, share mine, and connect the dots. Soon, we establish or reestablish our connection. Chicago is the biggest small town in the world, it seems.

The Irish Seanachai perfected the art of storytelling because they had to when all the books were burned. I may have inherited the trait. I know I value its importance. In stories, legacy lives, memories come alive, and those we love remain with us.

I barely knew my grandfather, whose photo and badges replace my photo in this month's column, or my father. But it is in their police stories that they come alive—standing on the running board of an open convertible bringing President Truman down State Street, taking down the Roadhouse Gang, meeting President Eisenhower at O'Hare, the '68 Convention, Cicero Riots, the Heirens case. Whenever I hear or remember a story or see a photo, they are with me.

I didn't follow the tradition and become the police, but in the path I chose I am grateful to have been able to help protect police families and preserve their well-earned legacies.

Whether you come from a long line of police or are the first to start the tradition, my Christmas wish for you is a year of progress, a safer job with more public support, and a city with your back. Is that too much to ask? Maybe. But Christmas is a time of hope.

Thank you for this year. I look forward to 2024 being filled with more meetings, stories shared, experiences relived, and many more legacies preserved.

Stay safe.

Tom Tuohy founded Tuohy Law Offices and the FOP Benefits Plan. He has been a police lawyer for more than three decades. His father was a CPD detective, and his grandfather was the CPD chief of major investigations. You can reach Tom at 312-559-8400, tom@tuohylawoffices.com or visit his office in Oakbrook Terrace.

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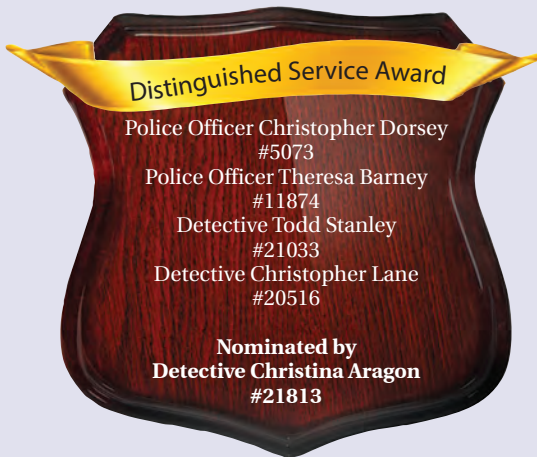
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On December 8, 2022, at 10750 S. Green St., Officers Dorsey and Barney heard a loud explosion. The officers responded and observed a parked vehicle in the driveway engulfed in flames. The vehicle was blocking the front exit of the residence, and the Officers escorted the resident and her dog to safety. The explosion had shattered nearby house windows, and the vehicle was totaled. The officers notified arson and detectives Stanley and Lane conducted their investigation and provided video to the victim who was able to identify the known offender. The detectives executed a search warrant on the home of the

offender, and they recovered 24 mortar style fireworks bundled together in a makeshift explosive and 10 “bird bombs,” which are explosive pest control devices containing explosive materials and flash powder. The offender was placed into custody and charged with arson to personal property and possession of an explosive incendiary device.

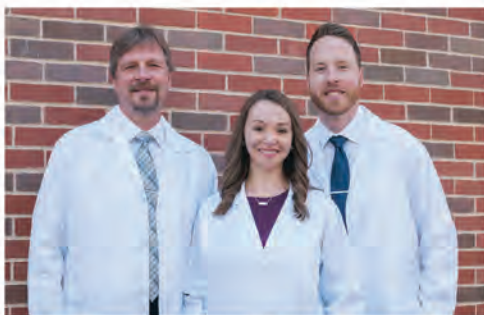
It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the distinguished service award for their outstanding work. Thanks for a job well done.



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On Oct. 20, 2022, Beat 661C was monitoring the zone when a 10-1 was broadcast regarding an armed robbery/attempt vehicular hijacking just occurred at the location of 8800 block of S. Constance Ave. The OEMC broadcast related that shots were fired on scene by an off-duty police officer and a white Infiniti SUV was involved. Responding units secured the scene and discovered a single gym shoe on scene. The OEMC simulcast continued relating that a person shot was dropped off at Trinity Hospital by the white SUV and that the license plate confirmed that the vehicle was reported stolen from Countryside II. The officers spoke with the owner of the stolen white SUV who related that a tracking device was on the car and the vehicle was now

stationary at 8000 S. Vernon Ave. The officers tracked the stolen SUV to an alley in the 8000 S. block of Vernon Ave and located the SUV with two occupants. The offenders were taken into custody and fresh blood was still on the back seat of the vehicle from the injured offender. The offender at Trinity Hospital was placed into custody as well when he was discovered to be wearing only one gym shoe and the other on scene was perfect "Cinderella" match. The three juvenile offenders were charged accordingly.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the award of valor and the distinguished service award. Nice shot Officer Crump!

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On Nov. 12, 2022, at the intersection of Homan and Ohio, the 11th district tactical officers were riding four deep when they attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle for minor violations. The offending vehicle refused to stop and struck the tact car before fleeing the scene. The officers began searching for the offending vehicle, when it was located at 602 N. Central Park Ave. Both occupants, one female and one male, were observed as they attempted to flee into the residence. The male offender, armed with a handgun, fled up the stairs and refused numerous commands to “drop the gun.” The armed offender turned toward the officers ,and the officers fearing for their lives, fired upon the armed offender. The offender was struck multiple times

in his lower torso and buttocks (brain), but continued into the residence at which time the female co-offender took his gun and threw it from the residence window. The offenders were placed into custody. The officers recovered a second gun from the vehicle and a third gun from the apartment. The offenders were charged accordingly. The male offender, who already had a colostomy bag affixed because he was previously shot, truly earned the nickname “shitbag.”

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the award of valor and the distinguished service award.

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On April 7, 2022, at the location of 7657 S. Coles Ave, the 004th district officers responded to a call of check the well-being, an adult male walking with a juvenile female who was crying. Upon responding to the scene, the officers were met by the caller who related that it appeared that the child was being held against her will and that they were both now in the back of the location. The officers entered the fenced yard and observed the male offender holding the arms of the little girl on the third-floor porch. The officers detained the male offender who was already partially disrobed. The victim

jumped into the arms of Officer Hoffman and stated that the male offender "stole her" while she was walking around looking for her brother. The offender was transported to Area 2 and charged with two class X felonies, predatory criminal sexual assault/victim under 13, and aggravated kidnapping/victim under 13. The victim was reunited with her grateful mother.

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100 Grand

Celebrating 100 issues of the FOP's official magazine, which has showcased the amazing achievements of Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7 and its members

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Great minds, sound minds, brilliant minds, open minds, master minds and even warped minds took on the challenge to describe in a word or two (three at most) what has made *Chicago Lodge 7 Magazine* endure for 100 issues.

Some of the defining responses included:

- Personality.
- Represent.
- Message.
- Humanize.
- Tell our stories.
- Express.
- Morale.
- Connection.
- Reflection.

But the words heard at the first meeting with the Lodge 7 executive board to present an opportunity to upgrade the hallowed newsletter to a full-color, glossy magazine in June 2015 were not exactly fit to print. In fact, one officer who would never be accused of holding back wondered why a guy from New Jersey had come to pitch a plan to give the FOP a vehicle to tell the stories that weren't getting told and had needed to be told for a long time.

"By the members, for the members," this Jersey boy pledged.

Now, he wasn't really from Jersey. His family was from Chicago. OK, he grew up in the burbs but used to live in Chicago. Married a local girl.

That didn't seem to curry a lot of favor with the board. That officer flipped through a sample of a magazine the guy from Jersey had published for another law enforcement labor union, then shot an I'm-not-sure-why-we-need-this look.

"I think we needed to cross some hurdles to get to what you probably envisioned and what I probably would've liked to envision," explains John Capperelli, then the Lodge 7 treasurer, with a little less vim and vinegar than he used eight-plus years ago. "We needed to make sure it could be published so it could tell our story."

The board eventually approved a one-year trial on a new format, and *Lodge 7 Magazine* premiered in September 2015. Now, 100 issues later, we have told more than 1,000 stories of not just catching bad guys, and not just about all the work of the Lodge securing benefits and protecting your rights, but of what Chicago Police Officers do every day to make their communities safer and better.

When we checked back with the inimitable Capper, now retired and serving as a Lodge 7 trustee, the Jersey boy recited to him, "I've gone from 'Who is this guy?' to 'Thank God I know this guy.'"

Right to reading the magazine

There's no better way to fully capture how the Lodge 7 board, staff and, most importantly, members have embraced having a magazine that humanizes the badge. And have helped the magazine flourish into one that has contributors like Father Dan Brandt and attorney Pat Fioretto reporting back that members tell them about reading the issue every month.

In honor of the 100th issue, some of those who have been part of the magazine for all 100 and know it best extend their thoughts about why it has made it to this milestone.

"We need work on morale, and the magazine certainly boosts morale," Father Dan explains. "I know I hear from a lot of folks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • December 2023





100 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

that the day the magazine comes in the mail, all the other mail is thrown aside, and they go right to reading the magazine.”

As one who was part of meetings to initiate the magazine before it ever went to the board, Fioretto specifies the virtue of upgrading from what many back then called a grammar-school-like mimeographed newsletter.

“We needed to have a forum where we can showcase what it is that these officers do outside of their uniform,” he submits.

When *Lodge 7 Magazine* first hit the streets, Detective Mike Carroll was assigned to News Affairs. In that role, he helped magazine reporters plug into the stories waiting to be told.

“It was a huge change, which made it more personal,” he details. “Every story doesn’t necessarily reflect the union. What it does is reflects the actual membership. Yes, we are the union, yes, we do this work for the membership. But we would rather highlight the goodness, the good work that the members do.”

And, of course, Capperelli had some telling words about the residual merit of the magazine telling stories of humanizing members, having the forum, highlighting the goodness.

“Not because we’re looking for spin, but because those stories never get told,” Capperelli adds.

In June 2015, speculation surrounded the vision of turning the newsletter into a full-color magazine. The idea really just popped during an introductory meeting with Lodge 7 President Dean Angelo. He had seen magazines the publishers had produced for other law enforcement labor unions and conjectured, “That would be good for us.”

Angelo asked his first vice president, Ray Casiano, to step in and weigh in on the notion. Casiano was hesitant to bring in outside vendors to get out important messages and information the Lodge was trying to put into its monthly newsletter.

But now...

“The best way I can describe the magazine is that it went from a black-and-white silent movie to a blockbuster,” Casiano extols. “No pun intended, but it brought color to the reader. It brings a little bit more character to the reader reading the magazine.”

Under covers

The occasion of the 100th issue is a chance to give thanks to those who have made it possible to come this far. And nobody more so than Angelo.

His colleagues and confidants will say that Dean loved the idea of a magazine because he was all about expressing to members the importance of the union and how to navigate through

their careers. He wanted it to be a reflection of the union and its members.

“That’s something that Dean and I talked about at the very beginning. That there is so much negativity that’s out there,” recalls Fioretto, who also was part of those June 2015 conversations. “We wanted to show what [officers are] like in the community and how they interact with the community when they are in uniform.”

The first truly controversial story Angelo allowed was a review of the Lodge winning a grievance that would allow officers to have body ink. “No longer do you need to Think before you Ink” was the 2016 cover and cover story. Angelo even designed that cover himself.

He drew up many of the covers that first year. Some using technology. Some on paper. From there, the magazine has evolved to an array of statements and showpieces that chronicle so much of what the Lodge has fought for, has achieved and has spawned.

All of that forms the 100th cover for this December issue, which reviews the previous 99 issues, and the quilt on page 36 that allows a chance to take a walk down *Lodge 7 Magazine* memory lane. It started with the September 2015 cover story profiling Lodge 7 member Peter Bucks, a renowned artist who painted the “Horse of Honor” that stands in the FOP’s front lobby. And his artwork continues to grace many issues with “Portraits by Peter Bucks,” providing profiles of members the magazine was created to spotlight.

We hope members have their favorite covers. During the past three-plus years, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara has dreamed up some great ideas that have come to fruition in what has been the best work of the magazine.

Personal favorites are the seven covers displayed at the top of this page that pay tribute to some of the Chicago Police Officers who have been lost in the line of duty since we began publishing. Out of these tragedies, the hope is that the tributes to these fallen sisters and brothers bring some peace and honor to their family members and their fellow officers.

The cover that might define what the magazine is all about could be October 2021. Check it out and see for yourself how the image of Carlos Yanez Jr. is the picture of inspiration, bravery and duty that is the very fabric of Chicago Police Officers.

Credits to you

Beyond the cover, there is always the hope that members read the magazine and find it useful and helpful. Father Dan relates

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



that he likes to take pictures of members when he is out on the streets and run them with his monthly report to enhance the magazine's mission to give officers their 15 minutes.

Lately, he has included these photos without identification and offered to send challenge coins to anybody who can name the officers in the photo.

"Usually, when I've done that, I've gotten maybe 10 emails, 12 emails, from folks who have seen it," he adds.

Carroll reasons that members are reading because the magazine humanizes them, shows them not just fighting crime and chasing bad guys, but supporting the community – families, kids and seniors.

"And that has been especially important after all the garbage that happened with the riots and all the anti-police sentiment," Carroll says. "It has been more and more important to show that what we do is good and important work."

This 100th issue review is starting to run on a little long. It happens a lot because the stories we have had a chance to tell for the past 100 issues are that inspiring, that important.

With that, please indulge us as we go to the credits.

None of these stories come about without the unending and unconditional support of Lodge 7. Angelo, Casiano, Capperelli and that first administration eventually gave the green light to publish *Lodge 7 Magazine*. We have not rested since, working to maintain the standard they set.

President Catanzara and his administration have elevated the magazine to a level that did not seem possible to hit. Our coverage of Chicago Police Officers is now a much-needed contrast to what the mainstream news media provides—and more journalistically correct.

The current executive board never hesitates to help procure the stories members have come to expect. A special shoutout to First Vice President Michael Mette, Second Vice President Dan

Gorman, Third Vice President Monica Ortiz, Recording Secretary Rob Noceda and Financial Secretary Jim Jakstavich for making sure the members always, always get their due in *Lodge 7 Magazine*.

So many board members have been there to answer our calls. It would be an oversight to not tip the cap to David DiSanti, the chair of the trustees, who has contributed so much to the magazine, along with so many great photos. And to all those committee members, unit reps, watch reps and organizational leaders who provide contributions, thanks so much. News Affairs and Special Functions have also been a great help.

And there are no words – from that first meeting or anywhere else – to appropriately praise what Kathy Spiewak does to get the magazine out each month. Every member probably knows how dedicated and meticulous Kathy is as President Catanzara's executive assistant. Be assured that her brilliance shows up in every issue.

Lastly, your applause please for the magazine's art director, Gina Crotchfelt, and contributing editor Dan Campana.

Dan is native to Chicagoland, a veteran journalist of the highest caliber who has long covered police for several local newspapers and, thankfully is, always keeping an eye out for the great work of Chicago Police Officers. The hundreds of stories he has come up with truly have made *Lodge 7 Magazine* by the members for the members.

As for Gina, thank you for the days, nights, weekends and early mornings you have put in to give members a keepsake they will never forget. Note that you are the reason they shine so brightly in these pages and how much that means to them.

A final thanks to those who matter most. Lodge 7 members have a special quality that we try to find words to describe and explain in every issue. We have come up with some of those words in the past 100 issues.

We will keep working on more and better for the next 100.

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A Legendary Event

Lodge 7 unveils official naming, immortalizing John Dineen with a breathtaking ceremony

■ BY DAN CAMPANA | PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL

Those who know John Dineen could see what the moment meant to him.

Emotion in his eyes. Speechless — almost breathless.

A larger-than-life man who dedicated so much of his life to Chicago Police Officers deserved nothing less than this legacy-defining moment when he saw his name and face unveiled in the ceremony to officially recognize the newly renamed Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7.

True to form, he didn't want the attention even when offered the opportunity.

"I wanted to ask him if he wanted to say anything, and he just kind of basically told me to get lost without saying too many words," said Dineen's son, Chicago Police Sergeant Tim Dineen, who works in the 25th District. "He doesn't say much when it's about him. He was very touched by it. I know that."

In May, Lodge 7 members voted to change the Lodge's name to honor its most renowned charter member and long-time president. Fast forward to this Nov. 15 night when, as part of the monthly general members meeting, the protective gate was lifted in a surprise reveal to Dineen of a lasting tribute to him.

A mural of photos of Dineen fills two windows and two glass door frames, his images appearing on scale with a photo of the City's iconic skyline that spans the Lodge's courtyard entryway. Reminiscent of details you'd see on a sports hall-of-fame plaque, Dineen's key moments are listed and are no less impres-

sive in 2023 than they were when he accomplished them.

Perhaps most notable remains the two years when he served simultaneously as Chicago and National FOP president. The Lodge added to this tribute by posting additional photos of Dineen with members from the past 40-plus years on walls inside the FOP Hall.

"Mission accomplished is all I can say," Lodge 7 President John Catanzara emphasized as he reflected on the ceremony.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



John Dineen watches as the gate is opened to unveil the doors showing images of him and the name "Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7."



As the unveiling culminates, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara, left, moves to give John Dineen a congratulatory hug.

A LEGENDARY EVENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

“He just stopped and was staring at the windows. Literally, his breath was taken away in a good way. He was speechless, which was a little shocking to me.”

A moment this important drew the biggest names in the FOP — a true sign of respect for Dineen’s game-changing career. Among those attending were National FOP President Pat Yoes, Second Vice President John Hoyt, National Secretary Jimmy Holderfield and Illinois FOP National Trustee Rocky Nowaczyk, as well as Illinois State Lodge President Chris Southwood; they made the trip to Chicago for an event that was rare in more than one way: Fewer than a dozen Lodges around the country have been renamed in honor of a national president, and it happened with the honoree in attendance.

“I was quite impressed to see how this really is a story of his leadership,” Yoes said of what he called a “great event.”

Added Catanzara, “It was a perfect night.”

The man behind the name

So what does it take to get a Lodge named after you? You change lives.

Dineen was unmistakably focused on members in an era when they worked under conditions that would be unrecognizable to today’s officers. Dineen set out to improve things and never accepted rejection as a reason to stop working toward a goal.

“No matter who he dealt with ... if they told him no, he went and figured out how to get it done another way. They just kept working until they pounded it out,” explained Tim Dineen, who has been on the job himself for 25 years and is now a sergeant in 025.

Determination, at the very least, is what led Dineen to serve as Lodge 7 president from 1972 to 1993, a stretch that included his two years as National FOP president from 1979 to 1981. Dineen stepped down from the national presidency to focus on securing the first contract in Chicago, one that still has impact in Chicago and has garnered benefits for police officers across the country.

Holderfield once asked Dineen about the dual role, which Dineen acknowledged was “taxing” but said “his brothers and sisters in Chicago needed” him there with them.

“I’ve always cherished that thought,” Holderfield explained. “He’s always been kind and generous to me with his words of wisdom. We hit it off right off the bat. I was always impressed by the fact he was only a one-term national president by his own choosing.”

Putting all of his attention on Chicago for its maiden collective bargaining voyage in the early 1980s created a seismic shift in officer benefits, salary structure and job protections that has resonated for four decades.

“He sacrificed a lot. He focused on the opportunity in front of him to really lay a foundation that was going to mean something,” Catanzara said. “And thank God he did.”



From left, Illinois State Lodge President Chris Southwood, Lodge 7 Trustee Ron Shogren, Illinois National Trustee Rocky Nowaczyk, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara, National FOP President Pat Yoes, Joe, National Secretary Jimmy Holderfield and National Second Vice President John Hoyt.

One of the photos now displayed at the re-named Lodge 7 is of Dineen with then-Governor James Thompson as he signed into law the FOP's right to collective bargaining.

"I think that's just a quintessential picture that really matters and really speaks volumes on what his legacy is," Catanzara noted.

Being member-first meant Dineen's work on that contract would benefit future officers for years, including Tim and Tim's nephew, who is also on the job.

"Whenever we did talk about a contract or something like that, [my dad] would kind of bring up that [the 1980 contract] is where it started, this is what we got," Tim shared.

Although being a negotiator fighting for the next contract would likely bring Dineen the most attention, he was known among the rank and file for always being there for officers on the street no matter the time of day or day of the week, not to mention being an enduring FOP champion.

"I think that his hallmark is the fact that he's always encouraged younger members, younger officers, to be involved and stay involved and take leadership positions," Holderfield shared. "Probably the best thing is, he encouraged me. I was a young buck at the time, and he certainly encouraged me to be involved at the national level."



The life and accomplishments of John Dineen are displayed on the doors leading into the Chicago FOP Hall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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Lodge 7 President John Catanzara, left, shows John Dineen some of the photos of him that have been posted inside the FOP Hall that are part of the tribute.

A LEGENDARY EVENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

Appreciating a legend

With Dineen's name now immortalized on West Washington Street, there is always the question of what it will represent in the years to come. Those reflecting on Dineen's importance stress the fact that this generation of officers — and those who will wear the badge in the future — must know about the trailblazers such as Dineen who reshaped policing.

“Most people today have no concept of the struggles people like John had and the impact they had so none of us would have to struggle moving forward,” Yoes said. “The job protections we have today, the professionalism we have today, the training, the safety and the pay, all of that — John played a huge part in that.”

Like so many National FOP leaders, Yoes recalls the first time he crossed paths with Dineen and how he has influenced nearly every president and executive board member who has followed him.

“The things that are normal for us in today's policing ... we got there on the backs of people like John Dineen,” Yoes added.

Hoyt paints a similar picture.

“I don't think my quality of life would be anywhere close to where it is if it weren't for John and guys like him,” Hoyt offered.

That's a point Tim Dineen emphasizes with the officers he oversees: that someone fought the good fight to give them what they have today.

“The new [officers] don't quite get it. I tried to tell the younger guys, ‘Do you know when you piss me off? You're not in the 5th District tomorrow. That's because there's a contract. ... Before, they would just ship you out, no big deal,’” Dineen said. “And the money you're making? [The contract] is why you're making what you're making.”

The enduring tribute that now greets visitors to Lodge 7 provides a constant reminder of Dineen's legacy of selflessness, a legacy that came alive for the first time during the unveiling ceremony. A shrine of sorts that gave the man himself a need to pause, reflect and, although he'd probably deny it, shed a silent, pride-filled tear or two.

“What a great job that Lodge 7 did,” Hoyt confirmed. “It was really classy, really well done.”

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Things go better with COLA

Lodge 7 makes all the plays necessary with the State Legislature to ensure members will never have to worry about their cost-of-living adjustments

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Members passing by Lodge 7 headquarters in early November might have sensed it was like rolling through Wrigleyville on any given summer day. Perhaps they thought it was a bit of a mirage waving in the wind. But damn if it didn't feel like that unmistakable flag had been raised above the building.

After a long, long fight that truly went to extra innings, Lodge 7's lobbying efforts and relentless influence, led by Political Director Mike Cosentino and bolstered by the presence of President John Catanzara, secured an unprecedented cost-of-living adjustment for members. The passing of the renowned COLA bill ensures that all retired Chicago Police Officers get a 3 percent annual cost-of-living increase, regardless of whether they were born before or after Jan. 1, 1966.

"At the end of a game at Wrigley Field, you see if they put up that flag," comments Dave Sullivan, Lodge 7's longtime lobbyist, whose expertise and connections in Springfield helped legislators finally step up to the plate on this one. "The game wasn't over until it was over, but I was confident we were going to get the W."

Even though the State Legislature didn't pass this bill during the spring session this year – as the Lodge had expected – and even though it was the last item called during the fall session, Lodge 7 still hit it out of the park on this bill. The long-term virtues that came with members getting the money they deserve were not lost on any of the players.

And those benefits could be seen behind closed chambers doors when the bill passed. After all was said and won, Illinois Speaker of the House Emanuel Chris Welch and Senate President Don Harmon greeted Catanzara with a high-five, which is historic in itself.

"Oh, yeah, it's one of the biggest wins for the Lodge in a long time," notes Cos, who practically took up residence in Springfield during the fall session. "I mean, it's a big, big win."

So big that the House voted 94-8 to approve the bill. And the vote in the Illinois Senate was unanimous.

The victory also eliminates that horribly disrespectful requirement for Chicago police to go to the State Legislature every five years to pass new legislation to give the COLA to every officer 55 and older. And it rights the wrong by the previous Chicago mayor, who would not support any update in the COLA for CPD even though it was given to CFD.

Talk about a defund-the-police travesty. Cosentino details what had transpired.

"It used to be every five years that we would have to go back to the legislature, and they would change the birthdate to cover everybody who turned 55," Cosentino begins. "Three years ago, there was a bill, and us and firefighters were on it. Then the legislature said, 'Oh, the only way this is

going to pass is if you take police off of it.' So they wouldn't give us the new birthdate."

As a result, for three years, members who had been paying into the automatic COLA increase fund since 1967 with half a percent out of each paycheck would not get an increase before turning 55. There were officers who actually passed away after turning 55 their entire careers and never actually received it.

But with the new COLA bill, when Chicago Police Officers turn 55, they will automatically get a 3 percent COLA every year on their pension. Before the bill, the only raise they would have received was 1.5 percent when turning 60.

Based on past experiences, it's not hard to imagine how Lodge 7 reacted when the bill was not called for a vote during the spring session. Sullivan used the word "amusing" to capture the need to maintain a sense of reality about how politics works in Springfield.

Catanzara has been on record since then assuring members that he was holding legislators accountable to keep their promise that the bill would get done. So patience needed to be the virtue.

"When you've been around long enough, you get a good sense of if something is not going to turn out the way you're hoping," Sullivan shares. "I never got that sense. I knew the speaker and the president were being legit with us."

The May delay really resulted from the change at City Hall. Brandon Johnson took office on May 15, and nobody knew at that point what to expect. Ultimately, Cosentino said, the Lodge would be pleasantly surprised by Johnson's input to getting the bill done.

But when the spring session ended the last week of May, the Lodge realized the need to be put on hold.

"We didn't feel really good about being on hold, but people gave us their word that it would get done in the fall," Cosentino adds. "All relationships are built on trust, and because we were working on our relationships in Springfield, this turned out to be the course of action."

During the summer, Lodge 7 took on a door-to-door campaign to meet with as many legislators as possible to make sure the votes were there to pass the bill in the fall. If the bill would pass in the House, the Senate was ready to follow that lead.

Cosentino recounts how they started by speaking with members of the Black Caucus in the House. There were fences to mend there, and it was going to take some time and effort.

So Lodge 7 worked the phones to speak with reps in the caucus. They went to committee meetings. They had conversations in the hallways that led to meetings in reps' offices. Those meetings led to dinner invitations.

And at the end of many long days, one of the chief spon-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

sors of the bill turned out to be Rep. Justin Slaughter, one of the leaders of the Black Caucus.

Getting Speaker Welch on board turned out to be the next step. Fran Hurley, who represents so many Lodge 7 members who live in Beverly and Mount Greenwood, carried a lot of water on that move. Rep. Stephanie Kifowit from the Aurora area also strongly advocated for the bill with the leadership.

“They actually went to leadership on both sides, Republican and Democrats, and said, ‘We need this. We need to get this on the board,’” Cosentino recalls. “That’s when leadership said, ‘Come on in, let’s talk.’”

That’s when Robert Martwick, who represents the City’s northwest side, came on board as the sponsor in the Senate. Senator Bill Cunningham, also from the Beverly-Mount Greenwood area, joined Martwick in advocating for the bill with Harmon.

By the end of the summer, Lodge 7 knew it had more than 80 votes in the House and anticipated unanimous support in the Senate.

“And then the speaker’s office advised us, ‘I promise you it’s going to get called,’” Cosentino reports. “So we went to Senate President Harmon, who said, ‘If it gets out of the House, it’s going for a vote.’”

Sullivan marveled at how many conversations Cosentino had legislators, which that led to generating so much support for the bill. He also noted that Catanzara being welcomed into meetings with the speaker and Senate president was unprecedented for an FOP president.

He also surmised that legislators realized that if they wanted to show support for Chicago Police Officers, the best way that they could do it was to vote yes on the bill.

But as the bottom of the ninth loomed on the veto session, Lodge 7’s heart still raced. Welch apparently knew that the entire House wanted to show its support for the COLA bill, so it turned out to be a way to hold reps there until all business was done.

Then, the call for the COLA bill came. It was the real thing this time.

“The speaker and the president both assured us that this is going to be called, and we were very confident in a roll call that it was going to pass,” Sullivan confirms. “It was going to be done before the

last out of the night game. And it was.”

Nothing more to say but, “Hey, hey.”

And fly the W.



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Basement conversion. When you want to stretch your living space, a basement conversion is a good place to start. Experts in the remodeling trade say

you'll likely spend about \$57,500 to convert an existing 15x25-foot unfinished basement space into a finished rec room with a TV.

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Return on investment: 86 percent

Kitchen upgrade. Remodel your kitchen for better function and updated looks. A \$45,000 budget to upgrade includes new energy-efficient appliances, laminate countertops, sheet vinyl flooring, and cabinetry refacing with veneer and new hardware. Add a new sink and faucet, and repaint the walls and ceiling for a totally satisfying remake.

Return on investment: 67 percent

Bathroom renovation. Remodelers say you'll pay about \$35,000 to tear out and replace an old bathroom.

Return on investment: 71 percent

Wood windows. For about \$48,000 you can replace 27 windows with new insulated wood windows featuring factory-painted, metal-clad exterior frames and natural wood interior frames; argon-filled, low-emissivity (low-E) glass; and tilt-in sashes for washing.

Return on investment: 63 percent

Fiberglass front door. The typical cost of this improvement is \$3,500 and includes a door with a three-panel window, better-quality locking handle set and dead bolt, plus new exterior and interior trim painted to match the existing trim.

Return on investment: 60 percent

Fire feature. You can expect to spend about \$9,000 to install a dry stacked-stone firepit with a gas burner and wrap it with a flagstone patio that's about 10 feet in diameter.

Return on investment: 56 percent

In-ground pool. You can install an 18x36-foot pool with a depth ranging from three to seven feet, a standard filtration system and a wide concrete deck for about \$90,000.

Return on investment: 56 percent

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Getting in the holiday spirit at 017

Officers respond with warm thoughts for students

When students who attend a school serving the economically disadvantaged in Irving Park needed coats, hats, gloves and scarves for the winter, members in the 17th District answered the call.

Officers donated coats and other items to keep students warm. And with the help of a donation from Fitore Uniforms, they were able to go shopping to buy more winter clothing for students

at CICS Irving Park, a public charter school in the Irving Park neighborhood serving 511 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

CICS Irving Park is part of Distinctive Schools, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and accelerating the work of charter schools serving kids from traditionally underserved backgrounds.



A holiday feast for seniors

On Nov. 17, the 17th District Senior Subcommittee holiday party was held at La Villa Restaurant. The subcommittee, which is part of the district's CAPS office, works all year round to serve local seniors and bring smiles to their faces.



Choosing the Right Post-Op Care



SHANNON MILLER
PT, DPT
IMPACT PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS RECOVERY - LAKEVIEW

Having a physically demanding job as a first responder can lead to injuries that require surgical intervention. The time after a surgery and prior to returning to work can include many physical and mental challenges. Receiving post-operative physical therapy after a surgery will assist in expediting the healing process and maximizing one's potential to recover.

Physical therapists can help by improving blood flow, reducing swelling, regaining range of motion, and increasing strength in a progressive and safe manner.

and have also invested in state-of-the-art equipment to better serve our patients and facilitate the quickest return possible to their jobs and day-to-day activities! One specialized piece of equipment offered at our South Loop loca-



tion is the zero-gravity treadmill that can help individuals return to walking and running faster. Zero gravity treadmills use an air pressure chamber system to un-weight your lower body. By decreasing the load through your lower body, you can return to weightbearing activities sooner than using a normal treadmill. By resuming more upright and functional activities quicker after surgery, you can help to decrease muscle atrophy and improve cardiovascular fitness, which ultimately will lead to improved results.

Post-operative care can include many uncertainties and difficult decisions; choosing the right physical therapy clinic shouldn't have to be one of them. Even if your surgical office recommends using their in-house physical therapy, with direct access, you have the option of choosing where you want to go – and in most cases – you don't need a script to see us!

Whether you're scheduled for a total joint replacement, ligament or tendon repair, fracture, or reconstruction surgery, our experts at IMPACT Physical Therapy & Sports Recovery will help you regain your strength and full mobility. If you have a surgery scheduled on your calendar, make sure to contact us to have your post-op rehab appointment also scheduled ahead of time. Call us at 833-299-4672 or visit www.ImpactPhysicalTherapy.com.



At IMPACT Physical Therapy & Sports Recovery, we pride ourselves in providing rehabilitation programs that are individualized, progressive, and effective. It is important that each and every patient is able to heal, restore mobility/strength, and have confidence in returning to work without fear of re-injury.

After surgery, wounds can take up to 4-6 weeks to heal. In addition to that, it can take 4-6 weeks to make actual strength gains/hypertrophy of your muscles. This is a crucial part of post-operative rehab especially when returning to a physically demanding job. Doing too little or too much can make a big difference during the acute healing phase of rehab as everyone's condition is unique. Physical therapists will assist in guiding you through this process.

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\$349,000

Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?

-Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you
what Christmas is all about.
-Lights, please?
-And there were in the same country
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping
watch over their flock by night.
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came
upon them, and the glory of the Lord
shone round about them. And they
were so afraid. And the angel said unto
them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you
tidings of great joy, which shall be to
all people, for unto you is born this day
in the City of David a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign
unto you: Ye shall find the babe
wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in
a manger.'

And suddenly, there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God
in the highest, and on Earth peace,
goodwill toward men.'

That's what Christmas is all about,
Charlie Brown.

Scene from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
(1965)



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*Exclusions and limitations apply.
¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health-topics/hospitalization.htm>
² Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2022, May 2023

See the Certificates of Insurance for complete details. Hospital Indemnity insurance is underwritten by ACE Property & Casualty Insurance Company. Combined Insurance is a subsidiary of Chubb Ltd. This is a supplement to health insurance and is not a substitute for Major Medical or other minimal essential coverage. Hospital indemnity coverage provides a benefit for covered loss; neither the product name nor benefits payable are intended to provide reimbursement for medical expenses incurred by a covered person or to result in any payment in excess of loss.

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