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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • December 2025



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COVER STORY PAGE 32

Head of State

The Illinois State FOP Lodge is entering a new era with all the pieces in place to represent members better than ever. That includes retired Cook County Sheriff's Sergeant Kevin Farrell taking over as State President. Farrell has been on the State Lodge board for 20 years, including serving in its most important capacity as a member of the legislative committee for 15 of those years. With a team that includes Lodge 7 President John Catanzara as State Lodge first vice president, the excitement and anticipation are at all-time highs.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

MESSAGES FROM LODGE 7

President's Report	Page 5	FOP Labor Report	Page 17
First Vice President's Report.....	Page 8	FOP Legal Report	Page 18
Second Vice President's Report.....	Page 10	Legislative Report	Page 20
Third Vice President's Report.....	Page 12	Deceased Members	Page 22
Recording Secretary's Report.....	Page 13	Retired Members	Page 23
Financial Secretary's Report	Page 14	Compliments of Rabbi Moshe	Page 24
Field Representatives' Reports..	Pages 15 & 16	From your Directing Chaplain	Page 26

INSIDE STORIES



Lodge 7 Magazine Main Number:
312-733-7776

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DECEMBER 2025 ■ VOLUME 11, NO. 12

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Looking Fresh



**JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.**

The shortest presidency in the history of the FOP gracefully, if not mercifully, ended on Dec. 4. It was my term. Hold the applause. It's not exactly what you might think.

On Dec. 1, I became president of the Illinois State FOP Lodge. And at the State Lodge executive board of directors meeting on Dec. 4, a new president was elected. Kevin Farrell, the longtime president of Cook County Sheriff's Lodge 4 and the State Lodge third vice president from 2006 until Dec. 4, now brings a presence you can't help but notice to the front of the organization.

As you can see by the photo on the cover of this issue, Kevin cuts an imposing persona people will listen to. Legislators, members and other public safety unions will listen to him. And he will set the tone for the State Lodge board to listen to all members and lead and act accordingly.

Maybe you read about my leave of absence from the State Lodge board. Now is not the time for details about that or dragging down some of the perps for their Brutus and Cassius behavior.

So coming back to be State Lodge president for three days due to the resignation of Chris Southwood, who led the union for more than 11 years, is, well, surreal is the best word I can think of. Sure, maybe it was a gloomy period for a while. I guess after a gut punch like that, it's almost hard to get excited for the future. But there was a lot of "what's next?" making the rounds. And "where's the leadership going to come from?"

There's still work to be done. There always will be. And that kind of snaps you back to reality. But there is definitely a sense of paying better attention to just everything. Going forward, I will go back to serving as State Lodge first vice president and, as Kevin's wingman, you know we will be generating attention.

Given the circumstances with Chris resigning, we had to call a special election through the board of directors. There was talk for years that another board member, who was a retired state trooper like Chris, was in line to take over as state president.

But nobody is more prepared to lead us than Kevin, whose heart is even bigger than his hands. Because he served as president of Lodge 4 for 20 years, you would be hard-pressed to find a Cook County Sheriff's officer who doesn't know him. And hasn't seen him go to the mat for his members.



Who would want to tangle with him? I'd like to see some legislators or elected officials give it a whirl. Except that Kevin has served on the State Lodge legislative committee for such a long time that they all know him in Springfield. And they all have respect for him.

So nobody can challenge Kevin in an election. Or as a leader. Even if they had the interest, they could never get the votes.

On Nov. 4, we wiped away the fog of the past few months and even years. The new era also serves to let people know everything going on at the state level was nonsense. We had some people at Lodge 7 working with them at the State Lodge to cut off my you-know-whats. But

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President's Report continues on Page 6

those days are now behind us, and the future is looking brighter than ever.

Sometimes you have to play a little hardball for the good of the organization. And I think it all came down when I started asking the previous administration the questions they didn't like.

Now, we are giving members a State Lodge where nobody will be telling the board only what they need to know. Or what he thinks they need to know. Full disclosure will be the way of doing business. No Paul Harvey giving the rest of the story after the fact.

You will no longer have a State Lodge where the president will feel like he has to have control over everything. Kevin has already said that nobody has that good of a memory to stay on top of everything going on in Springfield that affects pensions, working conditions for members and so much more we want to accomplish.

It's not going to be about acting like a control freak. It's not going to be run like organization in which as long you play nice, you're on the good list. And the minute you go off script, they take their balls and go home. So to speak.

We have people who have shown they are ready to step up and contribute to our legislative, lobbying and fundraising efforts to best help our members and their families.

As I noted, I'm going back to being first VP. But you know me, my three days as president didn't pass without making an impact. More



about that to come when the time is right.

There has been a Trump-like conspiracy happening at the State Lodge on many levels and people responsible for it are now being exposed. It's been slowly happening.

Now, we are making a monumental shift. Kevin Farrell is the one to lead us to doing things to help members like we never have before. He will make a big impact. He can't help but do it in a big way.

President's Report: Second Stories

Charged Up

The applause at the general membership meeting on Nov. 19 really tells you everything you need to know about my being charged with improprieties. When I was at the microphone, I said I'm not going to speak about the charges.

I won't add too much more here except to say that I was supposed to leave Oct. 1 in handcuffs. More than two months later, I'm still here.

Nonetheless, it's pretty disheartening and disgusting that a person has subjected this membership to all of this nonsense and distraction. When I said as much at the membership meeting, the room erupted in applause.

I'm not suggesting we're at paranoia DEFCON 1, but we're definitely keeping an eye out for loyalty. A reassessment of loyalty will

be perceived as a bad word, but I'm not talking about blind loyalty. There needs to be a level of trust and respect extended to the leader. It's paramount to make sure that everybody understands.

It's not some blind allegiance kind of perspective to do it or else. But if people are not rowing the boat in the same direction, it becomes a problem and it becomes difficult to get things accomplished fluidly at the Lodge.

To that end, it's a matter of just reassessing. There are changes to be made. We can handle all this within the framework of reestablishing our footing now and getting ready for 2026. There are definitely going to be changes coming in 2026 and 2027. No doubt, our vision team will not look the same. But I think some tweaks are always healthy.

Time to get busy

Speaking of 2026, there's no slowing down for Lodge 7. We have to move quickly with what's on the agenda and the road ahead.

There's some legislation in Springfield that we're certainly going to push for. And I think if the new home for Lodge 7 is going to be a real thing, we certainly have to nail down a location, whether vacant land or a current structure somewhere.

It's also that off-year before an election and before our current contract expires. So there aren't any negotiations, but in the second half of '26, there will be an absolute push to put together the proposals for the subsequent contract.

As I told the membership at the November meeting, I think it is a contract to be focusing on more non-economic issues this time because the City is in such a hole financially. We're never going to see 5 percent increases anytime soon, if maybe ever again.

It is an opportunity to address other things that maybe aren't economic, but are not in the contract language, which are solid protections we have been trying to get in. And even if we ended up in arbi-

tration for the next contract, an arbitrator would be more willing to give us those asks.

We're going to have discussions on the public safety pension crisis, which is getting worse. And because of the waste of money by the City, it has only become exacerbated. Instead of focusing on getting the debt for pensions under control and ahead of schedule, they just keep worrying about spending more money elsewhere. Seems to me you should want to pay your debts first.

I can tell you, even though it's not our lawsuit, there's going to be a major concentration on getting that overtime lawsuit paid. Hopefully, we can get an answer on other things like arbitration for termination finally at the Supreme Court, along with issues related to COVID that have been sitting in the courts will all be put to bed once and for all.

City Hall is facing so many financial issues of its own making that March 2027 can't come fast enough to get rid of this mayor. He was literally trying to tell everybody that this was the bag of crap he was handed. Well, it may be a bag of crap he inherited, but he lit it on fire.

President's Report: Second Stories

So I mean he can sit there and point the finger all he wants, but he made a bad situation even worse with a lot of the decisions he's made.

There are certainly recommendations they ignored from a study, and that's kind of what the aldermen – at least the logical aldermen and some of the illogical ones who apparently woke up from their comas – sided with and shot down the first round of the budget. When you pay for a study of budget-saving issues, and then you just decide to basically throw it in the trash because it doesn't fit your narrative of spending more money, it's ludicrous. This guy is so far out over his skis and just clueless.

There's also a countywide race next year, which will be interesting. Alderman Brendan Reilly will be running for Cook County Board President, and in a perfect world, he finally takes out Toni Preckwinkle, who has been a cancer on this county.

Not only that, but we are looking forward to life without Tim Evans as Cook County Circuit Court Chief Judge. Charlie Beach has taken over, and changes are hopefully coming.

Change is possible as Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke has shown. She made a phenomenal speech at the Cook County Crime Stoppers banquet on Nov. 20 highlighting that this is a historic low for homicide numbers. I introduced her to Carlos Yanez because he wanted to meet her, and I told her I have no problem

standing in front of anybody and saying our members are really not doing anything different than they've been doing this whole time. It's not like they're suddenly enforcing laws they weren't before.

It's the state's attorney's office enforcing charges that never were enforced before. And it has sent the message out to the street that has made a difference in the numbers. The hard work has always been done. It's finally just paying off for the men and women who wear the uniform because of the Cook County state's attorney, and that very well could improve with support coming from a new chief judge who actually understands law and order, as opposed to crime and chaos like Tim Evans created.

I've certainly talked to enough people about him who say nothing but great things. It will be a noticeable step up. No different than when Kim Foxx left and Eileen took over. The difference was night and day.

I don't know that it will be that palpable. I hope so because there are definitely issues within the court system Charlie can reign in. Some judges think they can do what they want, say what they want, act how they want in the courtrooms. Tim Evans refused to address issues, and some changes need to happen as a result. I hope for every member's sake that occurs.

A special holiday greeting

Warm and fuzzy isn't exactly my MO, so my holiday wish won't be that way. Still, this comes from the heart.

Keep your friends close and your family closer.

I know you're thinking it's supposed to be keep your enemies closer. F--- your enemies. Keep your friends closer and your family closer.

It is the holiday season, after all.

It's more poignant than any other time of year. Try to enjoy the holidays and not get so wrapped up in the job or the profession. Especially if you have families. Enjoy these moments. They don't last forever.

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The Meaning of the Season



MICHAEL
METTE

As we close out another year in our great city, December offers us a much needed pause, a moment to step back from the chaos, the long shifts, and the constant weight of the job. It is a season that reminds us of who we are beyond the uniform: fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors. It is a time to reconnect with the people who bring meaning to our lives and strength to our service.

For many of us, the holiday season comes with mixed emotions. The work does not slow down, and in fact, the responsibilities often increase. While others gather at home, we stand watch, protecting traditions we rarely get to fully enjoy ourselves. Yet this is also what makes our profession so uniquely noble. Our service allows families across Chicago to celebrate in peace, and that sacrifice reflects the very spirit of the season: giving without expecting anything in return.

This December, I encourage each of you to intentionally find mo-

ments of rest and connection. Whether it is a quiet night with your family, attending your place of worship, catching up with old friends, or simply taking a breath after a hard shift, these moments matter. They restore us. They remind us why we serve. And they help us carry the load into a new year.

Let us also remember the members of our CPD family who are struggling, who are missing someone at their table, or who are carrying burdens few people see. A phone call, a text, a cup of coffee, or an invitation can make all the difference. No officer should feel alone during the holidays.

As we move into 2026, may this season renew your strength, deepen your faith, and inspire hope. Thank you for your commitment, your sacrifice, and the brotherhood and sisterhood you bring to this profession. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

Wishing you and your families a safe, peaceful, and blessed Christmas season and a healthy, strong, united New Year.

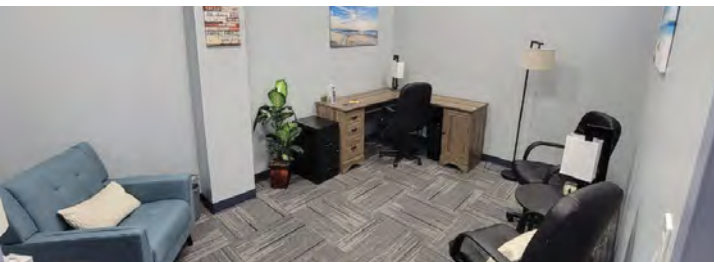
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Discipline Briefs



DAN
GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly general members meetings include examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at binding summary opinion (BSO) 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 examples of relatively simpler CR investigations and recent dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary 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
Late BWC activation	4-day suspension	1-day suspension
Alleged "excessive" force, alleged verbal abuse, no TRR	10-day suspension	2-day suspension for TRR and verbal
Verbal, slam squad car door on arrestee's foot, no BWC	10-day suspension	1-day suspension
Unjustified search of an apartment for weapons, and unjustified take-down	10-day suspension (2x)	Expunged (2x)
Alleged "pursuit" in a covert vehicle	10-day suspension	Expunged
Late BWC activation (aka: alleged fail to "immediately" activate BWC.	3-day suspension	Reprimand
No TSSS card of an erratic driver	1-day suspension	Violation Noted

QUOTE BOARD:

To add context to some of the above listed dispositions, below are just a few notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrator's written awards/decisions.

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:

Late BWC activation

"... they did not have time to immediately activate their BWCs." "S03-14, as noted, provides for an exception to BWC activation. The initial near collision meets the conditions for the policy exception."

"...it is reasonable that [one of the Officers] could not activate his BWC at the moment the vehicle's avoided contact. However, as the police vehicle stopped, he could have put down his snack before exiting and activated his BWC. Instead, he activated his camera after exiting, setting down his coffee and snack and taking a tactical position. This later activation was a violation of CPD rules."

Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

Alleged excessive force; no TRR; verbal abuse (Chaotic scene) (Delay in investigation)

"They [community members] remained on the scene and continued yelling profanities at [the officers] while walking to their vehicles." "Grievant walked closely behind [the complainant] as she entered her vehicle, but her daughter continued arguing with Grievant from the back seat, and he responded by telling her to 'shut the f--- up.'" "The scene continued to become more volatile..."

"In reviewing the BWC footage of this incident it is clear Grievant and other officers at the scene were dealing with a parent and family members who were out of control, screaming and yelling profanities and refusing to obey orders."

"While COPA disapproved of Grievant's conduct, it concedes in its summary report that [the complainant], because she refused to obey commands and her aggressive demeanor, 'may reasonably be described as an active resister.' That being the case, it is difficult to understand COPA's conclusion that Grievant's action in moving [the complainant] back to her vehicle was excessive force."

"..., if in the opinion of COPA [the complainant] was an active resister, then the following force options are authorized based upon General Order G03-02-01:..." "Here, COPA believes Grievant pushed [the complainant] by her shoulder several times back to her car."

"COPA states BWC footage 'clearly' captured Grievant push another upset female family member, who exited [the] vehicle." "The video is anything but clear..." "However, as noted, COPA agrees [the complainant] was an active resister, which she appears to be in the BWC recording as she is aggressive and uncooperative as she refuses to follow repeated commands to return to her vehicle." "That being the case, Grievant per General Order G03-02-01 could have taken her to the ground or even used a taser." "Instead, he either guided or even pushed her back to her car, which under CPD policy was permissible in dealing with an active resister."

Re: no TRR

"As this was an active resister situation, Grievant was obligated to file a TRR, which he had not done because he mistakenly believed he needed to file a TRR only if there was an injury."

Re: Verbal

"Finally, the evidence is convincing that Grievant used inappropriate language during the incident. While it is an accepted practice for an officer, if necessary, to use authoritative, strong language to take command of a situation. There are, however, limits to the language an officer can use. Repeatedly shouting, 'shut the f--- up,' and 'get the f--- out of here' was unprofessional and exceeds permissible language."

"The remark, 'get your f---a-- in the car,' is also a personally derogatory remark that is inappropriate." "Grievant admits he acted unprofessionally and let his emotions get the best of him."

"Accordingly, the Department has not met its burden in showing Grievant used excessive force when moving [the complainant] back to her car, but it has shown through a preponderous of evidence that Grievant failed to file a TRR and that he was verbally abusive by directing profanities and derogatory words at her."

RE: Delay in investigation

"The nearly 3 ½ delay from the time of the incident to when discipline was imposed is substantial and should be considered in mitigation as a 10-day suspension so many years after the fact serves little corrective purpose and serves only as a punitive penalty." It is also relevant that Grievant has taken seriously his actions and has taken multiple training courses to improve his interaction in such stressful situations. An officer who takes responsibility for his misconduct and actively engages in training so not to repeat such actions should be weighed in mitigation of any discipline."

Quote from the 8-page arbitration decision re:

Verbal abuse; “slam” squad car door on arrestee’s foot; BWC (Delay in investigation)

Note: The Lodge thanked the Commander who took time to write a non-concurrence for the accused officer in this case. The Commander, who wishes to remain unnamed, disagreed with COPA’s delayed investigation and submitted the following which was credited by the arbitrator:

“Delay in completing discipline investigations are often one of the first and most frequent complaints from police officers. Even when police officers are exonerated in disciplinary investigations, officers accused of misconduct are burdened with the scrutiny of being under investigation, which cause mental and physical uncertainty while investigations languish. Officer’s often describe an understandable frustration with having their careers put on hold, sometimes for years, while the investigation drafts forward.”

Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:**Alleged unjustified search of an apartment, and unjustified take-down (Delay in investigation)**

“This incident took place on December 24, 2019. COPA received the complaint the same day. COPA then took more than 3 years to interview Grievants, who at that point had forgotten much of the incident and relied on BWC video and reports to recall events.” “COPA rendered its conclusion in January 2024...” “It took COPA six more months to determine that they would not re-open the investigation...”

“Discipline was imposed on January 22, 2025, a more than 5-year delay from the time of the incident.” “This excessive delay did prejudice Grievants, who struggled to recall basic facts of the event when interviewed 3 years later.” “It appears what they recall of the incident came from officer BWCs and reports of the incident.” “The purpose of discipline is to be corrective and here any discipline this many years after the incident would seem to be more punitive.”

“By not honoring the Superintendent’s reasonable request, COPA failed to carry out a full and complete investigation of this incident.” “This failure to conduct a thorough investigation, combined with the excessive delay in imposing discipline and its impact on Grievants’ ability to defend themselves, presents adequate grounds to dismiss this matter.”

Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:**Pursuit with covert vehicle (Exigent circumstances)**

“Grievant, part of a surveillance team, pursued in a covert vehicle an armed and dangerous suspect wanted for several homicides, including a young girl just days before and who nearly ran over another officer moments before the pursuit. CPD General Order G03-03-01 specifically prohibits car pursuits in different types of vehicles, including covert vehicles.”

“This Arbitrator in no way questions the wisdom of prohibiting pursuits in certain vehicles, such as covert vehicles that carry no CPD insignia and are not equipped with emergency lights and sirens. It is COPA’s view that the policy does not explicitly provide any exceptions for the prohibition from engaging in a motor vehicle pursuit. [COPA] therefore applies a strict liability standard in its review. In other words, if an officer pursues an offender in a covert vehicle, regardless of any exigent or mitigating circumstances, the officer has violated CPD policy and is deserving of discipline [according to COPA’s theory].”

“Of course, CPD policies are replete with common-sense exceptions to police policies. These exceptions all have one thing in common: they look to the totality of circumstances.” “CPD rightly recognizes that its policies must be followed by CPD members, but they also cannot be a strait jacket that turns a blind eye to practical real-world realities that may confront an officer.”

“It was only because Grievant was in a covert vehicle that created the violation.

Grievant was faced at that moment with either allowing an extremely reckless and dangerous criminal to escape or to pursue him so he could not commit any future crimes.” “Grievant, with his supervisor’s authorization, continued the pursuit and followed his sergeant’s instructions and continued to call-in with updates of the pursuit.”

“Ultimately, it was these selfless decisions that led Grievant to [the offender], engage in a shooting that risked the Officer’s life and saved a mother and her children trapped in the backseat of their car as it was being highjacked by a dangerous criminal. Grievant’s bravery that day led to his being awarded the Superintendent’s Award of Valor and the Illinois Law Enforcement Medal of Honor, commendations of the highest order that reflect the very best of the Department and its officers.”

Quotes from the 5-page arbitration decision re:**Fail to “immediately” activate BWC (Delay in investigation)**

“In this matter, four accusations against Grievant have been dismissed by COPA with only a failure to timely activate a BWC complaint remaining. This is a first-time BWC offense for Grievant, a young officer who at the time of the incident had no disciplinary history. There is no suggestion Grievant was trying to hide misconduct by failing to timely activate his BWC.”

“Grievant also activated his BWC approximately a minute into the traffic stop vs. failing to activate his BWC at all. These are all factors to be considered in mitigation.”

“The nearly 4-year delay in imposing discipline is also troubling since the Grievant, who has made many dozens if not hundreds of traffic stops since the incident, could not recall this traffic stop from his independent recollection when interviewed by COPA.”

Quotes from the 5-page arbitration decision re:**No TSSS card of an erratic driver (Delay in investigation)**

“Grievant, whose duties as a [xxxxxxx] do not normally involve traffic stops, did not have the necessary paperwork in his possession and he was unaware that he needed to complete a TSS card. Grievant did not even carry a citation book if he wanted to issue a citation that day. The evidence is uncontroverted that Grievant made a lawful traffic stop but did not complete a TSS card afterwards as required by CPD policy. Grievant does not dispute that fact. Accordingly, the Department has met its burden in showing that Grievant violated CPD Rule 6 when he failed to complete a TSS card.”

“It is clear Grievant did not intentionally fail to complete a TSS card, he was simply unaware because as a [xxxxxxx] for the past 10 years that is not part of his regular duties.”

“The grievant chose to make a traffic stop instead of calling for assistance. Once he took that step, Grievant carried the same responsibilities, and duty to comply with all CPD rules and policies, as any officer making a traffic stop on a Chicago street.”

“The fact that Grievant acted to ensure the safety of the driver and the public and did not intentionally violate CPD rules should be considered in mitigation.” “The excessive delay in this matter is also a factor that must be weighed. There was a 5-year delay from the time of the incident [in 2018], to the time Grievant was served with discipline.” “This Arbitrator cannot fathom the corrective value of any discipline for a document completion oversight for a relatively minor traffic stop so many years after the incident...”

Planning For Retirement



MONICA
ORTIZ

The end of the year is approaching quickly, and many officers will retire early next year. The FOP often receives calls from officers planning to retire and who have questions about what they need to do. Officers can go to The Wire on a department computer. The CPD has provided a pre-retirement seminar video to address questions you may have as you prepare for retirement. Below, I've listed information you can find on the Policemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago website, under members, to help you.

Once you determine your retirement date based upon your estimated benefits as of that date, accounting for all lost time. You will need to contact the CPD Personnel Division and complete a Personnel Action Request (PAR) form, also known as the Retirement Submission Receipt. The form must be approved and signed by you and your commanding officer.

How do I apply for my annuity?

1. Approximately 30 days before your retirement date, let us know you plan to retire by sending an email to retirement@chicabf.org or calling 312-744-3891.

2. Provide the following information to the Fund (unless previously provided):

- A printed copy of your Personnel Action Request (PAR) form

(aka the "Retirement Submission Receipt"). The status must be approved, and you and your Commanding Officer must sign the form.

- Documentation of life changes, including certified copies of:

- **marriage certificates**
- **birth certificates**
- **divorce decrees**
- **death certificates**

- Social Security numbers for all dependents who will continue on your healthcare coverage.

- A valid email address.

3. Once the fund receives all the above information, you will receive a prepared retirement application by email. Upon receipt of the application, you will need to sign it, have it notarized, and return it to the Fund as soon as possible.

BEFORE you submit your PAR form to the Department on the CLEAR system, please allow yourself enough time to call the pension board to review any lost time you may have had in your career.

I hope this is helpful. If you have questions, you can contact the Lodge.

God bless you and stay safe.

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Fighting For You Into the New Year



ROB
NOCEDA

Hello, Lodge 7.

I pray this finds you and your family well. The end of the year brings about reflection and assessment. Lodge 7 has been as always diligently and proactively protecting our members' rights, benefits, wages, and well-being.

We have been victorious in many labor disputes with the city. The recent Sig Sauer arbitration is one if the more recent wins the Lodge has fought for to ensure our members were not at a loss for a new weapon they purchased. The arbitrator awarded a \$1,000 reimbursement for our members who had to discontinue use of their P320, along with additional training. The award also kept members in a paid status even if they were unable to purchase a weapon at the deadline. This was a hard-fought victory for our members.

Our continued battle for our members to have arbitration for termination will hopefully be heard in 2026 at the Illinois Supreme

Court. Again, arbitration for termination cases is happening. Staying in a paid status while awaiting their termination hearing looks like it is staying in there as well. The Appellate Court upheld the remain in paid status. All that is really up for debate is public or private arbitration. Our members should be treated like everyone else and have private arbitration. We shall see eventually how this important issue is decided.

Along with many other arbitration victories for discipline, medical, and contractual violations, the Lodge has tirelessly fought for every little or big win for its members. As I have told members before, we are kind of a one-stop shop in many regards. We help with whatever our brothers and sisters need. We will continue that service for all our union members.

Lodge 7 will keep on fighting the good fight for its members in 2026 and beyond. We look forward to it.

On behalf of my wife and children, I send you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. GOD bless you and your families.

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Preserving Your History



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, officers, both active and retired. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Randy and Debbie Everett. They drove in from the western suburbs to meet with me and presented me with a unique shadow box put together by a family relative. This shadow box contained the property of Patrolman Joseph Snyder (unknown star number). Inside was his leather covered sap, a Meerschaum clay pipe with a horse carved on the top, a 5 shot Howard Arms revolver, his night stick, and some buttons from his coat, also an old black and white photo of Joseph standing in front of an unrecognizable business. Their relative Charles only had an oral history of dates and locations regarding Joseph's life and police career. Joseph Snyder was born on Feb. 2, 1856, on a farm in Montreal, Quebec. His family moved to Chicago when he was 8 years old. He became an American citizen and was hired by the Chicago Police Department on April 20, 1886. He married his wife Minnie Wilke on Jan. 30, 1894, on a Tuesday evening, at her parent's home located at 511 S. Union St.

He was assigned to the Maxwell Street precinct (21) and worked

as a "crossing man" at 12th (now Roosevelt Rd) and Halsted Street. When he worked on Sundays, he would attend mass at St. Francis Church on Newberry St. He was also a regular at the horse market every Tuesday. Seeing the horses probably brought back memories of growing up on a farm. He worked there for 19 or so years and then was transferred to Harrison and Halsted streets. He later transferred to the 33rd Precinct located at Foster & Damen until his retirement on March 1, 1922.

Charles reached out to the Pension Fund looking for additional information on Patrolman Joseph Snyder. He received a response and was able to piece together additional information. The pension records were able to clarify the dates of his appointment with the Chicago Police Department and the date of his retirement. He had 35 years, 10 months and 11 days of service. Upon his retirement, Joseph received a yearly pension of \$1,500, or \$125 a month. When Joseph passed on March 20, 1926, his widow received \$600 annually, \$50 a month until her death. The pension papers he received had the word "precinct" crossed out and the word "district" written over that would indicate that the change of precincts to districts occurred around the time of his death.

I could only imagine what Patrolman Joseph Snyder witnessed during his career. Less than three weeks after he was hired, The Haymarket Riot - On May 4, 1886, the most devastating day in Chicago Police Department history begins when a group of anarchists held a demonstration in Haymarket Square. Several officers arrived to disperse the crowd; a bomb was thrown and exploded amid the police. Eight officers died and 59 are wounded as a result of the bombing and ensuing gun battle between the police and anarchists. In 1890 the "Ambulance Service" began with an ambulance stationed at the 1st Precinct located on Harrison Street. A CPD ambulance was simply a horse drawn patrol wagon equipped with a stretcher and bandages. The officers assigned were trained by a doctor in basic medical techniques. They even had LEMART back then! In 1908 the automobile was introduced, and the department became motorized with the introduction of three squad cars. The badges and hat shields changed during his tenure. In 1910 police motorcycles were introduced and boats were staffed to patrol the Chicago River. On Aug. 13, 1913, the department appointed its first female officers as 10 women took the oath of office as Chicago police officers. Patrolman Joseph Snyder may have been part of the Eastland Disaster which occurred on July 24, 1915, when 844 people perished after a charter boat sank on the Chicago River. In 1918, Grace Wilson became the first African American woman to join the force. She is also quite possibly the first Black female officer in United States history.

I couldn't help comparing Patrolman Joseph Snyder's life to many of the current and retired officers that I speak to on a daily basis. I just hope that they maintain a history of their employment, their awards and pictures to be passed on for their relatives to share and enjoy. Stay safe.



COPA Interviews



MICHAEL
COLLINS

Hello again brothers and sisters, both active and retired. It has been brought to my attention by several officers that a few investigators at COPA are not conducting fair and impartial interviews. A few examples are targeting specific officers, not letting the officers review any BWC or refusing to provide any reports to refresh the officer's memory, raising their voices in an intimidating fashion, and berating officers when they did not recall the incident in question. These investigators are clearly looking for RULE 14 violations (making a false report, written or oral). One interview got so heated our FOP attorney had to step in and say this interview is over.

This kind of clear bias is completely unacceptable and has been brought to the attention of the COPA supervisor.

INTERVIEWS – As part of an investigation, COPA conducts interviews of persons with potentially relevant information, including Chicago Police Department members. In addition to conducting all department member interviews expeditiously, objectively, and professionally, COPA will comply with all applicable law and collective bargaining agreement provisions

addressing interview protocols (i.e., the contracts between the City of Chicago and unions representing department members, such as the FOP Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7).

The COPA policy is to conduct a fair and objective investigation without personal bias or subjective decision making. The COPA investigator is also supposed to maintain a respectful and professional tone while interacting with department members, attorneys, and union representatives. It is our duty at the FOP to make sure COPA follows that policy during every investigation.

As working police officers, we know that complaints will be made against us. Unfortunately, that is the climate we live in. All we ask is we get a fair and unbiased investigation/interview once we are notified that allegations have been made. Our FOP attorneys are aware of the issues we brought forth and will be taking action if needed. I ask you all to please maintain professionalism during your interviews and let the Attorneys intervene if they deem it necessary to do so. Please contact me at the FOP if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Be safe!

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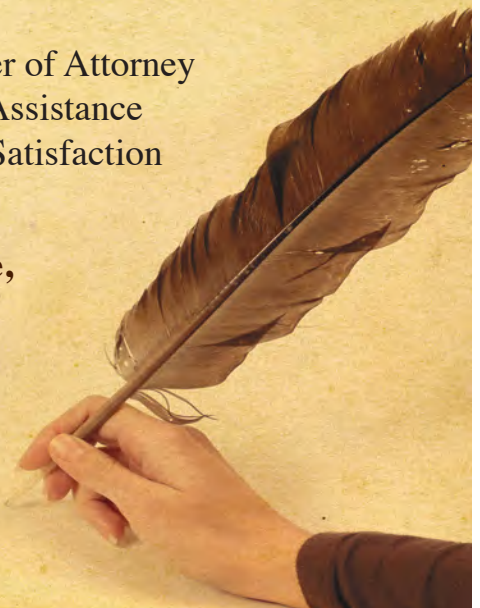
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'Tis the Season



KENYATTA
GAINES

While the holiday season can be filled with joy, family, and celebration, it's usually an emotionally charged time. In our profession, this time of year presents unique challenges. For officers, the holidays don't mean slow down. Calls for service increase – domestic disputes, mental health crises, DUIs – you name it. The calls don't stop. Aside from juggling crazy shifts, add in personal struggles such as divorce, the loss of a partner/friend, or the ache of spending your first holiday without someone you love, and the holidays can become a time of significant emotional strain. Even when you're running on fumes, trying to survive the festive chaos, you don't have to do this alone. It is possible to emerge unburdened, a bit more resilient, and possibly with optimism.

This time of year can feel like a gut punch, and no number of festive decorations or joyful songs can instantly make it better. But there is hope! These strategies can help officers navigate this emotionally complex time:

1. Acknowledge Your Emotions - Don't pretend you're fine. Grief is messy and so is heartbreak.
2. Set Realistic Expectations - The holidays don't have to look the same as they did before. It's OK to skip the awkward family gathering if it's too much. Attend a gathering. Focus on what feels right for you.
3. Create New Traditions - Understand that this holiday season may be different, and that's okay! Start something new, volunteer, take a trip (go somewhere you have never been), find an

activity that makes you smile.

4. Honor What You've Lost - Light a candle, write a letter, or share a memory about your loved one. When you feel like it's your fault, forgive you. Let their spirit be part of your holiday.

5. Focus on Self-Care – Move your body! Go see a funny movie, prioritize healthy eating, get adequate sleep. If you're not comfortable sharing your feelings with someone close, consider professional counseling or a support group.

6. Set Boundaries - Protect your energy and mental health. People may try to help. Participate only in activities that feel manageable.

7. Participate on Your Terms - If a gathering or tradition feels overwhelming, it's OK to say NO!

Don't let the stigma surrounding mental health in law enforcement discourage you from seeking help. Officers often sacrifice personal holiday traditions to ensure the safety of others. You're human, and it's okay to need a lifeline every now and then.

It is so important for leadership to understand the need for PO's mental well-being. Be sure to access department mental health resources. Put CPD to work. Let them care for you! Take advantage of these services. FOP President John Catanzara has equally expressed and cultivated a community of support, rather than stigma. The second floor of Lodge 7 has a space dedicated to officer wellness. Lean into support systems and create little moments of peace. Holiday events foster camaraderie and evoke a sense of community. Choose to let the holidays be a time of reflection, healing, then gratitude. Enjoy your greatest gift – life!

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Another Win For Lodge 7: City Must Pay For Sig Sauer P320 Replacement Weapons



PAT
FIORETTO

As many of you may be aware, since 2018, the department has included the Sig Sauer P320 pistol

as an approved firearm. However, in February 2025, the department's Arsenal Committee recommended that the department remove the Sig Sauer P320 weapon as a prescribed firearm for all sworn police officers, based on apparent safety concerns. Initially, Lodge 7 never took a position one way or another on the validity of reports concerning the safety of the Sig Sauer P320. Upon learning of the events in April 2025, Lodge 7 formally demanded to meet and bargain with the City over

the impact the Department's decision would have on approximately 1,400 officers. It is important to note that up until that point the department had failed to provide Lodge 7 with any formal notice and/or determination on how to proceed.

A large part of Lodge 7's concerns centered around whether the department would indemnify officers if there was an accidental discharge. Urging the department to act swiftly, Lodge 7 offered to work and coordinate with the department to transition away from the Sig Sauer P320. However, Lodge 7 made it clear that officers should not bear any costs associated with the transition. Both sides did meet and talk about the issue. Not surprisingly, the city dragged its feet and refused any proposals made by Lodge 7.

Specifically, at one such meeting, Lodge 7 proposed the following: (1) that bargaining unit members cease using the Sig Sauer P320; (2) that any officer who possessed a secondary weapon, which was not a Sig Sauer P320, be required to use that weapon instead; (3) that the Department pay each officer required to cease using the Sig Sauer P320 the replacement cost of a weapon and accessories up to \$1,000; (4) that any affected officer would be required to qualify on their replacement weapon and be trained on that weapon while on duty; and, finally (5) that any officer who did not have an approved secondary weapon be placed on light duty in pay status until the Officer could obtain and qualify on an approved weapon. The city rejected every proposal.

Accordingly, on May 13, 2025, Lodge 7 requested the parties convene the Dispute Resolution Board proceeding as soon as possible (and also filed a class action grievance).

In the interim, on May 28, 2025, the department informed officers that they had less than two months, or until July 14, 2025, to either purchase a replacement weapon for the Sign Sauer P320 or to demonstrate that they had proof of purchase for an anticipated replacement weapon.

Eventually, on Sept. 18, 2025, the parties reconvened the Dispute Resolution Board, chaired by mutually selected Arbitrator Robert Perkovich. At the hearing, each side presented their respective arguments and filed post-hearings briefs on Oct. 3, 2025. On Oct. 30, 2025, even though the city representative filed a dissent, the board, led by Arbitrator Perkovich, issued a final award.

Essentially, although the arbitrator agreed with the department that it will allow police officers to trade in their Sig Sauer P320 for an alternative, the Sig Sauer P365XL, the arbitrator determined that the cost will be absorbed by the department. Specifically, the arbitrator agreed with Lodge 7's position that for each officer who is required to cease using the Sig Sauer P320, the department will reimburse such officers up to \$1,000 for the replacement weapon, the cost of a holster for the replacement weapon, the cost of magazine carriers, and the cost of magazines. Additionally, the department will be required to provide reimbursement within 30 days after any such officer provides

receipts for these purchases. As the arbitrator explained, "Because replacing the [Sig Sauer] P320 is essential, it seems to us that a final offer that does not provide for an adequate reimbursement of the cost of doing so, which would be the case under the Employer's final offer, is not reasonable."

Next, the arbitrator also agreed with Lodge 7 that affected officers are to qualify on their replacement weapon at a department facility and that any such officer shall receive at least four hours of training on their replacement weapon at no cost to the officer and while on their tour of duty. The arbitrator further agreed with Lodge 7 that without training on paid time, the impacted officers would be required to spend their own time and/or money for such training.

As to the remaining issue presented for resolution, Lodge 7 sought to have those officers who are forced to switch their duty weapon but who have been unable to secure a replacement weapon to remain in paid status until the officer is able to obtain and qualify on a replacement weapon. Here, the arbitrator noted that, to date, since no such officers have been placed in unpaid status, it would be inappropriate for him to address a question "that is not ripe" for resolution. Instead, the arbitrator indicated the Dispute Resolution Board would retain jurisdiction if the situation came up in the future.

The department has yet to comply with the Dispute Resolution Board's final award. Rest assured that if the department fails to comply with all the recommendations in a timely manner, Lodge 7 will move quickly to enforce the award.

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Deeper Dive Into That Breath Test



**TIM
GRACE**

Let's take a deeper dive into last month's article about that fateful moment when you are being ordered to take the administrative breath test after an arrest. It cannot be stressed enough that you should never find yourself in that position. The holidays are upon us and we have much to be thankful for. We have family, you have your health, and you have a great job. However, too much festivities and the failure to recognize that could place you in a very bad position. It could end your career and destroy your family. However, and most importantly, it could place you in jail. It will be said again, do not drink and drive. With the explosion of Lyft and Uber and caring friends, there is no need to risk drinking and

driving. However, you may find yourself in that position and you must follow these rules.

As indicated in last month's article, if you are in custody for driving under the influence of alcohol you will be asked to provide a breath sample or a BAC. The best advice is that you refuse this test. Be polite but respectfully refuse the test. You can't beat the case in the lock-up, wait for court. The unique problem is that as a Chicago Police Officer, the Bureau of Internal Affairs will eventually show up and you will have to give the administrative blow. You will get the direct order and you must provide a sample. If you refuse, you will have violated a very important general order, refusing to follow a direct order. This will not be good and could lead to termination. The Chicago Police Department is a paramilitary organization and is kept in good working order

by the chain of command. You chose to join this organization, and you also chose to follow any and all legal orders. BIA will tell you, and they will tell incorrectly, that the administrative blow cannot be used against you in your criminal case, and they are wrong. If you don't believe me, let's talk about Chicago Police Officer Carey.

Officer Carey case is a very public case that was appealed to the Illinois Appellate Court. *P v. Cary*, 386 Ill. App. 3d 254 (2008). He was off-duty and placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. He refused to provide a breath sample pursuant as he has that right as a civilian under arrest. He essentially invoked his right to remain silent and to not provide any evidence against himself under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Very smart and very reasonable approach when placed in this position. However, BIA arrived on scene and requested that he provide a BAC pursuant to the general orders or his refusal could form the basis for disciplinary action ranging from a reprimand up to termination. The BIA sergeant further told him that any breath test he provides cannot be used against him in a future criminal prosecution. Now where have we heard that from before? Oh yes, Garrity. We have spoken a lot about Garrity before. If you recall, Garrity rights are long time monumental rights that protect public employees. In Garrity the United States Supreme Court held way back in 1967 that an ordered statement given by a supervisor are essentially per se coerced and cannot be used against an employee in a subsequent criminal prosecution. So, logic would follow that a police officer, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, who is ordered to give an administrative BAC should not fear that the results could be used by the state in the criminal trial. Seems like we should be on sound legal footing. However, we are not and BIA is wrong to even suggest it.

In Carey, the officer argued specifically that the BAC was coerced under the threat of an order and if he refused, he could in fact be terminated from his position. The trial judge agreed with him and suppressed the BAC. However, the appellate court reversed and held that the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination only applies to testimonial evidence, meaning what you say. The court specifically stated that the Fifth Amendment only applies to testimonial or communicative evidence and does not apply to physical evidence. That is problematic. So, if BIA was to ask for your DNA, fingerprints, or demand to see your phone, and tells you not to worry as the state cannot use it against you, it would simply not be true. The only protection you have with Garrity rights are what you say. There is no protection with respect to what you give.

So where does that leave you? You find yourself under arrest for a crime and BIA demands a BAC. Let's make it even worse. You are involved in an officer-involved shooting and the state is on scene looking at potential criminal charges for the use of force and BIA shows up and requests the administrative BAC, or DNA or some other form of physical evidence. You must refuse. You must immediately request legal representation and not submit. Any and all evidence you provide them can be used against you except for your statements to BIA after being read your Garrity rights. BIA takes the position that they do not forward the administrative BAC to the state and that is true. However, the state has subpoena power and can lawfully obtain it. The end result is that you need union representation with you in order to make that decision. Invoke counsel, be clear that you are not refusing, but just want to speak with an attorney or union rep first. The better advice is not let yourself be in this position in the first place. Enjoy the holiday season but be smart and use your head.



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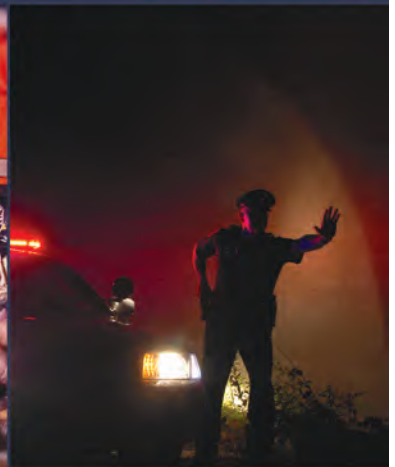
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Veto Session Frenzy



DAVE SULLIVAN

The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up the final week of veto session very early on Halloween morning with a few tricks and a lot of treats.

Highlights: The highest profile issues considered and passed in the final hours of session include:

- **Mass Transit:** A mass transit funding and reform bill, consolidating transit operations and adding \$1.5 billion for public transportation. Most of the funding comes from redirecting sales tax revenue from roads and bridges and redirecting interest revenue from the Road Fund from road Capitol to transit Capitol. As a trade-off, the legislature raised the tolls on the Illinois toll system 45 cents for passenger vehicles and 30% for commercial motor vehicles and ties tolls to the CPI Index.
- **Medical Aid in Dying:** After passing the House in the spring, the Senate took up a concurrence vote to allow end-of-life options for terminally ill individuals.
- **ICE:** Legislation countering ICE activity in Illinois, including a ban on civil immigration arrests near courthouses and allowing punitive damages against law enforcement personnel who conceal their identities. We anticipate lawsuits regarding the civil suits. Local police were protected by qualified immunity in the final legislation.
- **Energy:** Energy reform which adds 3GW of battery storage and clean energy investments, an integrated resource plan, labor standards on battery storage, community solar on 3MW or more, and a pilot for Thermal Energy Networks.
- **Revenue:** The governor's attempt at decoupling Illinois from the recent federal tax changes was approved. This legislation included changing how foreign income is taxed at the state level from GILTI to NCTI.
- Included in the revenue bill was an amendment to expand the film tax credit, and the addition of STAR Bonds.

A few other bills passing both chambers during veto session:

House Bills:

- **HB 576**
 - o The Public Official Safety and Privacy Act is designed to enhance the safety and privacy of public officials in Illinois by restricting the public disclosure of their personal information. The act mandates that governmental agencies and other entities must not publicly post or display a public official's personal information unless the official requests it to be kept private.
- **HB 1836**
 - o The Clean Slate Act amends the Criminal Identification Act in Illinois, focusing on the management and submission of criminal records by state entities. It mandates that policing bodies, the clerk of the circuit court, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and state's attorneys submit criminal arrest, charge, and disposition information to the Illinois State Police within 30 days.
- **HB 2568**
 - o The Equality for Every Family Act amends the Illinois Parentage Act of 2015 to promote inclusivity and equal rights for all children regarding parentage. Key insertions include affirming every child's right to support from their parent(s) regardless of the parents' legal relationship, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Senate Bills:


- **SB 243**
 - o The bill amends the Open Meetings Act in Illinois by introducing several key changes, which allows township public body members to fulfill their training requirements through courses offered by township organizations.

- **SB 618**
 - o Amends the Liquor Control Act of 1934, introducing new definitions and permits, including the designation of "special event retailer" and the creation of a "Class 3 craft distiller" license for producers of up to 100,000 gallons of spirits annually. The bill also establishes a "spirits showcase permit" for craft distillers to transfer spirits for specific events.
- **SB 2111**
 - o See above. Establishes the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transit Innovation, Integration, and Reform in Illinois, which aims to enhance transit access and integration with intercity rail and bus networks outside the Northeast Illinois region.
- **SB 2339**
 - o The bill amends the Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act in Illinois, which establishes employee rights when employers receive notifications from federal agencies or outside vendors about discrepancies in identification documents.

Petition season has closed:


Petitions are filed setting the stage for challenges ahead. Final objections to petitions may be filed through Nov. 11.

There were two last day of filing surprises as U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia and state Rep. Marty Moylan both announced they will not seek re-election and endorsed their chiefs of staff as their successors. There are three statewide elected officials, five Illinois members of Congress, 10 state representatives and five state senators not seeking re-election.



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Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Nick Battista	Retired	94	August 17, 2025
James Wronowski	Retired	78	August 22, 2025
Will Simpson	Retired	96	August 23, 2025
Carolyn Burauer	Retired	82	August 27, 2025
Maureen McKeever	Retired	80	September 7, 2025
Troy Sanford	Retired	85	October 1, 2025
Thomas Pomorski	Retired	84	October 2, 2025
Scott Hubbs	Retired	94	October 6, 2025
Donna Sheahan	Retired	82	October 6, 2025
David A. Hudson Sr.	Retired	87	October 11, 2025
Dennis Lemke	Retired	78	October 12, 2025
Richard Landgraff	Retired	78	October 26, 2025
Sidney E. Coleman	Retired	72	October 26, 2025
Thomas Callaghan	Retired	79	October 28, 2025
Charles Steele	Retired	75	October 28, 2025
Richard H. Holman	Retired	88	October 30, 2025
Gerald Schwartz	Retired	93	October 31, 2025
Achilles Mares	Retired	74	November 4, 2025
Sheila Allen	Active	63	November 9, 2025
Carolyn Hankins	Retired	66	November 9, 2025
Charles D. Marschke	Retired	89	November 10, 2025
Paul Siegfried	Retired	87	November 17, 2025
Christine L. Budz	Retired	74	November 21, 2025
Frank Di Maria	Retired	72	November 23, 2025
Gregory Rudolph	Retired	61	Unknown



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Honoring Retired Members

October 2025

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
German Del Toro	Officer	016	26	Gary Kujawa	Officer	008	26
Vincent Francone Jr.	Officer	010	27	Luis Marin	Officer	051	30
Mary Elle Meuris	Officer	022	22	Jonathan Martinez	Officer	124	22
Lionel Piper	Detective	610	26	Steven Olsen	Officer	010	30
Alejandro Acevedo	Officer	017	20	Ralph Palomino	Detective	610	31
Corrie Bergadon	Officer	016	30	Gerald Sheppard	Officer	171	28
Ward Bond	Officer	009	31	Tianna Woods	Officer	005	29
Kurt Gawrisch	Officer	441	26	Erika Woosley	Officer	009	22
Carlos Guevara	Officer	005	20	Daniel Kaktis	Officer	009	21
Raul Hernandez Jr.	Officer	050	22	Alen Zulfic	Officer	016	11
Michael Hurley	Detective	181	28				

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

South

Second Wednesday of month

@ 10 a.m.

Country House, 5400 W 127th St.,

Alsip, Illinois.

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

Orland Park Law

Enforcement Organization

Third Thursday of month

@ 7:30 p.m.

Orland Park Civic Center

Orland Park

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

CPD Arizona Retiree Monthly

Luncheon

Third Wednesday of each month

11:00 AM at:

Mandarin Super Buffet

1501 W. Bethany Home Road

Phoenix, AZ 85015

For information contact Brian

DuFour, 623-521-6146 email

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

Hellenic American Police

Association Northsiders

Retiree Breakfast

First Monday of month

@10:00 a.m.

Burgundy Restaurant

5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

Hellenic American Police

Association Southsiders

Retiree Breakfast

Second Monday of month

@10:00 a.m.

Valois Cafeteria

1518 E. 53rd St., Chicago

25th District Retirees

1st Wednesday of the Month

Tavern on the Point

6724 N. Northwest Hwy

7 P.M.

Life's Little Struggles



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

As we are about to say goodbye to a year gone by and welcome a new year, let us take a moment to reflect. We had moments that made us laugh, we had moments that made us cry. We were given many challenges and those moments that we thought that "we're done," but here we are and thanks to G-d, we made it!

Did you ever notice as we go through life, we are all faced sometimes with certain trials and struggles? As much as we hate life's challenges, sometimes struggles are necessary. They are the moments in life that help us grow. Let me explain with a short "Moshe parable."

"The Struggle Inside The Cocoon"

There was a wonderful old man who loved nature – animals, spiders, insects. One day, while walking through the woods the nice old man found a cocoon.

Feeling lonely, he decided to take the cocoon home to watch its beautiful transformation from a helpless little cocoon to a beautiful butterfly.

He gently placed the cocoon on his kitchen table and watched over it for days.

Suddenly, on the seventh day, the cocoon started to move. It moved frantically! The old man felt sorry for the little butterfly inside the cocoon. He watched it struggle and struggle and struggle!

Finally, the old man feeling so sorry for the cocooned butterfly

rushed to its aide with a surgical scalpel and gently slit the cocoon, so that the butterfly could emerge.

Just one slice was all it took, and the butterfly broke free from its cocoon only to wilt over in a completely motionless state. The old man did not know what to think.

Had he accidentally killed the little butterfly? No, it was still moving a little bit! Maybe it's sick!

He was dumbfounded, and quite perplexed!

What should I do, he asked? Well, he felt so sorry for the little creature that he decided the best thing he could do for the butterfly was to place it gently back into its cocoon. He did so and placed a drop of honey on it to seal the cocoon, leaving the butterfly to nestle in its natural state. Well, the next day he noticed that the cocoon was moving again. "Wow!" he said. It moved and moved and struggled and struggled.

Finally, the butterfly broke free from its cocoon and stretched its wings out far and wide.

Big time yawn! Its beautiful wings were filled with wonderful colors! It looked around and took off!

It was flying! It was so beautiful! The old man was jumping with joy! Wow!

Go baby, go! And that wonderful butterfly did just that: it flew and flew until it was almost out of the old man's sight.

"What a joy!" he exclaimed.

But then he started to think, "What did I do wrong by trying to

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help that beautiful little butterfly out at first?"

The old man went into town, found the library, and read every book he could on butterflies and cocoons. Finally, the answer appeared.

The butterfly must struggle and struggle while inside the cocoon. That's how it gets its strength. That's just what they are designed to overcome to be strong and beautiful.

Well, needless to say the old man was pleasantly surprised and somewhat relieved. Now he knows the reason why they do what they do.

It was only his perception that made it appear that the butterfly was having a hard time.

Well, from then on, the old man knew that loving something sometimes means to pray for it and cheer it on!

He realized that G-d was wonderful, and that sometimes appearances aren't what they seem to be.

That we are all beautiful butterflies, even though we sometimes have our apparent struggles in life. End.

And now a bit of sagely wisdom, to make you go hmm.

An elderly sage and a soap maker went for a walk together.

The soap maker said, "What good is faith? Look at all the troubles and misery of the world.

Even after years – thousands of years – of teaching about goodness and truth and peace. Still there, after all the prayers and sermons and teachings. If religion is good and true, why should this be?"

The sage said nothing. They continued walking until he noticed a child playing in the gutter.

Then the sage said, "Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean but see the dirt on that youngster. Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the world, over all these years, the child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is, after all!"

The soap maker protested. "But, sage, soap cannot do any good unless it is used!"

"Exactly!" replied the sage. "So it is with prayer, never stop praying."

Hmm.

Before we close, some quick humor from the Moshe Files: "Getting a Physical"

A woman goes to the doctor for her yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basic items.

"How much do you weigh?" she asks. "115," she says. The nurse puts her on the scale. It turns out her weight is 140 lbs.

The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 feet 8 inches," she says. The nurse checks and sees that she only measures 5-foot-5. She then takes the patient's blood pressure and tells the woman it is very high.

"Of course it's high!" she screams. "When I came in here, I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!"...lol

On behalf of ALL the chaplains, best wishes for season's greetings, a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. Thanks for all the Holy work you do daily. May G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. Amen.

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

Check out the Police Chaplains Ministry website:
www.chicagopcm.org

Chaplains website: www.chicagopcm.org
Compliments of your Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf
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Cell: 773-230-7872, text
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*Based on 2024 sales rebate averages





FATHER DAN BRANDT

The season of Advent began on Nov. 30. During this season, many people try to pray more intentionally. So, just a reminder: every Friday at 1 p.m. the Chaplains Section hosts a Bible study/prayer/faith-sharing group at the police academy. 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 a Muslim Jumma service is prayed every Friday at 1 p.m. in room 202 of the academy.

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 Christmas morning Mass at 10 a.m. – note the difference in time for the holiday. More information can be found on the "Police Mass" link at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

For the 16th year in a row, I recently teamed up with FOP to send holiday care packages to our CPD members who are serving abroad in the military reserves. Let us keep in prayer our brothers and sisters (down to 50 in number this year) who still serve, just in a different uniform. In a special way we remember them (and their families who miss them) during the holidays.

Special thanks to the school kids at St. Francis Borgia Parish on the northwest side. They hand-created beautiful and thoughtful cards for the troops, and these will be included in our care packages. I picked up the cards after celebrating a school Mass there a few weeks ago.

Also last month, "Operation Hazelnut" was hosted at Hope Children's Hospital, adjacent to Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn. Thanks to the generosity of Barraco's Pizza, every nurse/staff member, patient



(and their family), and others enjoyed free pizza in this annual outreach aimed to put smiles on faces. Kudos to those who organize and participate in this heartwarming experience! Below you will see some of them.



On Dec. 4, Police Chaplains Ministry hosted about 300 of 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 this annual event possible!

Thanks, also, to so many who made "Bears with Brandt" a great success! Bears vs. Packers is always a must-see matchup, but pair that with hanging out with south side friends and we have a touch-down! Special thanks to the folks at McNally's (11136 S. Western Avenue) for so generously hosting and to Barraco's Pizza for donating the delicious food. Please be sure to patronize these police-friendly businesses.

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more (including some terrific pictures) at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

I close with this beautiful Christmas poem, provided by CopDevotional...

"Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the streets,
Not a person was stirring, 'cept an officer on the beat.
As he quietly patrolled the city with care,
Children and parents slept peacefully there.
The officer was clad in his blues and his vest,
Gun on his hip, always looking his best.
He'd just pulled aside for a quick bite to eat,
When all of the sudden, out on the street,
A bright light appeared from out of nowhere,
He shielded his eyes from the brilliant glare.
'Twas an angel of the Lord at the car's rear,
He smiled and spoke, "Dear Officer, don't fear."

"I've been sent by God with a message for you
Who faithfully serve while wearing the blue.
God wants you to know that He loves you all,
He's pleased with the way you've answered His call.
Protecting and serving, so selfless you've been,
Your bravery and kindness have known no end.

"Even in tragedy, when nights became long,
You've helped countless strangers by just being strong.
God sees your heart, the joy and the pain,
He knows your profession can often bring strain.
So he sent me down here to let you know,
That as you patrol, you are never alone."

"As you protect others, your Father protects you,
His angels go with you, His Spirit does, too.
No bullet's too fast, no bad guy too strong,
I'm sent to make sure that your life will be long.
So fear not the night, and fear not the day,
Fear not the threats that might come your way.
I'm sent to accompany you on your beat,
There's not one moment you're alone on the street."

The officer sat stunned by the love of his God,
He bowed his head, with a tear gave a nod.
As the officer said "Thank you," the angel took flight,

Saying "God's got your back, carry on, and goodnight."

So, no matter what holiday you may or may not have the chance to celebrate this holy time of year, may God bless you and your family and keep you safe! If you're working on Christmas night or New Year's Eve, I may see you those nights with a care package for you and your partner. I'll be traveling through the districts to remind you – especially on holidays – that you're doing God's work!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain

773/550-2369 (cell/text)

dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Police Officer Jacob Schultz #19635 008th District Unit Rep

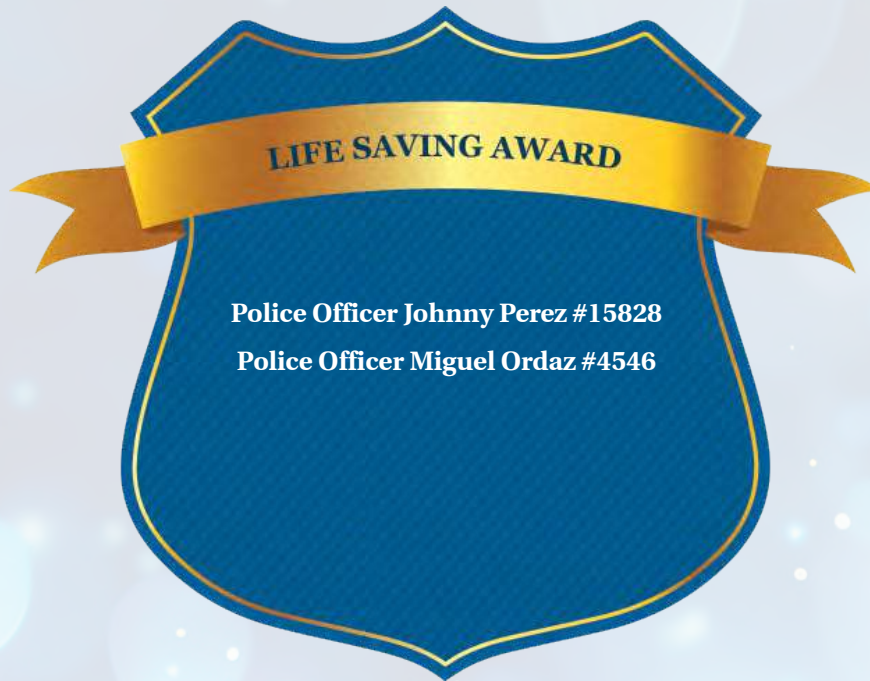


On March 31, 2024, at the location of 3000 W. 63rd St., 008th District officers were alerted by a concerned citizen that an unresponsive male was on a bus stop bench. The officers utilized their LEMART training and assessed the male subject. The officers also relied on their academy training in the Opioid Reversal Program and were able to recognize that the male subject was in a possible opioid overdose. The officers administered their department issued Narcan and the male subject was resurrected from lifelessness. Coincidentally, this was also Easter Sunday. CFD transported the male subject to

Holy Cross Hospital where the officers relocated to complete their paperwork. A name check of the subject revealed that he had a serviceable full extradition warrant for a parole violation. The astute officers waited until the subject was discharged from the hospital to place him into custody, so this did not turn into an ever-dreaded prisoner detail in the hospital.

It is great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Award. Nice pinch!

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Sergeant Steven Yee #817



On March 17, 2024, at the location of 1528 W. Augusta Blvd. while enroute to another call for service, 012th District officers encountered a harrowing scene: an overturned vehicle engulfed in flames. Displaying unparalleled courage, the officers fearlessly confronted the inferno, disregarding their own safety. The officers observed that a passenger was trapped inside the vehicle, so they shattered the window

and pulled the trapped passenger from peril. The victim was transported to an area hospital for observation. These officers' actions exemplified the finest qualities of law enforcement.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 presents these officers with the Life Saving award.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Police Officer Sebastian Rejniak #18111

Police Officer Kyle Beliakoff #12567

Police Officer Bradley Jedlink #6938

Sergeant Scott Pietryla #2381

Nominator: Police Officer Mark Karwatka #19557



On Jan. 14, 2024, at the location of 2749 N. Hampden Ct. 019th District officers were dispatched to a well-being check. Upon arrival, R/Os spoke with the victim's parents who related that their daughter was exhibiting signs of a possible mental health crisis as well as an addiction to alcohol. The parents further related that they spoke with the victim's co-worker who expressed concern for her and that after exchanging text messages with their daughter they believed that she may be at risk and notified 911 to check on her at her apartment. The officers contacted building management for a key and once inside they learned that the victim was gone. The officers notified victim's brother who began searching for her car.

The victim's brother located the victim inside her vehicle unconscious and covered in blood. R/Os relocated to that scene and shattered the window to gain entry and assess the victim. CFD arrived and transported the victim to the hospital with self-inflicted knife wounds to her abdomen, left arm, neck, and chest. The victim was in critical condition and hospital staff related that if she was not located when she was that she would have perished from blood loss and the extreme low temperatures.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago Lodge No. 7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Award.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer Richard Miranda #19245
Police Officer Shannon Torres #6008
Police Officer James Brownridge #13370
Police Officer Kevin Greenwald #17921
Police Officer Washington Mina #18599
Police Officer William E. Moran #15088
Police Officer Jose D. Patino #8944
Police Officer Joseph Pentimone #6054
Police Officer Oscar Ponce #9208
Sergeant Christopher Bell #2625
Sergeant Jason Rose #2158

Nominator: Lieutenant John Poulos #514



On Jan. 22, 2024, a career criminal made the stupid decision to rob the Citibank located at 2001 N. Halsted St. The nominated officers worked in a combined effort to apprehend the offender. The first units that arrived onto the scene provided a description of the wanted offender which was given to the additional responding units. The officers coordinated their efforts to contain this violent offender by setting up a perimeter and saturating the area. The units observed a subject matching the offender's description and formulated a plan to detain him without incident. The bank manager was brought to the scene

for a show up and he positively identified the offender. The offender was placed into custody and both the offender, and the recovered evidence were turned over to the FBI task force. It was learned that this offender was released from federal custody for a separate bank robbery just three days prior to this bank robbery.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award. Nice pinch!



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Solid State

With a new state president and an experienced team in place, the Illinois FOP has plans to go all-out and all-in for members

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Get Kevin Farrell talking about the power of the newly-fabbed Illinois FOP State Lodge and he quickly, eagerly and devotedly brings up Project Blue Life. Newly ordained as the State Lodge President on Dec. 4, Farrell sees the organization that represents nearly 40,000 law enforcement officers in Illinois as being able to get community leaders like clergy, government officials, judges and media to better understand and support the life of the blue through initiatives like Project Blue Life.

State Lodge Trustee Chair Terry Trueblood conceived the initiative that became Project Blue Life to let community leaders experience the shoot/don't shoot, split-second, use-of-force decisions officers face every day. Using scenarios officers train on in simula-

tors, the project has shown so many what it's like to be in coppers' shoes and what the Illinois FOP can achieve when its great minds are thinking alike.

"The more legislators that go through that, I think the better we'll be," declared Farrell, who has taken over State Lodge leadership after serving as third vice president the past 14 years. "I don't know how well it changed their minds and the way they vote, but in the moment it certainly gave them an epiphany. So I'd like to see us do more of that."

Hope, faith and security for FOP members will not just come from who's at the top of the leadership coalition. From the jump, Farrell has been definitive about having an experienced and knowledgeable team in place to achieve the impact and presence. Though at



6-foot-7, Farrell comes with an imposing presence that will be valuable on all fronts for the State Lodge.

On his wing are motivated and dedicated local leaders, including a certain Lodge 7 president who as State Lodge first vice president said he sees big things on the road ahead. Along with the wisdom and relentlessness of Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino, who Farrell praises as being a force in bringing together the State Lodge legislative efforts in Springfield.

And Second Vice President Scott Ward, the State Corrections Lodge 263 president, who notes that the team is in place to serve members more effectively than ever.

"Number one, there's a lot going on and one person can't really get to everywhere you need, specifically when things are going haywire at the capitol," Ward commented. "You don't want to leave anybody out of the equation. And I think having a detailed plan, formulating it properly, involving everybody in it and letting them know what their purpose is the key to our success."

Future state

Well, starting at the top, let's take a bit of a closer look at the new president.

When Farrell came on the job with the Cook County Sheriff's Office in 1992, his friend was president of Lodge 4 and enticed him to join. Immediately, he fell for the camaraderie and fraternalism – still part of the core of what drives Farrell to work on behalf of the Order.

The president later asked him to run for trustee, and Farrell worked his way to become Lodge 4 president in 2006. He has served in that capacity, even after retiring from the job in 2022 and is giving that position up to take over as State Lodge president.

Also, in 2006, he assumed Lodge 4's position on the State Lodge executive board as a trustee. After a few years, he became chair of trustees and then moved up to third vice president in 2011.

Farrell reaches back to his 20 years of experience as a sergeant with the sheriff's office for one of the philosophies he wants to deploy as State Lodge leader.

"As a sergeant, I coached up, trained up some of the finest policemen I've ever met," he explained.

"Now it's time for me to protect them as best I can."

Between the job and the FOP, there's likely very little Farrell hasn't experienced. He said he hopes all FOP reps see him as a collaborator who is willing to work with anybody, provided they are willing to put in the time. He noted how that already describes the new State Lodge board.

Another of his objectives will be to attend as many local Lodge meetings as possible to let members know what the state FOP is up to, let them ask questions and "keep 'em informed." Anticipate seeing him at a Lodge 7 general membership meeting perhaps as early as this month, and as often as possible when the state legislature isn't in session.

Ward observes that he sees the migration to new leadership as a passing of the baton with a propensity for more new ideas. He has seen the way Farrell functions with an acute understanding of the position, experience that could pay direct dividends for members.

"He is a straight shooter. I think there's nothing that's going to be hidden," Ward added. "He's going to tell you up front what he thinks,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34





SOLID STATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

and then from there, it'll be up to the rest of the e-board to just jump up and say, 'Well, you know what about X, Y and Z?' What's best with Kevin is he'll tell you where his mind is at. He's going to be like an open-door policy."

Farrell will have an edge because people are just in awe when he walks into a room.

"When he walks in, everybody's like, 'what the...' because he's so big," Ward added. "And I'm like, 'This is what really will work in your favor when you become president. When you walk into peo-

ple's offices who have not met you yet, you're going to demand their attention.' Hopefully, he continues to captivate them and move us forward in the right direction because obviously he's going to get the attention."

State of mind

Though he didn't render these comments as part of an Illinois FOP mission statement, it could be the foundation of the forthcoming agenda.

"It's the little fights behind the scenes that most of our members don't see, but they benefit from," Farrell stated. "And the reason I'm in it is for member benefits statewide, things that we can do for them that make their job easier and keep 'em safe as best as we can."

Truer words have never been needed in the current age of law enforcement. So from the biggest memberships at Lodge 7, State Corrections Lodge 263 and Illinois Troopers Lodge 41 to the smallest locals, they will all have a voice in the State Lodge going forward, according to Farrell.

"Those are people we can count on and reach out to," he accentuated.

Anticipate more from the State Lodge like Project Blue Life and the "We Are One" coalition flooding legislators with emails, calls and letters to keep them from reducing their pensions, a unifying voice that worked in combatting pension attacks.

"Just that kind of grassroots effort I wish more of our members would get involved in," Farrell encouraged. "It's rewarding and it works when we can mobilize our members. The legislature feels that impact. So the more we do it, I think it will have a positive impact for our members."

The political power of the FOP has been seen in preventing some measures that had been part of the original SAFE-T Act and bills passed to repeal some of its limitations on the police. To continue making the impact and more, the State Lodge has plans to hire a new lobbyist and general counsel, as well as shake up membership on some committees.

Given the current state of the profession, legislation that benefits working conditions for members might very well wind up on the State Lodge agenda. Ideas will come right from the front lines where Ward said he has had great success talking with new officers coming on and asking them exactly what they want to get out of the job.

That could be the product of opportunities like combining lobbying resources from the biggest lodges and dispatching leading initiatives to that first vice president - Lodge 7's John Catanzara - along with Ward and others. Ward likens the FOP leadership depth to having a great pitching staff that can and will rely on its relievers.



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"So I'm feeling really good about the future of the FOP and just getting some new blood in there with some fresh energy and fresh ideas," Ward expounded. "I think Kevin is going to take everybody's opinion the same. That's the Kevin I know right now, and I don't expect that to change."

State of the art

This administration already has compiled serious expertise in working with the state legislature. And working with legislators, which has come from the relationships Farrell, Catanzara, Cosentino and others have cultivated.

Farrell is a paragon, having served on the State Lodge Legislative Committee for approximately 15 years. He was part of the force behind keeping civilian review to discipline officers out of the SAFE-T Act and passing the trailer bills that have helped the Act really address public safety.

"You should have seen it before we got involved. Trespassing was merely a ticket, and we made it a jailable offense again in a trailer bill," Farrell reiterated. "When they finally listened to us on a few subjects, there are other crazy laws that we've thwarted at the pass."

Political action and any other action will come from the motivated and dedicated group of reps with seats at the State Lodge table. They will be there to fight when members' money is put on the table by some group of elected officials or municipalities.

But be sure that this administration has plans to work on members' behalf regarding needs of more than money. Especially for the new members coming on all the time, who have the opportunity to lend their voices and find seats at the table.

"Money's not everything to everybody," Ward submitted. "Most people coming on don't even think about a pension until they're on about five to 10 years. So there are other factors that have to weigh in and we've got to reach out to them to do the best we can for the membership about changing some work conditions, policies and so forth moving forward."

As for making those plans, expect the State Lodge to not just be all talk. Public safety labor organizations sometimes have an issue of discussing passionately an objective but not following through with any action. Or somebody acts individually and winds up not truly speaking for the organization.

"Putting everybody's plans together and focusing together as a team is the key to our success," Ward confirmed. "It's not that we haven't sat down and had discussions before. But we haven't followed through on it as a team."

So make no mistake. The team is in place. And ready to play for the betterment of the State Lodge and especially its members.

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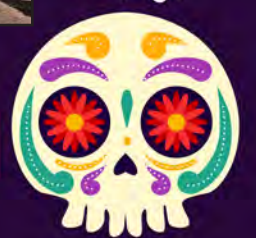
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DIA DE LOS MUERTOS







Coat Drive Success at Douglass Park Field House



■ BY YADHIRA GARCIA

On Dec. 6, 2025, Area 4 Family Liaison Officers, in collaboration with the Helen and Joe Foundation, distributed more than 300 coats to families from Districts 10, 11, and 15. The coats ranged in size from 2T to men's 14, ensuring warmth for children and adults alike. Families also enjoyed warm cocoa to help spread holiday cheer.

The event took place at the Douglass Park Field House, conveniently located for families across all three districts. It was an overwhelming success – every donated item found a home within our community.

We send a heartfelt thank you to the Helen and Joe Foundation and the Area 4 Family Liaison Team for their dedication and generosity in supporting our families this holiday season.



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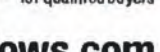
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