

February

2015

F.O.P. NEWS

Official Publication of Chicago Lodge No. 7



FOP, Chicago Lodge 7
1412 W. Washington Blvd.

Newsletter Committee:

- Greg Bella, Chairman
- Bill Burns
- Michael Carroll
- Joseph Gentile
- Thomas McKenna
- Glen Popiela
- Reggie Smith



Upcoming Legislative Session

The legislative session that will take place in 2015 might very well turn out to be one of, if not **the**, most critical in the Lodge’s history. The pension crisis that we face will certainly be addressed in multiple venues. First, there will be court decisions downstate that will wind up further defining and impacting the future of the Constitutional protections which guarantee that our retiree benefits cannot be impaired or diminished. We are also well aware that there will be several elected officials who will be arguing against our retirees getting the very pensions that they had religiously paid into over the course of their long careers. Secondly, (and potentially even more significant) the problems we face associated with an unprecedented financial deficit in Illinois will cause further disruption down State and contribute to hamper the Lodge’s efforts as we strive to protect the benefits that were not only earned, but paid for as well.

Our newly hired lobbyist group of Raucci and Sullivan will be present each and every day when those in Springfield are in session. As lobbyists go, Andy Raucci and Dave Sullivan are full time political specialists who are very well known, instantly recognized and highly respected professionals. As our eyes and ears down State, we are looking forward to them bringing the Lodge into heights of exposure and success not witnessed in recent times. As your President, I can assure everyone that we are in continuous communication and I am regularly brought up to speed on issues that impact our Membership.

Locally, we are faced with another pension fight that needs to be addressed and another financial crisis that will become a major bone of contention as talks between the Lodge and the City begin to take place. Nearly every week we hear about the inability of the City to find funding for police hires or to locate the necessary funding to maintain the status quo when it comes to public services in general. Members of the Chicago City Council will be struggling with similar issues that the State Representatives and Senators will be struggling with. Everyone involved will need to find a way to pay what is owed to the pension systems. These systems were borrowed against far too often, went underfunded far too long, and ignored much longer than any other official business that either the State or the City are responsible for overseeing. It is time to make the pension whole. We deserve it and our retirees deserve it.

Reporting Denied Requests For Time Off

Whether you are aware of it or not, one of the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that was added to the Contract this time addresses elected time off. One of the less identified components of the same MOU is; *The Department and the Lodge agree to form a Labor Management Committee for the purpose of establishing a minimum set percentage of Officers who will be given an option for the use of Elective Time.* Why is this important to write about? In order for the Lodge to accomplish the greatest benefit for each and every effected Member, the Lodge needs individuals from “districts” across the City to become either a committee member or at least an associate type of liaison or contributor. The responsibilities of these individuals will be as follows. (1) To put everyone in your unit on notice to copy any/all refusals of elective time. (2) To collect the same copies from the effected Member(s). (3) To ensure that the Lodge receives the related copies of the denials.

All of us know that there is no consistency in being approved or denied for time off. Elective time changes from district to district and from watch to watch. For the first time in Lodge history, we are working towards collecting and analyzing data as an attempt to get the largest amount of Officers off on any given day, in any given district and on any given watch. Talk to any Officer out there and you will hear that the entire elective time approval process has been very selective, unfair and broken. This is our attempt to fix what has never been fixable, but we need everyone’s cooperation to do this.

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President's Report Continued...

That is why we are asking for individual Members to step up and assist us in collecting the refusals and getting them to the Lodge. If you would like to participate, we need to know and it would be best to know sooner than later.

Please submit to us your name, district of assignment and your watch. Once we get participants from a greater number of the districts and watches, we will send out a notice to meet and further discuss the overall process.

Putting Rumors To Bed

Over the course of the past few weeks there have been a multitude of phone calls concerning the ever-so-popular and still quite popular – rumor mill. In order to attempt to put some of them to rest, such as the 10-hour day and the body camera pilot programs, here is what is ACTUALLY going on. The 10-hour day pilot program is presently being evaluated in the 005th District. The pilot is going to be there for one year. After that year, the program's benefits and shortfalls will be examined and evaluated before it is decided to end or be considered for expansion. There are no current plans to move the 10-hour day work schedule to any other district.

After some very last minute back and forth between the Lodge and the Department, the body cameras are being piloted in the 014th District. Presently 30 uniformed Officers on the 3rd Watch are wearing these devices. This pilot program is presently only going to be in the 014th District and no other districts or units are slated to participate in the wearing of body cameras. In order to be 100% honest, the department put out a Department Notice (D15-01) that is titled BODY CAMERA PILOT PROGRAM – PHASE 1, which gives the impression that there will more than likely be a Phase 2 or 3. To be consistent with sharing information with the Membership, as the body camera pilot program expands, as soon as we know, you will know.

Changing Your Address

Generally speaking we all believe that when we take the time to officially change our address with the Department that ends the process of notification. It appears that most Members don't realize that when you notify the Department they notify the Pension Board, but not the Lodge. Right now we have nearly 100 F.O.P. books that were returned. Members are calling the Lodge and telling us that they get the Newsletters, but they didn't get the ballots for the Contract or ballots to vote in the F.O.P. Elections and now they didn't get their F.O.P. books. For the record, all mailings are sent using the data we have on file for each and every member. The printer we use for the Newsletters uses a program through the US Post Office that verifies and checks for forwarding orders or changed addresses. That printer changes the information that is incorrect or changed automatically.

All other information we mail, ballots and handbooks, are mailed directly to the address we have on file. This way, Members call the Lodge with the information they never changed and we update or records. In order to correct any problems associated with

Members getting all of the correspondence from the Lodge, you need to get your address changed in our database. Changing your address with the Department does not trickle down to the Lodge office. The Department does not send the F.O.P. your change; therefore it is incumbent upon the Member to contact the Lodge to get our records up to date. So if you had not received ballots or your F.O.P. book, we more than likely have your returned book in our office and we more than likely need you to update us on where you moved to.

Firehouse Subs Benefits Public Safety

In mid-January a call came in from John Long, a Representative from Firehouse Subs, concerning an on-going project that offers financial assistance in the form of grants to public safety organizations such as fire departments and police agencies. They wanted to share with the Membership how much they thank the Chicago Police Department and its Officers for all that they do to protect the community and for saving lives. They are presently inviting all public safety organizations to apply for a grant funding through the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. In 2005, Firehouse Subs created the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment, and educational opportunities to first-responders and public safety organizations. Through the non-profit 501(c) (3), Firehouse Subs has given more than \$12 million to Hometown Heroes in 42 States and Puerto Rico.

They are very excited to offer grant opportunities to the Windy City and with 14 restaurants already open in the Chicago area, they are looking forward to continued growth and opportunities to provide first responders with life-saving tools. If anyone wishes to learn more about the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation please visit FirehouseSubs.com/Foundation. The next grant deadline is March 6, 2015; however they are presently reviewing grants from Chicago now and encourage public safety organizations to apply. Please direct your questions to foundation@firehousesubs.com.

Acceptable Phone Decorum

Ladies and gents, as we are all active participants and stakeholders in the fine organization known as the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge 7 as well as in the historic Chicago Police Department, conduct and decorum have become our middle names. This is why it puzzles me to hear (sorry to say on most days) that Members sometimes call the Lodge and subsequently treat the office staff in less than an acceptable manner. We are not talking about conversations or frustrations that are directed towards the elected Officers or the Lodge Field Representatives. We are speaking about less than civil phone confrontations that occur between Members and Kathy Moore, Doreen Plactha, Pat Suchoki, Lindsey Tinetti, Catherine Manning or Maggie O'Grady. If one would think of your sister, your daughter or even your mother being on the other end of those phone calls, maybe one's demeanor and language would be different.

(Continued on p.3)

President's Report Continued...

Well ladies and gentlemen these women are someone's daughter, someone's sister and some are even someone's mother. None of the ladies ran for office. None of the ladies were elected to represent you. None of the ladies signed on to get treated in the manner that they are sometimes subjected to.

Therefore, if you want to vent or yell, or if you want to swear or show your frustrations, please do so once you are speaking to an Officer or to a Field Representative. The Officers and Field Representatives are the ones who signed on to put up with the regular angst and aggravation of the Membership. We are the ones who are more than willing to put up with the swearing and less than congenial dialogue. So kindly remember the next time you call the Lodge, please hold off on the spewing until one of the Officers or Field Representatives get on the line. Borrowed from the words of George M. Cohan, *our daughters thank you, our sisters thank you, our mothers thank you and I thank you.*

Be Safe and God Bless the Police...

Annual Pre-ACT Exam Offered At The F.O.P. Hall

The best preparation for the ACT Exam is a solid academic high school curriculum. However, in our competitive academic environment, students must also have test "SMARTS." Statistics have shown that the students who have had preparation in testing strategies, practice testing, test format and test instructions, substantially outperform others. The COLLEGE VISIONS STRICTLY STRATEGIES workshop that will be offered at the F.O.P. Hall focuses on these important test strategies and techniques.

By mandate of the State of Illinois Department of Education, all public and private high school juniors will be required to sit for the ACT Exam this April. By attending this workshop and taking a practice ACT Exam, your child will have a week or two to become more prepared in certain areas where they may not have tested as well as they would have liked, prior to the ACT being offered at their particular school. In an effort to prepare the children of "F.O.P., LODGE #7" members for this very important exam, the F.O.P. has invited COLLEGE VISIONS to conduct their workshop for the daughters and sons of F.O.P. members. This workshop will be offered on Sunday, March 1, 2015 from 1300 - 1600 hours and will be held at the F.O.P. Hall, 1412 W. Washington Blvd. This program usually costs \$50.00 or more. The cost for the children of the F.O.P. will only be **\$30.00 per child.**

The presenters of this program are knowledgeable and experienced educators. They have prepared thousands of students in the Chicago area to be "test smart." The Lodge encourages you to involve your child in this program. If your child only picks up one or two items that assist him/her in taking the ACT Exam, it is to his/her advantage. There is limited space available at the F.O.P. Hall, so please complete the application and send it, along with a check or money order for \$30 made payable to College Visions, no later than Friday, February 25, 2015.

College Visions, ACT WORKSHOP, Strictly Strategies

Session Time: Sunday, March 30, 2015 1300 – 1600 hours	Location: Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge No. 7 1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607	Registration Fee: \$30.00
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Please return this registration form and your fee (cash or check payable to College Visions) to Kathy Moore at F.O.P. Lodge No. 7, by Friday, February 25, 2015

Student Name: _____ High School: _____

Member's Name: _____ Star #: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____/City _____/State _____/ZIP _____

Phone: _____/Year In School: _____/Cash: _____/Check: _____

1st Vice President's Report, by Ray Casiano



Our Votes Matter!

Brothers and Sisters, although we may not be able to participate on a job action, we can go out to vote. We need to let our voices be heard this month by casting votes for the candidates of our choice on **Tuesday, February 24, 2015**. If you consider the average household consist of two registered voters, we can quickly multiply our singular vote. Yes, this election can easily become a family affair. We have many issues on the table that that will effect us, which will be addressed by those we elect this month. It is very important that we all get out there, with every registered voter in our household, and vote for the candidates that will best protect our interests in the next City Council. It is time for Officers to turn out in large numbers and demonstrate to those watching that we are a voting block to be reckoned with. **Polls will be open from 6am to 7pm.**

I'm on Target... Is the Department?

Annual Firearms Qualification started on January 20, 2015, which was delayed by the department in order to put together a video. At my qualification, I was surprised to see that the video showed deadly force encounters where the narrator spoke of the Officers performing less than perfectly as displays of captions reading "excessive

force" as well as the end results of what those particular municipalities paid out in damages. Wow! I hope this 14½ minute video is not the department's attempt to mitigate liability in light of current events by showing us this video and calling it training. If so, that is a poor attempt for the department to meet its responsibility to train the rank and file.

As an experienced Firearms Instructor for over 14 years and a weapons instructor for the Marine Corps the time could have been better spent. The development of an up-to-date 15 minute video going over the shooting fundamentals and safety would have been a better investment. Shooting is a deteriorating skill. A video, as I discussed with MLAS on January 22, 2015, covering shooting fundamentals and safety would aid in getting a shooter back on target and prevent possible injuries. But what would I know? I only trained several thousand Officers and helped develop shooting programs for the department.

Medical Grievance Settlements

In last month's newsletter I mentioned that I would report news related to our medical grievance settlements. Last month we were able to settle 18 grievances. I would like to credit this success to late hours in the office working towards reaching reasonable settlements with MLAS, quick

response from our attorneys, and keeping our affected members informed and involved in the process. These were grievances that potentially could have gone to arbitration, costing as much as \$160,000 and no guaranteeing a positive outcome for our members. Instead, now the members had more control of the outcome of their settlement. This may not be the case for all grievances and in those instances we will go to arbitration.

Reaching Out

Our Trustees continue to go out to visit different districts and units. Last month, they went out to some of the watches from 3rd, 4th, 5th, 14th, 16th and 19th districts. We also had Trustees visit Northside and Southside retiree breakfasts.

I am happy to announce that one vacancy on the Board of Trustees has been filled by Police Officer Inez Riley, who took off running and reaching out to our members. She has shown her concern for the members prior to her appointment and continues her dedication to our Lodge and its members. Welcome aboard Inez!

F.O.P. is here to "Serve and Protect" you, so that you can better "Serve and Protect" the citizens of Chicago. God Bless!

2nd Vice President's Report, by Frank DiMaria



The Lodge will be hosting a Vest Safety Day at the Lodge on February 26, 2015 from 0800 until 1700 hrs. The Representatives of the various soft body armor companies will be at the Hall displaying the current models of their products. Officers if you need to replace your old vest or just want to see the most current models stop by the Hall. The soft body armor which we wear on a daily basis is one of the most crucial pieces of uniform equipment we put on when we hit the street that will protect us during a time of danger.

The following are some historical facts regarding the wearing of soft body armor by Chicago Police Officers. The wearing of soft body armor became a reality for Chicago Police Officers in February 1982 when three Chicago Police Officers (James Doyle, William Fahey & Richard O'Brien) were killed in the line of duty within a five (5) day period. These senseless acts of violence enraged and motivated the then sitting Mayor Jane Byrne to begin a fund raising effort from the business and civic community along with private donors. The combined efforts resulted in raising enough funds for the purchase and distribution of soft body armor for all Chicago Police Officers for many years. This act of charity helped bring awareness to the members of the Chicago Police Department of the importance of wearing soft body armor. It would be many years later before it was required for the members of the Department who worked the field to wear soft body armor. Now we fast forward to the future 2014 when the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation also began a program to assist Chicago Police Officers in funding the purchase of new soft body armor and they are also going to attend the F.O.P. Vest Safety to explain how their program works. As always if you have any questions or comments please feel free to email me at fdimaria@chicagofop.org

Financial Secretary's Report, by Kevin Kilmer



Applying for Disability

One of the worst things that can happen to you in law enforcement is to be seriously injured while performing your duties as a police Officer. Additionally, the paperwork and process can be intimidating and confusing. If your injury is serious enough, the procedure for applying for Duty Disability can be very daunting as well. To ease the confusion, I have summarized the process in order to assist you if you are ever in this situation.

First, per our collective bargaining agreement, you are afforded 365 days of paid time off to recover from your injury. Once you make use of these days, you are put into a no-pay status until you have a hearing at the pension board. When you are approaching the "running out of your time," you should fill out a PAR form and medical release form at the Medical Section.

The next step is to contact the Pension Board to set up an appointment to apply for disability. At that time, the affected Officers will be given their medical file and a blank affidavit describing the circumstances of the injury. It is recommended the affected Officer contact the Lodge where we can refer them to an attorney to assist with the completion of the affidavit. Once completed, the affidavit gets turned into the Pension Board and an appointment is made to a physician for evaluation. A decision is then made by the Pension Board after consulting with the Doctor whether the Officer should return to duty or is disabled after examining the individual and reviewing the medical records.

While the Officer is awaiting a decision by the pension board, they are entitled to the same healthcare as an active Officer. Be sure to contact the Benefits and management Office to determine the rate since it will not be deducted from your payroll check since you will no longer be receiving one from the city while on

Disability. The Pension Board then hears from their Doctor and if it is determined the Officer is incapable of returning to work, the Officer is granted 50% of the Officer's salary pending a full hearing before the Board to determine if the Officer will be awarded 75% Duty Disability. If the Doctor feels that the Officer is capable of returning to work, then the Officer receives nothing until the full Board Hearing.

If the Officer is granted Duty Disability, he will receive either 50% or 75% of his salary, exempt from taxes, on the Officer's salary at the time of the award. I will explore some of the pitfalls involved with the Disability process and the various types of Disability you may apply for in next month's article.

Recognition Of A Hero

On January 21, 2014, I had the privilege to attend the Chicago City Council meeting where they honored Captain Edward Kulbida, who was shot in the head and shoulder on October 7, 2014 while attempting to arrest a fugitive in the 007th District. Despite his serious injuries, Captain Kulbida has returned to work, protecting the families of Englewood. On behalf of the entire F.O.P. family, I would like to thank Captain Kulibda for his heroism and service.

Field Training Officer Grievance

After speaking with many F.T.O's, there was great concern that their grievance regarding compensation of multiple recruits was no longer going forward. The good news is I was able to locate the class action grievance filed by my predecessor, Rich Agulian and we should be given an arbitration date in the near future so we may have some clarity with this issue. Hopefully with the help of the outstanding F.T.O. committee, we will have a favorable result to all the effected members. When I have a concrete arbitration date, I will communicate it to the membership.

In Memory of....

Departed Brothers & Sisters

- Thomas J. Loftus
- Patrick D. Murphy
- Bernard F. McDermott
- Anthony T. Finnelly
- Richard E. Dixon
- Rachelle J. Turano
- Jerome Wieczorek
- Gerald W. Levins
- Kevin F. O'Brien
- Joseph C. Bamberger
- John R. Moriarity
- Major Benton (Nov. 2014)

Revised General Meeting Schedule—2015

- February 17, 2015 - 1900 Hours
- March 17, 2015 - Noon
- April 21, 2015 - 1900 Hours
- May 19, 2015 - Noon
- June 16, 2015 - 1900 Hours
- July 2015 & August 2015 - NO MEETINGS — SUMMER BREAK
- September 15, 2015 - Noon
- October 20, 2015 - 1900 Hours
- November 17, 2015 - Noon
- December 15, 2015 - 1900 Hours

Recording Secretary Report, by Greg Bella



F.O.P. Books

If you have not received your handbook stop by the office and pick one up or call so we can verify your address and get one out to you.

Holiday Calendar

The 2015 Holiday Calendar is now available on the F.O.P website and we are working on restoring the smart phone app. The current app problems are in the process of being resolved, but it could take longer if we have to get a new provider. We would much rather take a little longer to get it going, to make sure we get it right. On the topic of technology, one of our main goals this year is to make changes to the F.O.P website to make it more user friendly. We are the largest F.O.P. in the Country and we should have a website that allows us to Stay tuned for our new look.

Change of Address

Keep in mind that when you change your address with the City, they do not notify us of the change. Notifying the Lodge is often overlooked, and it can lead to frustration later down the line. You must call the F.O.P at 312-733-7776 and change your address. While you are calling please be sure to verify your beneficiary information is up to date. There is also a change of address form on page 8 of this Newsletter that you can fill out and return to the Lodge at your convenience.

Seminars

We are in the process of re-writing the Legal Defense Handbook to include the new contract language. We are also working on developing a Grievance Procedure Handbook, which like the Legal Defense Handbook will be an invaluable resource to our members. Once these handbooks are completed, we will have seminars here at the Lodge to educate the membership on the specifics of these two important processes.

Retiree News: The Korshak Appeal

We are still waiting for a ruling from the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit after the arguments on 10 December 2014. Rest assured that as soon a decision comes out we will put it on the website and get the information out to our members. The Korshak reconciliation checks should be out this month for retirees. These checks will be for the six month period ending 30 June 2013. The over payment is something our number cruncher uncovered in the 2007 contract negotiations

Harold Brown and The Retired Chicago Police Association provided the transportation to Federal Court for the December 10th arguments. The F.O.P provided the hall to meet and spread the word to the other retired city workers so that we could pack the court with people whose lives would be affected by the ruling. We worked together with Clint Krislov to put a face on this issue. Everyone should know that the F.O.P and R.C.P.A in addition to individual donations from retirees are what pay Krislov to fight this fight. He relies on money from all of us. To contribute to this worthy campaign please contact Clint Krislov at Krislov &

Associates at (312) 606-0500.

As a direct result of the our field trip to the Federal Building, our fellow retirees from the Municipal and Laborers Pension Funds were able with Clint Krislov to file suit over the reduction in their Cost of Living Adjustments, as prohibited by the Illinois Constitutions "Pension Protection Clause." They had their first hearing in Court January 28th 2015 in front of Judge Rita Novak. If the city wins this case you know they will come after Police and Fireman's COLA. You can track the progress of this case by joining City Workers Past and Present on Facebook. Again if you have talked with Clint Krislov and any of the retiree breakfast or luncheon's you know he relies on donations from us to continue this fight.

Senate Bill 1

S.B 1 is the law that was passed to overhaul the state pension plan. The attorneys who represent state employees, retired teachers and others who are contesting the constitutionality of the law SB. 1 have asked the state Supreme Court for an extra month to file arguments. They need the extra time because of all the amicus briefs filed in support of the state's case. The Supreme Court responded and denied the government's request to allow the amicus briefs stating "in light of the Court's granting the defendants' motion to hear this appeal on an expedited basis at the March 2015 term, all motions for leave to file briefs as amici curiae are DENIED." The plaintiff's motion for n extension of time to file the brief is DENIED AS MOOT. This means the fast track continues. This denial may be an indication of how the court will rule. Hopefully there will be a decision by either May or June.

Election

Election Day is February 24th from 0600-1900. You can go to your polling place and register to vote on the day of the election. To find your polling place go to CookCountyClerk.com and scroll down the left column to find your polling place. Please make sure you entire family votes.

Officer E mail addresses

Dean Angelo	Deanangelo.sr@chicagofop.org	
Greg Bella	Gbella@chicagofop.org	Retirees
John Capparelli	Jcapparelli@chicagofop.org	10 hour day
Keith Carter	Kcarter@chicagofop.org	Grievances
Ray Casiano	Rcasiano@chicagofop.org	Medical
Marlon Harvey	Mharvey@chicagofop.org	Safety
Kevin Kilmer	Kkilmer@chicagofop.org	IOD
Tom McDonagh	Tmcdonagh@chicagofop.org	Legal

As always, you can call (312) 733-7776 for any of the Officers.

Time Due

If you are denied time due make a copy of the slip and give it to your unit/watch rep or send it to the F.O.P. Unit 541. We are gathering data for our meetings with the City. We are meeting with the City to resolve the current problems.

Field Representative Report, by Keith Carter

Overtime Cancelled

It's not even summer time and the Lodge has began to receive calls from Officers on Tact teams about compensation for days off being canceled on holidays. The proper pay or compensation for working on day off holiday is 20 hours of comp time plus 4 hours of pay, or 24 hours of comp time. It is up to the individual Officer to determine whether he/she wants all comp time or the combination of time and money. With regards to the compensation for our members working the sixth and seventh day work week, the payout is as follows: An Officer who is in pay status for six or seven consecutive days within the pay period of Sunday through Saturday will be compensated at the rate of time and one half for work performed on the sixth day and the seventh day. An Officer who performs work on a regular day off which has been cancelled, will receive a minimum of eight hours compensation or compensation at the rate of time and one half times the actual hours worked, whichever is greater. Voluntary schedule changes will be exempt from this provision.

Tuition Reimbursement

For our members who plan on continuing education beyond their undergraduate studies and wish to receive full tuition reimbursement, you must be enrolled in an

accredited program before 01 September 2016. After 01 September 2016 the member will only receive reimbursement of 75% for an "A", and 50% for a "B". The Lodge highly recommends that our members double check when the start of each semester begins. The Department has been denying tuition reimbursement to our members who don't get their paperwork stamped in a timely manner; timeliness being within 30 days of the start of the semester, not 30 days from when your class begins during that particular semester. Please make sure that you hand carry any document that needs to be time stamped to Human Resources and do not depend on police mail getting your paperwork in on time.

A Friendly Reminder

If a member receives a bill from the city for ambulance service please don't get upset. Whether on duty or off, active or retired, our members are entitled to free emergency ambulance transportation to the hospital. Upon receiving the bill, pick up an ambulance wavier form from Human Resources, fill it out and attach copies of the hospital and ambulance service forms. These documents, as with any forms being returned to the department should be hand-carried if possible.

Update

Finally, I would like to finish my report with an update on Officer Samella Ramirez. Many of our members probably know who Officer Ramirez is, but for those of you who don't let me refresh your memory. Officer Ramirez was at one time an O.C.D. unit representative. Most will remember her from the many hours she devoted to the Peer Support group. Officer Ramirez would respond to incidents involving events that befell our Officers or their family members when grief counseling was needed. Marlon Harvey and I paid a visit to Officer Ramirez, who is convalescing after being confronted by an armed offender and shot several times in the face and upper body. Officer Ramirez was very upbeat and talked at length about the support that she has received from her family, her Church family, and her police family. Officer Ramirez expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the flowers, cards and well wishes that she has received since being injured. Samella expressed that she is up to taking visitors and phone calls, for she still has a ways to go before being released to go home. I will provide any and all members who wish to visit or call Samella with her phone number and the address of the rehab center. Please be aware of your surroundings at all times.



Lunch with the Easter Bunny!

Saturday,
March 28th , 2015
Noon

At the F.O.P Hall
1412 W. Washington Blvd.

**CPD v. FBI
Hockey Classic**
Fundraiser for Honor Flight Chicago.
Saturday, February 28, 2015
7:00-10:00PM

The Edge Ice Arena
735 E. Jefferson Street
Bensenville, IL

Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
For more information, or to purchase tickets
visit www.honorflightchicago.org or call (630) 566-0270

Field Representative Report, by Marlon Harvey

Concealed Carry For Retired Officers

Many Officers have made the decision to retire sometime this year 2015. You may be one of them. Officers preparing for retirement may overlook how they will be allowed to carry a weapon after they are no longer employed as an active Police Officer. Then one day well after retirement it hits you. Should a retired law enforcement Officer obtain a Concealed Carry permit? The answer is no. Although, as the Concealed Carry law reads a retired police Officer can obtain one if he/she chooses to do so. However, the guidelines of CCW are more restrictive than the guidelines for carrying as a Retired Law Enforcement Officer. HR 218 The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act allows active and retired police Officers to carry a concealed weapon outside of the home state and into any state in the US. The only exceptions are Aircraft, Federal Buildings, Federal Property and National Parks. Gone are the days when police Officers had to keep a list of states that allowed them to carry when travelling.

Permit holders of CCW can be denied entry or access to several places. Prohibited areas to name a few are parks, schools, hospitals, parades, public transportation, public venues bearing a crowd and buildings occupied by government officials. Most important is that an establishment can deny CCW holders entry by posting the official State of IL Guns Prohibited sign near the entrance. Some states will honor a CCW holder’s home state permit while visiting. However, you are subjected to the visiting states CCW regulations. Whereas HR 218 allows active or retired Officers to carry beyond these restrictions.

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act automatically covers active members by virtue of their sworn office and employment. The active member should be able to produce proper police ID if asked by a governing authority. As for retired Officers there are a few qualifying steps that must be taken. The retired Officer will need to obtain an Illinois Retired Officers Concealed Carry card. It is known mostly as the IROCC card. The IROCC card along with your retiree ID and valid FOID card is sufficient to carry 24 hours a day in any state. The Chicago Police Pension office will assist the retired Officer with matters pertaining to the retirement process however verification of prior law enforcement employment for the IROCC card must come from the “EMPLOYER OF RECORD”. Which in our case would be the Chicago Police Department. You will need to obtain a letter from the Chicago Police Department Office of Human Resources 3510 S. Michigan Ave Chicago IL, 60653. The letter from your employer the Chicago Police Department will have the information needed to show you as a retired member in “Good Standing” along with your service time. The retiree can then send the letter with a completed Illinois Retired Officers Concealed Carry application, which can be located on line from www.irocc.org. The last step is to contact one of the testing sites to set up an appointment for live fire weapon qualification. There is a rare exception to the process. In the instance where an Officer is placed on disability prior to becoming retired. He will need to contact the Chicago Police Pension Office to determine the accumulated period of service while in a disability status. This can be provided to the Officer via a written letter and sent to his/her residence of record. The Officer will then be able to present this letter along with the IROCC application to the Chicago Police Departments Human Resources office. H.R. 218 requires that the Officer have an aggregate of ten years service as a law enforcement Officer. Often times even in such cases the Officer still qualifies for the IROCC card upon changing to retired status. Last year I assisted a retired Officer in this very same circumstance in applying for the IROCC card. We sat down together in the Human Resources Department and went over the IROCC application. FORM 3 of the IROCC application is the page Human Resources will complete for you. Personnel in Human Resources were helpful and provided the retired Officer with the documents he needed to submit along with his application. You can contact the Human Resources Department at (312) 745-5386 to make an appointment. You must renew your IROCC card every year by completing the live fire weapon qualification course.

Address Change Form, Effective Date: _____

Name: _____ Star Number: _____
(Last, First, MI)

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

Home Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

**Return Form To The F.O.P. – Unit 541 or
1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago Illinois 60607, Attn: Doreen**

Field Representative Report, by Thomas McDonagh



Good Deed

On 18 Jan 2015, Officer Wadell Hardy risked his life and climbed out onto Lake Michigan to save an individual who had slipped into the water. Officer Hardy did not hesitate when the Zone 4 dispatcher stated there was a person in the water off of Oak Street Beach and soon climbed down onto the ice to grab hold of the good citizen in distress. Officer Hardy was able to pull the gentleman partially out of the water and held him until members of the Marine Unit arrived on scene to assist.

I met Wadell during my two years working Area One RBT out of the 018th District. Wadell was super friendly and always had a smile on his face. Like all Department members you meet on this job, Wadell went out every day, did his job and did his job well. Wadell was never interested in the spotlight or the glamour, so I thought it would be fitting to give him a “lil” time in the limelight now! With all the negativity that all of us have endured the last several months, it is refreshing to see a hard working, no nonsense Policeman rule the airwaves and print media, even if for only a day. Good stuff my man, you made us all proud!

Appeals

The Department has begun taking the unusual steps of appealing Police Board cases where there was a favorable decision on the Police Officers behalf. Apparently, if the Department hierarchy does not like the decision that the mayor’s handpicked Police Board renders, that decision will be appealed to the Chancery Division. This is not something new from the Department but the frequency as of late is a bit alarming. The appeal process could take upwards of six months and during that time, our members are languishing, not knowing what direction the next curve ball is coming from.

The citizens that we serve and protect need consistency from the

Police and we as Department members should be afforded some consistency from the Department. There is no rhyme or reason for some of these rulings and it would be beneficial to all parties involved to communicate the justification for these appeals. We need to start a dialogue with the City regarding these appeals, and as such we will be meeting with the Superintendent and his people to get a grasp on this new trend.

Desk Sergeant Grievance

As I wrote about last month, I ask that any member who has filed a grievance regarding acting desk sergeant duties, please send me an email. I will send you a questionnaire that will help us gather information about the specific circumstances of your case. Please email me at tmcdonagh@chicagofop.org for a copy.

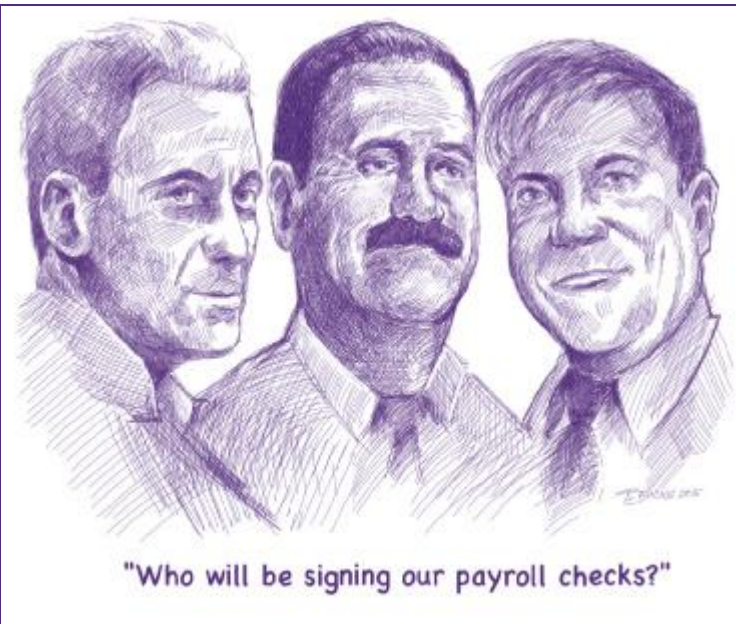
While I am speaking about the topic of grievances... I often get asked by members what exactly does the Lodge do after a grievance has been filed? Are any efforts taken to come to a resolution? It can be a tedious process, and I completely understand where the frustration comes from. Any Officer who files a grievance feels as though they have been wronged, and that is frustrating. To answer this question simply, yes. Field Representatives from the Lodge are in daily communication with the Management and Labor Affairs Section (MLAS) working to find resolutions to these grievances.

If an offer is issued from MLAS, a Representative from the Lodge immediately reaches out to the grievant, and provides insight as to if it is in the best interest of the Officer to accept the offer. Although the process is frustrating in and of itself, rest assured we here at the Lodge are always advocating for our members and here to help you navigate through all the procedural red tape.

Elections

On 24 February 2015, the booths will be open to vote for both the Mayoral and Aldermanic Elections. Please go out and vote for whomever you feel will lead us in the best direction moving forward. This is a very important election in our city. The individuals elected will have a major role in what happens to our pensions going forward. At least if you cast a ballot, you CAN complain about the person you didn’t vote for! For a list of all of the F.O.P. Endorsements, please visit our website at www.chicagofop.org

Speaking of elections, I am appalled at the fact that the Chicago Fire Department Union, Local 2, did not endorse a police Officer running for alderman. John Garrido is in a tight race for Alderman of the 45th Ward. The F.O.P. endorsed two firemen running for Alderman and one would think that first responders would stick together.... I guess that’s just wishful thinking folks! I extremely disappointed in the lack of support from Local 2. I ask that you would consider voting for John Garrido on 24 February 2015.



“Thanks For Your Time”, *Compliments of Rabbi Moshe Wolf*

It was a cold day, one of the coldest that we had, it was a Holiday, it was New years and there we stood in Gold Star Park, all bundled up. There were several hundred of our brother and sisters who came to give honor to our two brothers of NYPD who were murdered in the line of duty for no other reason than the uniform they were wearing. Several of our Officers asked our own Fr. Dan Brandt to put together this Memorial service, to honor the slain Officers and to show our city that we will always be there to "Serve and Protect", because that's who we are, and that's what we stand for. A heartfelt thanks to all who braved the weather and cleared their busy schedules to show their support. I would like to extend a special thanks and appreciation to Fr. Dan Brandt, for an outstanding job. He left no stone unturned, from the Archbishop, to the fly-over by both CPD Helicopters, the Honor Guard, the CFD ladder truck hoisting the U.S. flag, the Emerald Society in their kilts!, to the 511club truck hot chocolate (the 511 Club responds to all police and fire major incidents with hot drinks in winter and cold drinks in summer). Fr. is a class act and he does us proud, we're privileged to have him.(I am still trying to figure out how Fr. Dan stood there for 45 min. without any head protection or a scarf, and he said he wasn't wearing long johns, what a man!). One of the thoughts that came to mind is, in life sometimes one of the most precious gifts we can give each other is our time. It reminded me of the story "Thanks for Your Time"

A young man named Jack learns a most important lesson in life, from his neighbor who lived next door. One night, Jack received a call from his Mom, who shared with him the news that his beloved neighbor, Mr. Clark, had died the night before. Memories instantly flashed through Jack's mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack," his Mother asked, "did you hear me?" Jack replied, "Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago." His mother went on to explain how Mr. Clark had never forgotten him. How he continued to ask how he was doing throughout the years, and reminisce about the many days spent over on his side of the fence. "I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said. "You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Clark stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," his Mom replied. "He's the one who taught me carpentry," Jack said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," As busy as he was, Jack kept his word. He caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Clark's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away. The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom went to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories, Jack stopped suddenly. "What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," Jack said "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was "the thing I value most," Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Clark family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

About two weeks passed since Jack had returned home from the funeral. Upon his return home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox: "Signature required on a package. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Jim Clark" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. "Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to my neighbor and friend Jack Betz. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! -Jim Clark." "The thing that Mr. Clark valued most was... my time, just being there with him" Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked. "I need some time to spend mending some old friendships," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!" And to all in my flock I say, " Thanks For Your Time" On behalf of ALL of your Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe Amen!

Compliments of your Chaplain,
Rabbi Moshe Wolf, 773-463-4780 or
e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com

Crazy For Cricket Benefit

Catherine "Cricket" Obikovitz was recently diagnosed with Stage 3 Colorectal Cancer.

Cricket is an extraordinary person & this is sure to be no ordinary benefit!
Help us ease the cost of her medical expenses, & join us for a night of food, refreshments, raffles & surprises.

Sunday, February 22, 2015
3pm– 9pm @ F.O.P. Hall

For tickets please contact:
Det. Tim Murphy at (773) 410-0123

From Your Chaplain Father Dan Brandt



On New Year’s Day, at the request of Officers who were unable to travel to New York to join grieving brothers and sisters, we hosted a prayer service at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. Several hundred Officers and family members attended and were reminded that—despite some current anti-police sentiments that exist—YOU ARE DOING GOD’S WORK. In fact, some of the neighborhoods you patrol feature little churches on every block. Yet, ironically, you remain the only presence of God some of the good folks living in these areas see each day. Pictures and some very favorable media coverage of the service are available on our website’s “Photo Album” page.

Recently while on Wednesday night rounds in the districts, an Officer in 010 stopped me after a job and shook my hand, saying a simple but heartfelt “Thank you” for the care package he received while serving overseas. His gratitude was in response to the top-quality care packages we send every December to our CPD brothers and sisters serving in Afghanistan and previously in Iraq.

Our endeavor was again a total success this year...thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Even *better* news on that front: our Officers serving in the military overseas have been steadily returning home! We are down to four CPD Officers who are

currently forward-deployed. (This number was almost 50 a few years ago.) Like you, I can’t wait until all are home with their families, and back to work with their CPD family. In the meantime, we gratefully go out of our way to make sure they know they are remembered, prayed for and appreciated.

On Tuesday, 17 FEB at 6:00 p.m., I’ll be celebrating the monthly (every 3rd Tuesday) police/fire Mass at Most Holy Redeemer Parish on 95th Street in Evergreen Park. All are welcome! Ash Wednesday is 18 FEB. In time-honored tradition, department chaplains will distribute blessed ashes at various police facilities throughout the city. Closer to Ash Wednesday, the schedule will be posted in the daily bulletin and on our website.

On Thursday, 19 FEB, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m., the CPD Survivors will host their second annual “Phoenix Rising” event at the F.O.P. Hall. Come support the Survivors, who continue to help Officers involved in critical incidents. Food, beverages, live music, and fun for all. For more information, please visit their website: www.ChicagoPoliceSurvivors.com.

Finally, we still have room at an open discussion on topics that affect all in law enforcement. Come share your thoughts/ideas/experiences with like-minded folks on Friday, 27 FEB, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., at Maple Park Methodist Church (117th and Elizabeth). This is a particularly timely evening, considering the current perception of police by some. Register at www.MayslakeMinistries.org or by calling 630-852-9000. Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis and I will be co-facilitating this evening for our Officers. Please consider taking a couple hours out of your busy schedule to refresh your soul and remind yourself that YOU ARE DOING GOD’S WORK!

Keep safe and warm!

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain
312/738-7588 (office) |
773/550-2369 (cell)



Tax Time!

Active Members paid \$486.00 in union dues that can be claimed on your income tax in 2014.

In accordance with IRS guidelines, the Lodge is required to furnish to each dues paying member the portion of Lodge expenditures during the previous year which was represented as lobbying costs, since this amount would not be considered tax deductible.

The lobbying costs represented about 2.15% of the total expenditures of the Lodge.

Take this article to your taxman when you have your taxes done.



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IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

IF NOT, PLEASE CONTACT THE LODGE.
(FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE)

Vest Safety Day

Representatives from the various soft body armor companies will be at the F.O.P. Hall displaying their latest product models.

If you are in need of updating your current vest, please take advantage of this opportunity and visit the Vest Safety Day. All Officers are welcome!



Thursday
26 February 2015
0800—1700 hours

For more information please contact
Frank DiMaria at fdmaria@chicagofop.org