



Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • November 2025

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COVER STORY PAGE 33

Dear Friends

For the past few years, Lodge 7 has hosted a Friendsgiving dinner for Gold Star Families. A massive spread of home-cooked delicacies serves up an opportunity to gather during a time when their loss can feel even more painful. But by being together with their Gold Star Family and their Lodge 7 friends, they have a holiday experience that fills that void and fills them up with much-needed smiles.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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October Awards



Top Shot Event



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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Giving the gift of Friendsgiving



JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.

Calls have been coming in for more than a month now asking what time do we eat. OK, not really those exact words, but Gold Star Family members have already reached out about when Lodge 7 will be holding its annual Friendsgiving gathering.

Right now, we are planning the festivities for this year for the weekend before Thanksgiving, just like we have the past four years: Saturday, Nov. 22.

There are very few ways I enjoy serving more than our Friendsgiving. Gold Star Families bring their friends, and I cook a traditional Thanksgiving meal, complete with all the trimmings and some special touches that get whipped up off the top. We usually get 100 to 150 people. And there's almost enough food to even satisfy the governor.

We kind of came up with this event to bring light, laughs and love as a break from the holiday season. Getting our families together around big tables stuffed with stuffing – among other samples of my home cooking – is a way for them to hang out for a night that isn't a memorial or any of the func-

tions from the Department and other police organizations that can be heavy moments.

This event is designed to be more of a lighthearted moment, an opportunity for people to get together before the holiday season starts creeping in on them and the loss is amplified. It's been well received, that's for sure, complete with leftovers that go home with the families.

The term "Friendsgiving" has been around forever, of course, so it was a natural for us when our current Lodge 7 administration really started cooking in 2021. Coming out of the pandemic, we had just put our food trailer on the street to feed our members at work and as they were working difficult details. My love for cooking simmered, and my love for the Gold Star Families continued to flourish.

We have always vowed to never forget our fallen sisters and brothers, and we do so many things to remember. What we sometimes forget is how their loved ones trudge through the holiday season every year, missing a husband or a wife, a son or a daughter, a brother or sister that much more.

So our Friendsgiving has become a way to get the families out of the house during the holidays and enjoy each other's company like, well, like family. It's like hanging out with our relatives, fulfilling our promise to never forget they are still part of our family. It's the full Thanksgiving fare, except for sitting around after eating watching football and having to unbutton the pants.

Not that there isn't enough food to warrant belt-busting. I do roasted and deep-fried turkey. Beef tenderloin, ham, sweet potatoes, vegetable casserole, cornbread casserole, dressing. And my almost-famous White Castle dressing. My sisters do all the desserts. It's a spread. Period.

And also giving to my friends, all the Gold Star Families. We also ask them to bring some guests. That's kind of the point of celebrating with all their family members. Mothers can talk to other mothers; spouses can talk to other spouses. They can all lean on each other and laugh with each other.



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President's Report

Everybody goes through this loss on different levels and different intensities. So I think it's beneficial not just for the immediate family members, but for the secondary family members to meet other secondary family members. I don't want to say it normalizes the loss, but it kind of makes you realize you're not alone.

Great food, great times, no pressure. More laughs than tears, and there's nothing like giving the gift of laughter during the holidays.

And for us, it's a gift of giving back. The Lodge has become a hub for going above and beyond for members and their families, along with the Gold Star Families. Different than it has been in the past.

I mean, the FOP Hall has always been available to people to have their own feasts and fiestas. But as far as the FOP collaborating, assisting and helping to coordinate, that has not always been there when needed. Serving in such a capacity comes with a commitment of personal time that I've said from day one was one of the reasons that motivated me to run for president.

If your plan and your promise is to give the membership more, then that should be with more than just benefits and protections. Give your personal time. I think that is how John Dineen built this Lodge, but it has not always been that way, historically speaking, since the days when John was president.

I've heard enough stories of John trying to be everywhere for this organization. It was a noted brand in those days. And then it got away from being a brand and more of a resume builder.

My feeling is that if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. So I've tried to go back to the days of making it a brand that matters. And it comes with a lot of sacrifice that people don't necessarily see, and some don't appreciate it even when they do see it.

Not that we're here for a pat on the back. I'm doing what I believe is right, and I will continue to serve this way as long as I am in the position to be able to.



President's Report: Second Stories

Standing up to stand-down

Perhaps you caught my appearance on Fox News with anchor Bret Baier talking about the Department's conduct during anti-ICE protests. More importantly, read the letter dated Oct. 6 I posted on the Lodge 7 website and our social media platforms about the Department's handling of the shooting response by the chief of patrol operations on Oct. 4.

As I wrote:

There should never be any confusion over whether a stand-down order was actually given or not when someone is calling 911 for help. That's because that order shouldn't even be on anyone's mind, let alone cross their lips. We just GO! The city of Chicago professes that "sanctity of life" is paramount in its policing strategy. If that is in fact the case, than anyone who feels they can pick winners and losers when help is requested should not have a job any longer.

I go on to state that the Department's spin control of the matter makes us feel that the rest of the law enforcement community is infuriated and others outright ashamed of the profession.

The Lodge 7 board of directors took an extraordinary step to take a vote of no confidence in Chief of Patrol John Hein. My letter also called for his immediate removal from command and that he be stripped of his police powers. The vote was unanimous with the first vice president not voting.

I concluded the letter with:

The men and women of the Chicago Police Department deserve real leadership. That leadership has to have the support of the rank and file. I assure everyone reading this, there is no support for Hein at this point. The longer he is still in command, the further morale will decline.

Our vote of no confidence and all of the above says it all on this matter.



Sticking to our guns

If you switched your service weapon from the Sig Sauer P320 at the direction of the Department and bought a new one, save your receipt. We won the grievance arbitration we filed on the matter, so the City has to compensate those who had to purchase new service weapons after the Department banned the P320 at our urging.

The arbitration confirmed what a U.S. District Court judge wrote in an order: that she agreed with leaders of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7. She stated that officers who have an alternative service weapon that "meets appropriate standards should be required immediately to use that alternative weapon."

As a result, they're going to get reimbursed up to \$1,000. They've already, for the most part, replaced their SIGs. So at this point, for most of them, it's just a matter of getting the reimbursement that they deserve. And they will also receive four hours of training on the clock with their new weapon.

And our grievance arbitration resulted in determining that officers shouldn't be penalized for following general orders if the City doesn't comply with our contract and changes the rules in the middle of the game.

On ICE

With all the reports about ICE agents doing their business in the City, it's worth a few more words beyond what I commented about to Bret Baier on Fox News.

During the veto session in the state legislature during the last week of October, there was law enforcement legislation primarily geared toward screwing ICE agents. So we definitely had language cleanup that excludes local and state law enforcement as a whole. As the veto session was about strike midnight, language was added to House Bill 1512 (Senate Amendment 5) that for the first time codifies qualified immunity at state level as a defense to liability resulting from lawful police actions.

But in relationship to us, it's almost kind of taken a back seat at this point. The Department and the City have made their positions known, and everybody's acting accordingly. ICE knows not to expect cooperation from CPD, short of literally being attacked.

So as far as the migrants are concerned, we're kind of out of the mix. It's a little ridiculous that the lunatics in charge cannot, or refuse to, acknowledge that the undocumented are breaking the law. But said "leaders" such as our ignorant mayor are interfering with law enforcement activities. Whether these migrants have criminal backgrounds or detainer warrants is irrelevant because coming into this country is a crime.

It is not a civil violation. It is part of the criminal code. I don't know if these politicians are that dumb or they think the rest of the public is that naive that they can just tell them bullshit and they're going to believe it because it furthers their narrative.

You can have an argument all day long about whether it is a crime worthy of excessive efforts and the physical nature and then tear gas. But don't sit there and pretend like it's not a crime.

Title 8 of the Federal Regulations Code is very clear. Coming into this country illegally is a federal crime. You could say it's a victimless crime, with which I disagree. I mean, when you're giving benefits and jobs are being taken away, there is a negative effect on all of us, including reallocated tax dollars.

And they just look the other way. They think it's just OK because, well, I don't know why. It's disgusting.

It's not just about whether there are detainers. If there are undocumented people in the prison systems that came here illegally, you should notify ICE and let them take 'em out of the prisons and send them back to their country. Sometimes, they're going to want them to serve the sentence. Other times, they just want them out. But Illinois is not doing that.

Again, they're criminals. They're in fricking prison. What difference does it make if they have a detainer on them? Notify ICE that we have an undocumented person in an Illinois prison? Please come get them if you want and deport them.

But that is not occurring. So it's a little disingenuous. If they would do so, it very simply would give the moral high ground to the governor. And when it goes above and beyond the criminals, even though, yes, Tom Holman said other people are going to get swept up in this, we're going to deport anybody here illegally. Period.

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Finding Light in the Season: The Power of Family, Friendship, and Brotherhood



MICHAEL
METTE

As the holiday season approaches, many of us look forward to moments of warmth—family gatherings, shared meals, traditions passed down, and quiet evenings that remind us of what truly matters. This season represents more than lights, celebrations, and gifts. It is a time to draw close to the people who sustain us: our families, our friends, and our law enforcement family who stand by us through every challenge and triumph.

For those who wear the uniform, the holidays often look different. While many gather at home, countless officers will report for duty, serve our city, and keep watch so others may enjoy peace and celebration. There is a deep pride in that commitment, but it can also come with sacrifice. Missed dinners, postponed traditions, and the quiet ache of not being home when our loved ones gather.

That is why this season calls us to appreciate, more than ever, the people who support us. Our families carry worry yet offer unwavering love. Our friends remind us who we are beyond the badge. And our brothers and sisters in blue walk beside us, understanding a life and

responsibility few others do.

As we enter this season, take a moment to pause. Reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Check in on a colleague who may be struggling. Embrace the moments—big and small—with the people who matter most. And if this time of year brings heaviness instead of joy, remember that you are not alone. We are a family, bound not only by duty, but by shared purpose, sacrifice, and compassion.

To all the officers standing post this season—thank you. To the families who sacrifice with us—your strength is seen and appreciated. May this holiday season bring you peace, renewal, and connection. Cherish the laughter, the quiet moments, and the love that surrounds you. In this profession, no one stands alone. Lean on one another, support one another, and remember that brighter days are always ahead.

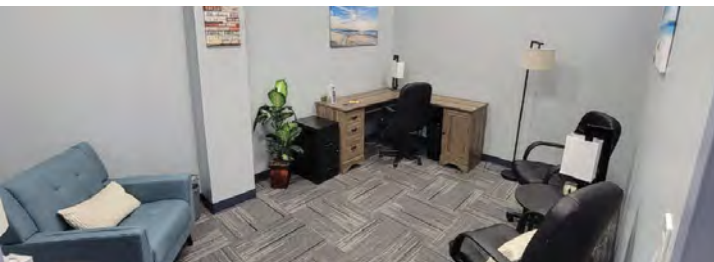
From our police family to yours—may you have a safe, blessed, and meaningful holiday season. Stay safe, stay strong, and hold your loved ones close. They are the greatest gift we will ever receive.



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Discipline Briefs



DAN
GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly general members meetings includes 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
Stop/Search, No ISR Receipt, Inaccurate ISR	2-day suspension	Written Reprimand
Fail to follow a direct order	2-day suspension	1-day suspension
Unprofessional language	1-day suspension	Expunged
Medical Roll	14-day suspension	7-day suspension
Search and dissemination	10-day suspension (2x)	3-day suspension
Street take-over / alleged excessive force (alleged take-down), inaccurate TRR, abusive language	7-day suspension	Written Reprimand for language only
Fail to inventory all personal property	2-day suspension	Written Reprimand
Fail to "timely" activate BWC "over one minute late"	2-day suspension	Violation Noted/No Discipline
Unjustified verbal; Late BWC	2-day suspension	Written Reprimand
Smoking cigar on duty; Unjustified verbal; Late BWC;	7-day suspension	1-day suspension

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 9-page arbitration decision re:

Unjustified stop/detain/search; no ISR receipt; inaccurate ISR
"In mitigation, I note first that [the accused Officer] acknowledged his errors. I also find that his errors were not intentional."

"During his interview with COPA, [the accused Officer] credibly explained that in July 2021 he was still a relatively new Officer. He admitted that he felt rushed doing his paperwork, especially given that it was during the busy July 4 Holiday."

"[The accused Officer] said he relied on his recall at the time to write the ISR."

"...approximately 39 months elapsed from when the incident took place until Grievant was served with the discipline. Therefore, ...without any subsequent repeat of the actions for which [the accused Officer] had been accused, would make the discipline punitive and not corrective."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

Fail to follow a direct order to acknowledge a SPAR

"It is fundamental that Officers must comply with Direct Orders."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

2015 incident of alleged "unprofessional language".

Note: In this case, the assigned arbitrator quotes Arbitrator Tom Sonneborn (dec'd.) as follows:

"As a final observation, even had the Department met its burden of proving misconduct, the fact this case is being brought eight full years after the incident flies in the face of any hint of just cause for discipline. There were no missing witnesses, no newly discovered evidence, no especially time-consuming investigations conducted - none of the foregoing was present in this case to somehow explain the extraordinary delay in affording this Grievant due process. The evidence indicates the case was allowed to languish on someone's desk at the IPRA, at COPA, and at the Department, thereby denying the Grievant, the complainant, and the citizens of Chicago that to which they are entitled - timely determinations in cases of alleged police misconduct."

Quote from the 10-page arbitration decision re:

Medical Roll / Fail to notify Unit while on "Stationary" status

"[The accused Officer] acknowledged that when on the Medical Roll in a stationary status, he must notify his Unit if he needs to leave home."

"Further,[the accused Officer] stated during his interview that if he had believed he was on stationary status, he would have contacted his Unit when leaving the house, and said that he had done so when on the Medical Roll in the past."

Quote from the 6-page arbitration decision re:

Search and dissemination of LEADS inquiry

"I note that [the accused Officer] accepted responsibility for her

actions and admitted her error. I also note that at the time of the incident, [she] had been on the job for less than two years. While I understand that [her] actions were initiated out of concern for her daughter's safety, she should have brought that concern to her Supervisor's attention to ask for authorization to run a LEADS inquiry, and to share the results with [the citizen]".

Quotes from the 8-page arbitration decision re:

Street take-over / Alleged excessive force (take-down); inaccurate TRR; abusive language

"I have carefully reviewed the BWC videos of [the accused Officer] and all of the other responding Officers. I find insufficient conclusive evidence to support that he utilized a takedown of [the subject] when placing him under arrest." "Because I have found Allegation 2 to be Not Sustained, it follows that there is no basis for Allegation 3, that he failed to accurately document the use of a takedown on his TRR."

"I agree with Commander Barz's assessment that a Reprimand was appropriate based on principles of progressive discipline and [the accused Officer's] work history."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

Inventory / Fail to inventory all personal property

"I find that based on the specific factors in this case, including the significant amount of items inside the vehicle, as well as the Supervisor's approval of the Property Inventory Report, a Written Reprimand is more appropriate than a Suspension."

Quote from the 14-page arbitration decision re:

Fail to "timely" activate BWC (one minute "late")

"I note that while the BWCs were not activated in a timely manner, most of the interaction with [the complainant] was recorded."

Quote from the 14-page arbitration decision re:

Verbal altercation; late BWC

"I agree with Commander McCrudden's assessment that a Reprimand is more appropriate than a 2-day Suspension for his involvement in the verbal altercation with [the complainant] and his failure to timely activate his BWC. I note that while he did engage in an unjustified verbal altercation with [the complainant], based on the somewhat chaotic nature of the interaction, and the fact that I have not found that the verbal altercation was biased-based, I find the lesser penalty of a Written Reprimand to be appropriate."

Quotes from the 14-page arbitration decision re:

Smoking cigar on duty; verbal altercation; late BWC

"Rather than trying to deescalate the situation, I find that [the accused Officers] ultimately escalated the encounter. I also note that it is clear that the situation was somewhat chaotic with [the complainant] being belligerent. However, I find insufficient evidence that [the accused Officers] engaged in bias verbal abuse."

"[The accused Officers'] reactions upon seeing [the complainant] with a Link Card followed his remark that he gets paid more than the Officers. I found their reactions to be more based on the irony in the situation rather than bias verbal abuse."

"I find no evidence that the delayed activation [BWC] was intentional."

"Last, because [the accused Officer] acknowledged that he was smoking while on duty, the City has met its burden to prove that he violated Rule 55."

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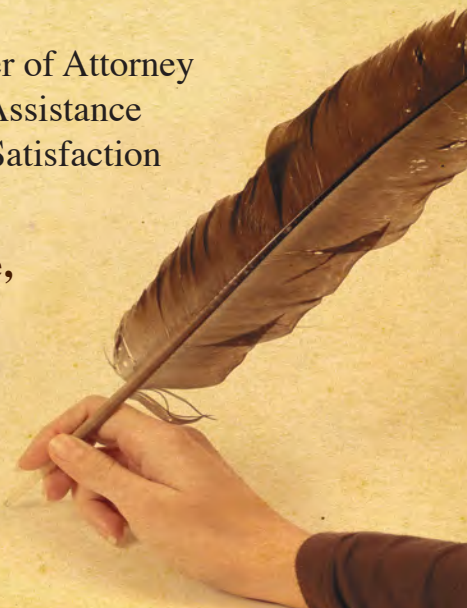


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Injury On Duty Recurrence Claims



MONICA
ORTIZ

What do you do if you have an old IOD injury that is bothering you and you need to get a referral to see a doctor? Under the contract, there is a section titled "Appendix N" that addresses the steps for filing recurrence claims for injuries. I want to inform the officers so that all necessary steps are followed appropriately. The first step is to contact the medical section, which will have you complete a TO FROM addressed to the medical director, listing the year and date of the claim, as well as the pain or discomfort you are experiencing related to your injury on duty. The medical section physician will evaluate the claim. The medical section physician can concur with and provide a referral or refer you for a related examination. In that case, when a case is sent for a relatedness exam, the case manager in the medical section should be provided with a list of physicians for the relatedness examination. Officer, your role is crucial in choosing the doctor you want to see from a list of available doctors. Do not let the medical section select a doctor for you. The doctor conducting the relatedness exam will submit a report to the medical service section with a conclusion of his exam. The parties may accept the referral physician's findings, which shall be final and binding for the officer and his employer. Ensure that

you are sent for a relatedness exam first, and the medical section does not skip a step by sending you directly for an IME exam. If the officer or employer does not agree with the conclusion from the referral in the above step, they both have the option to seek an Independent Medical Exam (IME). The officer will be given a list of IME doctors to choose from and at least two doctors for the IME exam. The list of IME doctors should be for the appropriate medical specialty.

I understand there will be instances where an injury is unrelated and is clear from all the accurate documents. My concern stems from some grievances I've handled in which it was clear that an officer's injury is related to the officer's original injury on duty. If you are sent for a relatedness or IME exam, and the doctor's report states that he was not the appropriate doctor to examine you for your injury, and your exam requires a doctor with a specific medical specialty, please get in touch with the Lodge. If, after you review your relatedness/IME report and find that the doctor who completed the report is entirely contradictory to all the previous doctors who have documented your injury, please get in touch with the Lodge.

God bless you and please stay safe.

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Veterans Day, Marine Corps Turn 250 and Thanksgiving Blessings



ROB
NOCEDA

Hello, Lodge 7. I pray this finds you and your family well. November is a busy month filled with a few celebrations. Veterans Day, the Marine Corps' Birthday, and Thanksgiving are all in what happens to be my favorite month. I have to start with the Marines, because we are the first boots on the ground when called to serve abroad. Our beloved Marine Corps turns 250 years old. Two hundred fifty years of warfighting exceptionalism. To all my fellow Marines past and present, happy birthday, Semper Fi, and ooh rah.

Veterans Day is celebrated all around our country. It is a day veterans are honored for their dedication to America and the values we stand for. Ceremonies are held all throughout the nation, from our nation's capital to small rural communities. Veterans Day is a day to honor all those who have served, sacrificed, and committed themselves to their fellow servicemembers and the American people. You will see many restaurants and stores that give discounts to veterans and non-veterans. Remember, this day is about the veteran. It's about the honor and commitment the veteran brings to something bigger than themselves. On behalf of the Lodge 7 Military Committee, and to all our membership who have served in the military, have a happy and pleasant Veterans Day. Thank you for always ensuring our nation stands strong.

As I look back on my military service, I look back on my time with my fellow Marines when we served in Iraq. This was a long time



ago. We were extremely young men. I reminisce with them on our days in the desert, completing the missions for our platoon, company, and battalion. The way we worked so well together as a team. One big family unit. I am grateful to have military friendships spanning over 20 years. My military brothers are some of the toughest and finest people I have ever met. I have seen

this toughness, now called resiliency, a lot on our job. You might agree with my assessment. The similarities of serving in a military uniform and police uniform are very familiar. One statement is true of both. You give up a lot of your own personal safety and freedom, so many others can have safety and freedom.

As we come to our Thanksgiving season, let us be thankful for all that we have in our life. I am sure you can count many of your blessings. Most of them might be the people in your life. One thing is for sure – many members do not get to enjoy Thanksgiving on the day of the holiday. They might celebrate it the day before or after the holiday is over. That's the 24/7 commitment and sacrifice our members do to keep the peace in the city. Thank you Lodge 7 members for keeping us safe and sound. I am grateful and thankful for all the good work you do and the outstanding service you provide. We still have a city, thanks to the men and women in blue. Don't ever forget that. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. God bless you and stay safe.

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Tunnel to Towers Gets it Done!



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, officers, both active and retired. I recently had the pleasure of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new “smart home,” which was built for Police Officer Danny Golden. Officer Golden was tragically shot off-duty while taking police action. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation became aware of Officer Golden and immediately stepped in to help. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a nonprofit organization that honors the sacrifices of 9/11 victims and America’s heroes by providing mortgage-free homes

to catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, as well as support for their families. It was founded by Frank Siller to honor his brother, firefighter Stephen Siller, who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and the foundation holds an annual 5K run in his memory. The or-



ganization also builds smart homes and supports Gold Star and fallen first responder families. These guys were amazing!

Danny and his wife Casey were presented with the keys to their new home, fully equipped and accessible for large family gatherings and comfortable living. The organization did not stop there. Stephen Siller presented Officer Golden with an American flag plaque and retired FDNY Battalion Chief Jack Oehm, who is also a board member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, explained the significance of the plaque while it was being presented. This plaque, constructed of wood and steel, depicts the New York City skyline, which contains the twin towers of the former World Trade Center. The twin towers in the plaque are in fact pieces of melted steel from the World Trade Center. The plaque is engraved with the following: “The steel below, from the World Trade Center in NY, carries within the spirit and memories of those that were lost on 9/11, 2001. Many of whom were never recovered. We will NEVER FORGET.”

I am so happy for Danny and Casey to begin a new chapter in their lives together. You guys are the “true foundation” of that home.

Lastly, congratulations to a friend and outstanding boss, Lt. Mark Duignan. Mark will be leaving the academy for greener pastures closer to home. As the lieutenant assigned to the academy over the past few years, Mark has overseen 60 new classes containing over 3,000 recruits pass through the doors at 1300 W. Jackson. Thank you and the staff for preparing the next generation of Chicago’s Finest to hit the streets. Stay safe.



Motor Vehicle Pursuits



**MICHAEL
COLLINS**

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. I want to touch on this very serious issue. Motor vehicle pursuits among department members have become a major concern, and officers seem to be engaging in them a lot more frequently these days. Not only are our officers at risk of serious injury, but officers are receiving large suspensions and, in some instances, are getting stripped for violating department pursuit policy. I am writing this article to raise awareness of the seriousness of discipline being given to our officers for engaging in pursuits.

As a working officer, I understand how hard it is to take your foot off the gas and let the motorist take off. That is one of the most frustrating parts of the job and I feel for all of you, but your safety and well-being are more important. Please know the initiation, continuation, and supervisory authorization of each motor vehicle pursuit must conform to the balancing test (see G03-03-01), in which the necessity to immediately apprehend the fleeing suspect outweighs the level of inherent danger created by a motor vehicle pursuit. Officers will not engage in a motor vehicle pursuit whenever the most serious offense wanted for is a traffic offense (other than DUI); when the offense is theft including PSMV; when there is an arrestee or non-law enforcement personnel in the department vehicle; and when operating squadrols or covert vehicles. Officers should also consider not initiating an active motor vehicle pursuit whenever the suspect's identity has been clearly established to the point that later apprehension can be accomplished without the risk of a pursuit.

Here are a few key points if you decide to engage in a pursuit. The primary unit will immediately notify OEMC that a pursuit is in progress and must provide their beat, reason for the pursuit, location/speed, and direction of flight; offending vehicle information; and number of occupants along with any other relevant information. If the primary unit is an unmarked vehicle, the secondary marked pursuit unit will assume the duties of the primary unit as soon as it is safe to do so. The unmarked unit will then withdraw from the pursuit, and another marked vehicle will be designated as the secondary pursuit vehicle. Officers must terminate when the pursuit no longer conforms to the balancing test, an order to terminate is given, a traffic crash occurs, communication with OEMC is lost, and when the primary pursuit unit loses the offending vehicle being pursued and the secondary pursuit unit cannot reasonably assume the primary pursuit unit's duties. After termination, the units involved will notify OEMC of their location and remain at that location until directed by the supervisor assigned to the pursuit. Please ensure that you complete all appropriate documents and reports relevant to the pursuit.

Here are some of the most common CR/LOG# allegations officers are receiving following a pursuit:

1. Was part of a traffic pursuit that involved a traffic crash in which extensive injury was sustained.
2. Was part of a traffic pursuit that proper radio communications were not followed.
3. Was part of a traffic pursuit that was initiated as a result of

traffic violations.

4. Was part of a traffic pursuit that BWC were not activated in a timely manner.
5. Was part of a traffic pursuit that emergency equipment was not activated pursuant to G03-03-01.
6. Did not properly activate in car camera in order to accurately record.
7. Did not follow department procedures with regards to a traffic pursuit.
8. Was involved in a traffic pursuit which was prohibited by the department directive on vehicle pursuits.
9. Failed to submit a pursuit report.
10. Failed to intervene when partner drove department vehicle in a reckless manner.
11. Deactivated BWC during pursuit.
12. Drove department vehicle in a reckless matter.

Please make sure you read the Chicago Police Department general order G03-03-01 titled EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS to better familiarize yourself with pursuing. If you have any questions, or you have recently been involved in a pursuit and would like to discuss it you can call me anytime at the FOP. Thank you for all the amazing police work you do and always remember to cover yourself.

Stay safe, everyone!

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Regarding ICE



KENYATTA
GAINES

Chicago's latest migrant crisis began in August 2022, and it has continued throughout 2025, with thousands of asylum seekers arriving in the city. Tension exists in the city between longtime residents and the influx of migrants, largely due to strained resources and housing concerns. Existing residents feel ignored while the city allocates funds to migrants. Other frustrations are about safety. Every officer should be able to relate to these frustrations from when the migrants occupied the police stations and airports. The situation is complex.

Due to a higher availability of vacant housing, The South Shore neighborhood has become a primary location for migrants' relocation. This has sparked resentment among some longtime residents who feel their community needs have been overlooked while resources are provided to newcomers. Residents believe migrants are receiving preferential treatment, such as stipends, housing, and social services, while they themselves are struggling. This is particularly felt in Black communities that have a history of facing housing instability. South Shore residents filed a lawsuit against the city to prevent the use of

public schools and parks as migrant shelters, and to demand they be reopened for community purposes. The Home Depot at 87th St is an area of concern for residents who report feeling harassed by groups of migrants seeking work, leading to higher rates of calls for city intervention. A recent federal raid on a southside apartment building resulted in property damage and trauma for residents, exacerbating fear and frustration. Lawsuits are ongoing regarding the federal government's aggressive immigration tactics.

In September 2025, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) appeared downtown, ready to enforce deportation laws. In early October, clashes between protestors and federal agents at an immigrant processing center in Broadview broke out. What happened? Federal agents were conducting an immigration operation. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents encountered a couple who used their vehicle to block and ram the federal agents' car. An agent then fired five shots, striking the woman who was also armed. The couple was later indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of assault and attempted murder of a federal employee.

While listening to the National News Network, Bill O'Reilly related and (I'm paraphrasing), "Authorities in Chicago are saying they're not going to obey federal law. To deport, you must first identify people who are here without proper documentation. For anyone to be deported, you need to have a deportation order signed by a judge. Once obtained, that's a federal order. Since the state of Illinois will not enforce federal law, President Trump then has the legal right to go in and enforce the law from the federal point of view. When you understand that, you know that the supreme court will rule in favor of Trump. Therefore, the authorities in Illinois are breaking the law. Local authorities need to back the federal authorities in a legal order." The last statement is supported by the supremacy clause. The Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution establishes that federal law and the Constitution are superior to state laws. It requires state judges to uphold federal law even if it contradicts state law.

I am not denying that migrants and asylum seekers (let's stop ignoring that there is a difference) arriving in Chicago have faced numerous legal challenges. Some challenges related to securing work authorization, navigating the complicated asylum process, and now dealing with the recently intensified federal immigration enforcement. Recent developments have highlighted instances where local officials, such as Pritzker, Johnson, Newsom, and Bass, appear to be challenging federal law. This situation raises concerns regarding the safety of federal agents and prompts questions about the responsibilities of the Chicago Police Department to protect the public, including individuals such as ICE agents who operate within city limits. As previously noted, this is a highly complex issue. Familiarize yourself with department orders on the subject. Back each other up. Stay Safe!

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Another Unilateral Change By The City



PAT
FIORETTO

The city can't seem to understand that it must comply with the law. In yet another example of the city making unilateral changes, the Lodge recently learned of a recent department practice in which it acted unilaterally in how it investigates officers and ultimately issues discipline.

Typically, after either COPA or BIA conduct an investigation and recommend disciplinary action, if the department issues a penalty to an officer ranging from a reprimand to a 30-day suspension, the officer can either grieve or accept the penalty. If the officer grieves the penalty, the Lodge, officer, and the department usually submit the matter to a binding summary opinion hearing. At the hearing, the Lodge and the department submit a written record and present oral arguments before an arbitrator. A few weeks after the hearing, the arbitrator issues a written decision. The arbitrator can either uphold, reduce, or expunge the penalty completely. Such a decision is final and binding.

Around November 2024, the department served an officer with a 30-day suspension for allegedly using a racial slur. In that case, the officer and his two partners had been surveilling a building, located in an area well-known for cocaine and heroin sales. After observing multiple people entering and exiting the building, the officers approached. The officers encountered a male leaving the premises. Once the male spotted the officers, he fled. The officers chased the male. During the chase, pursuant to department policy, the accused officer's BWC recorded the incident. Also, during the chase, the BWC footage clearly captured officers shouting commands, breathing heavy, and running. After the incident concluded, a lieutenant reviewed the accused officer's BWC and then submitted allegations to COPA, alleging that the accused officer directed a racial slur at the fleeing male during the foot chase. In COPA's investigatory report, COPA revealed (for the first time) that it applied audio enhancement technology to "clarify" the accused officer's BWC audio. COPA stated that the technology enabled it to confirm that the accused officer used a racial slur. At the conclusion of its investigation, COPA recommended a 30-day suspension. The department upheld COPA's recommendation.

Adamant that he did not use a racial slur during the foot chase, the accused officer grieved the 30-day suspension and thus invoked the binding summary opinion process. After reviewing the accused officer's case, the Lodge learned for the first time that COPA utilized audio-enhancing technology to modify an audio portion of an accused officer's BWC recording artificially in its disciplinary investigation. On May 22, 2025, the Lodge and the department presented oral arguments before an arbitrator regarding this case.

On June 13, 2025, the arbitrator issued an award. In the award,

the arbitrator acknowledged that while reviewing the unmodified BWC recording, he could not hear the recording clearly. The arbitrator explained that if he solely had to rely on the unmodified BWC recording, he would have determined that the department failed to meet its burden to prove that the accused officer used a racial slur. However, after reviewing the modified BWC recording, which utilized audio enhancement "clarifying" technology, the arbitrator stated that he could confirm the officer used a racial slur. The arbitrator concluded that the accused officer should serve a 10-day suspension and attend training on bias-based policing and diversity and community relations.

As a result of the arbitrator's award, on July 8, 2025, the Lodge filed an unfair labor practice ("ULP") charge against the department with the Illinois Labor Relations Board ("ILRB"). The Lodge argued that the department violated the Public Labor Relations Act when COPA decided to use audio enhancement technology in Chicago police officers' administrative disciplinary investigations without bargaining with the Lodge about this matter prior. The Lodge argued that there is an increased need to bargain over this issue given the fact that COPA has a history of altering evidence during officers' disciplinary investigations. The Lodge further argued that there also is a further need to bargain over this issue due to the risks that artificial intelligence technology imposes. Based on the foregoing points, the Lodge requested that the ILRB require the department to stop using the technology, bargain over its use of the technology – and the effects thereof – and reimburse the Lodge for all costs associated with this matter.

After investigating the Lodge's allegations, on Sept. 18, 2025, the ILRB issued a complaint for hearing (as it has done many times in the past). The ILRB only issues a complaint for hearing when it determines that the filing party's allegations have enough merit to warrant a full hearing to resolve the alleged ULP. The ILRB also ordered the department to respond to the complaint and advised the Lodge and the department that it would set a date for a hearing in the near future. At the hearing, the Lodge and the department will have the opportunity to present all evidence in support of their respective positions.

As with prior cases which the Lodge has taken to the ILRB, the Lodge expects to prevail. The department and COPA must learn that they are not above the law. They must follow the terms of the what the parties negotiated and agreed upon. This practice of ignoring the law must stop. Any changes must be negotiated with the Lodge prior to implementation. The Lodge will continue to hold the department responsible and, as always, we will continue to keep the membership apprised.

Let's Be Smart This Holiday Season



**TIM
GRACE**

This author composes this edition with the hopes that no Chicago police officer ever has to heed his advice. The holidays are coming and with that comes the celebration season. Far too often, we find ourselves out there enjoying the festive season and perhaps engaging in too much holiday cheer. It involves alcohol and with that comes bad decisions and can lead to finding yourself being pulled over by law enforcement. Let's be clear, there is no excuse to drink and drive. With the accessibility of ride-hailing companies, friends, and taxis, there is simply no excuse to put your career, family, and the safety of yourself and others at risk.

It's very easy to avoid all of this. Just do not drink and drive. The consequences of being arrested for driving under the influence are life-altering and expensive. This is something that can be avoided by simply sticking to the do not drink and drive motto.

However, lawyers would not have jobs, and police officers would not make overtime if otherwise good and responsible citizens failed to follow this advice. The unique problem that Chicago police officers have is that a suspended license means you are unfit for duty and immediately enter a no-pay status. That means no paycheck, no health care, and no pension accrual. That will not

make for a very nice Christmas. When a person is pulled over and the officer has probable cause to believe that the person is under the influence of alcohol, there are two legal proceedings that are occurring. One is criminal or traffic, and the second is civil. In the criminal or traffic setting, the officer is looking to charge the person with the actual driving under the influence of alcohol charge. If found guilty, the person is placed on probation, conditional discharge or a suspended sentence referred to as supervision. All of these dispositions with exception of court supervision will result in a suspension of your driving license and will more than likely end your employment with the city of Chicago. If you receive supervision, you may survive, but you will spend the next year or so in alternative response, may not be allowed to go back to your unit, and it will be a horrific process. You can survive this, although it is difficult. On the civil side, your license is automatically suspended for one year if you refuse the breath sample and six months if you submit a sample greater than .08. Again, this suspension is very detrimental to your career but can be addressed with the court and possibly rescinded.

Hence the issue is, should you provide a breath sample to the arresting officer? Most of the time the answer to that question is no. There is no need to assist the prosecutor in your case. However, and this goes to the essence of this discussion, what do you do when IAD shows up after the arrest has been processed? Remember, after you are done with the criminal side, IAD will arrive to strip you of your police powers. As a member of the Chicago Police Department, you must provide what is called an administrative breath or blood sample if ordered to do so. If you refuse that direct order from the IAD sergeant, that act could be worse than the DUI charge itself. However, and contrary to what everyone at IAD will tell you, that administrative sample can be used by the state's attorney to prosecute you for the DUI. Now we are in a real pickle. If you provide an administrative blow, you won't have to disobey a direct order, but you will be helping the state prosecute you for DUI. If you fail to blow, you are helping yourself in the criminal/traffic case, but you are going to have to deal with additional and a potentially more serious CR of disobeying a direct order. What should you do? First and foremost, call FOP. Tell IAD you want an attorney and that you are not disobeying a direct order – you just need some advice.

What if you can't get in touch with FOP? A decision needs to be made. Like all decisions, it all depends on the situation. If there was an accident, and there are persons who have received severe injuries or God-forbid are dead, you must refuse that direct order. DUI death will lead to the Illinois Department of Corrections especially in Cook County. At this point, you need to protect your liberty and deal with the job action later. If this is a simple DUI with no injuries, you may want to provide the administrative sample. We can argue in court that you did it because you were forced, and the consent was given involuntarily under duress. Hopefully the FOP will be there at this time and can help you with the decision and make that record for you.

As this article has spoken to before, you are not protected by what are called Garrity rights. Please refer to last month's article for a full explanation of those rights. First and foremost, Garrity only applies to testimonial evidence. This means the prosecutor can use your administrative BAC blow in a DUI trial. Your only protection at this point in a criminal case for reckless homicide would be to



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argue that you were coerced into providing the sample. The end result – do not put your liberty aside in the hopes that you will keep your job. You can get another job. You can't go to prison. I have never seen an administrative BAC entered into evidence at a DUI trial in Cook County in traffic court. I have seen it entered into evidence for a DUI death or great bodily harm.

Mind you, IAD will tell that it is not admissible, but they are wrong. They aren't wrong on purpose, but wrong as they don't understand Garrity rights. As Coach Ditka told the media, "You don't know, and you don't know that you don't know." Trust me, we have argued with BIA over this many times. If you want to avoid all of this, don't drink and drive. Don't put yourself into this position. However, if it happens, contact FOP immediately. If you are alone and can't get guidance, find out as best you can if there are any injured persons including any of your passengers. If there are, you must refuse that direct order. You have that right. Again, be safe, and make good decisions ahead of time so you are not forced to try to in the future.

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Veto Session Frenzy



DAVE
SULLIVAN

The fall veto session this year was a frenzy of activity. The legislature came into the Illinois State Capitol with an ambitious agenda to tackle. After a slow start, the fall session ended in a flurry of activity as they completed several huge efforts. We will have a more complete rundown next month, but the General Assembly passed bills that will more fully fund transit, increase tolls, expand energy solutions in Illinois, make Illinois a state where medical aid in dying is legal, and modernize our film tax credit to attract more production of television shows and movies here.

The issues that the FOP focused on were bills that the Democrats proposed to help combat the ICE raids in Illinois. While there were some progressive advocates who were pushing for this opportunity to impose new regulations on local and state police and impinge

upon qualified immunity, we were assisted in our efforts to combat that. We owe a huge thanks to House Speaker Chris Welch and Senate President Don Harmon and their teams for their help in making sure the language in the final bill was greatly improved from previous drafts. In fact, qualified immunity, which is a federal issue is now in state statute. The effort in the House Democrat Caucus to help was led by Chicago's very own state Reps. Angie Guerrero-Cuellar, Mike Kelly, and Mary Gill, along with several other moderate representatives. We are grateful to all of them for their efforts on behalf of the members of the Chicago Police Department. We also had a great team effort in Springfield with our fellow police advocates.

While all of those votes were going on, legislators were also filing their petitions to run for re-election. As mentioned before, there are many retirements coming in the legislature as 10 state representatives and five state senators are not seeking re-election.

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Kathleen Dore	Retiree	72	October 9, 2024
Thomas Folliard	Retiree	73	August 25, 2025
Anthony Golczak	Retiree	73	August 27, 2025
Robert Thomsen	Retiree	56	September 28, 2025
Talmitch Jackson	Retiree	66	October 1, 2025
Sean Lucas	Unit 025	40	October 5, 2025
Glenn Carlson	Retiree	78	October 10, 2025
Ronald J. Norway	Retiree	86	October 11, 2025
Dennis Lemke	Retiree	78	October 12, 2025
Richard Landgraff	Retiree	78	October 26, 2025
Richard H. Holman	Retiree	88	October 30, 2025
John Watson	Retiree	58	Unknown
Cruz Tatro-Mendoza	Retiree	70	Unknown



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Honoring Retired Members

September 2025

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Rafael Bonifazi	Detective	050	30	Alan Johnson	Officer	051	30
Mizel Brooks	Detective	620	28	Michael E. Killeen	Detective	181	27
Brian E. Callaghan	Officer	353	30	George W. Latsos	Officer	005	27
Antonio Castro	Officer	019	24	Michael S. Magno	Lieutenant	020	26
Jorge Cerda	Detective	650	31	Thomas A. McCain	Officer	016	31
Edward Choi	Officer	020	23	Darrell McClay	Detective	079	34
James R. Curry	Officer	050	31	Bernadette McGuire	Officer	051	32
Aaron N. Davis	Officer	116	25	Bridget Mitchell	Officer	544	20
Ivan C. Ellis	Officer	007	29	Zoran Miucin	Officer	050	30
Brian J. Ferguson	Detective	620	33	William T. Murphy	Officer	189	29
Darren Foster	Evid. Tech.	177	25	Anthony J. Pacino	Detective	620	29
Eric Gentile	Officer	017	29	Dale A. Potter	Detective	610	28
Thomas J. Hughes	Officer	701	25	Jessie E. Rosario	Officer	544	28
Gregory H. Hunt	Officer	020	28	Michael Valentino	Officer	018	33
Randy Jalloway	Officer	050	28	Thomas J. Weigand	Officer	001	20
				William F. Ziegler	Officer	025	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

Northern Illinois/Southern

Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month
Herner's Hideaway
202 Williams Road
Genoa City, Wisconsin
(Rt. 12 at IL border)
George Gottlieb, (847) 840-5060

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.

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month @ noon
Herner's Hideaway
202 Williams Rd.
Genoa City, WI (Rt. 12 at IL border)
George Gottlieb, (847) 840-5060

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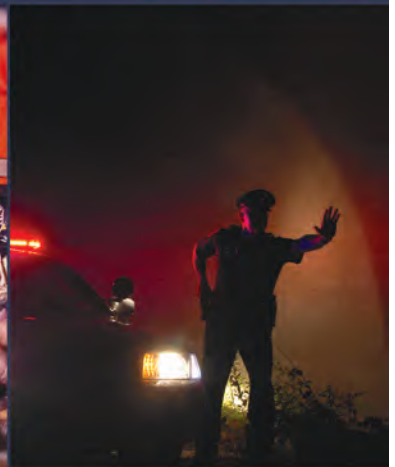
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Reflections And Thanksgiving



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

As we are about to celebrate the holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our heart and made us cry. We had good times, and times when we were shown more than we could understand. As the saying goes – “one thing in life is for certain, that nothing is for certain.” The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop, and give thanks for what we have, that’s why our today is called “the present.” I was asked to put in a prayer that can be used at our Thanksgiving holiday dinner.

“A Thanksgiving Prayer”

Lord thank you for having given us life. G-d, you have given us everything that we need and could ever want. Help us to see with your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often, we look around but don’t really see how lucky we are. Help us to not complain about small things day in and day out either. But rather, let us thank You for the simple things in life like sunshine, family, and loved ones.

G-d, help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by illness or challenges of everyday life. Thou art glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord, we are happy for what we have and will have because it comes from You, whatever comes from You is filled with glory and we accept it.

Thank You for having created the ocean for it is beautiful, the sun for it is bright, the moon for it is romantic, and the day and the night. Thank You for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry, saying what shall we eat or how are we going to cope with all that is shown to us.

But we should be like the birds and have faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet You provide for them Lord. Help us to have a greater faith in You, Lord, and help us to not worry so much.

We thank You Lord for all the beautiful things You bring into our lives each day. Lord, help the thanksgiving nature which is within us to become more present in our lives. So that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, we can begin to realize how small our problems are and be thankful for everything we already have. And Lord please remind us to find something in this beautiful world of yours to smile about every day, even if we must look in the mirror. Help us to remember this prayer Lord and let us say, Amen.

Never a better time than today, to share some time with your loved ones, let them know how much they mean to you.

The following is a short story, from a past sermon, to help keep life in perspective.

“Can Anybody See G-d?”

A small boy once approached his slightly older sister with a question about G-d.

“Susie, can anybody ever really see G-d?” he asked. Busy with other things, Susie curtly replied: “No, of course not, silly. G-d is so far up in Heaven that nobody can see Him.”

Time passed, but his question still lingered, so he approached his mother: “Mom, can anybody ever really see G-d?”

“No, not really,” she gently said. “G-d is a spirit and He dwells in our hearts, but we can never really see Him.”

Somewhat satisfied but still wondering, the youngster went on his way. Not long after, his saintly old grandfather took the little boy on a

fishing trip. They were having a great time together – it had been an ideal day. The sun was beginning to set with unusual splendor as the day ended.

The old man stopped fishing and turned his full attention to the exquisite beauty unfolding before him. On seeing the face of his grandfather reflecting such deep peace and contentment as he gazed into the magnificent ever-changing sunset, the little boy thought for a moment and finally spoke hesitatingly: “Granddad, I - I wasn’t going to ask anybody else, but I wonder if you can tell me the answer to something I’ve been wondering about a long time, can anybody ever really see G-d?”

The old man did not even turn his head. A long moment slipped by before he finally answered. “Son,” he quietly said. “My life is getting so I really can’t see anything else.”

End of story.

So, as we pray daily to the Lord for our needs, let us always remember to say thank you for all His blessings!

“The heavens declare the glory of G-d; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

-- Psalm 19:1-4

And before we close a bit of humor from the “Moshe Files” to keep you smiling:

“Thinking outside the box”

A Missouri farmer passed away and left 17 mules of inheritance to his three

sons. The instructions left in the will said that the oldest boy was to get one-half of the herd, the second oldest one-third of the herd, and the youngest one-ninth of the herd. The three sons, recognizing the difficulty of dividing 17 mules into these fractions, began to argue. Their uncle, who lived down the road, heard about the argument, and decided to go help them solve this puzzle. He hitched up his own mule and drove down to their farm to help settle the matter. He gathered them all in a room and did as follows. He added his own mule to the 17 at their farm,

making a total of 18 mules. Then did as follows, the oldest therefore got his one-half, or nine, the second oldest son got one-third, or six, and the youngest son got one-ninth, or two. Adding up 9, 6 and 2 equals 17. The uncle, having settled the argument, hitched up his own mule and drove home, inheritance solved!

And sometimes you just have to think “outside the box”...lol

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, A very happy Thanksgiving holiday to you and your loved ones. Thanks for all the Holy work you do on a daily basis. 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.

Chaplains website: www.chicagopcm.org


Compliments of your Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf

773-463-4780, please leave message

Cell: 773-230-7872, text


e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com


Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt, Chicago, 60645




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FATHER DAN BRANDT

A faithful group of CPD members and civilians gather annually to honor Chief Francis O'Neill, who served as police chief (now referred to as superintendent) here in Chicago after immigrating from Ireland. We met again at Mt. Olivet Cemetery on Oct. 15, for bagpipes, prayer and a history lesson about this hero's life. Below you'll see our group in front of Chief O'Neill's mausoleum after the ceremony and before enjoying a celebratory shot in the chief's honor.

Many thanks to the following parishes who last month hosted me to celebrate Blue Masses north, downtown and south: St. Eugene, Holy Name Cathedral, St. Gianna, and St. Paul of the Cross. It is always gratifying to see churches full of folks who not only appreciate the police but gather to pray for (and with) you.

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

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

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

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 Blvd.), we'll gather for Thanksgiving morning Mass at 10 a.m. – note the difference in time for the holiday. We meet at the same holiday time, same place on Christmas morning. More information can be found on the "Police Mass" link at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

If the CPD Chaplains can ever be of ANY assistance/support to members, retirees or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), Chaplain Rafael Yanez (773/519-4907), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312/771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312/771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cell phones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website. As with our friends at EAP, you can be assured of our non-judgmental confidentiality.

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

God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain

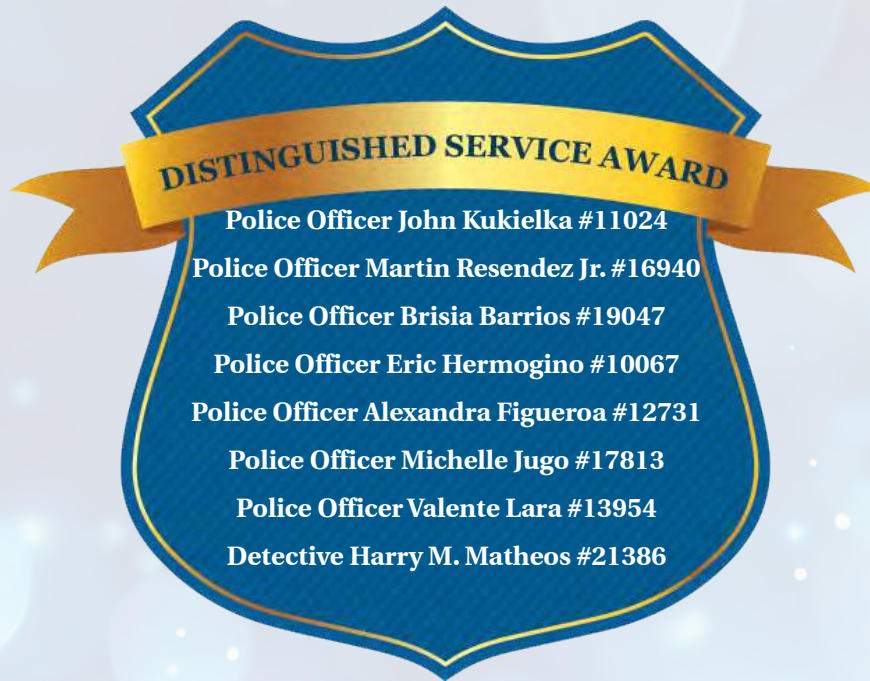
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CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY CAROLYNN CRUMP



Nominator: Sergeant Nicholas Cervantes #2095



On Oct. 11, 2024, at the location of 2134 N Western Ave., the store manager had ordered a female customer to leave the store bathroom after being asked to leave the store on previous occasions. The female emerged from the bathroom and upon being escorted out the back door, the manager removed a bottle of tide laundry detergent from her person. The enraged female offender now returned a short time later armed with scissors. As the manager had his back turned, the offender began slashing his neck and back causing slash and puncture wounds to his neck. The offender fled the store

but was pursued by the victim who eventually flagged down responding units. The offender was ordered to drop her scissors and was placed into custody and transported to area 5. The detective conducted his investigation and presented the case to felony review. The offender was charged with aggravated battery/use deadly force, and attempt murder first degree. Nice pinch!

It is with appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Police Officer Kristy Witt #12782
Police Officer William Donovan #12954

Nominator: Police Officer Brian Richards #19379
020th District Unit Rep

On Aug. 22, 2024, at the location of 5800 N. Ravenswood Ave., officers were flagged down by a frantic citizen who related that their coworker had collapsed onto the floor and was unresponsive. The officers immediately responded and discovered the victim lying behind her cubical on the floor. The officers assessed the victim who was not breathing and had no pulse at which time they started CPR. The officers utilized their training and performed chest compressions

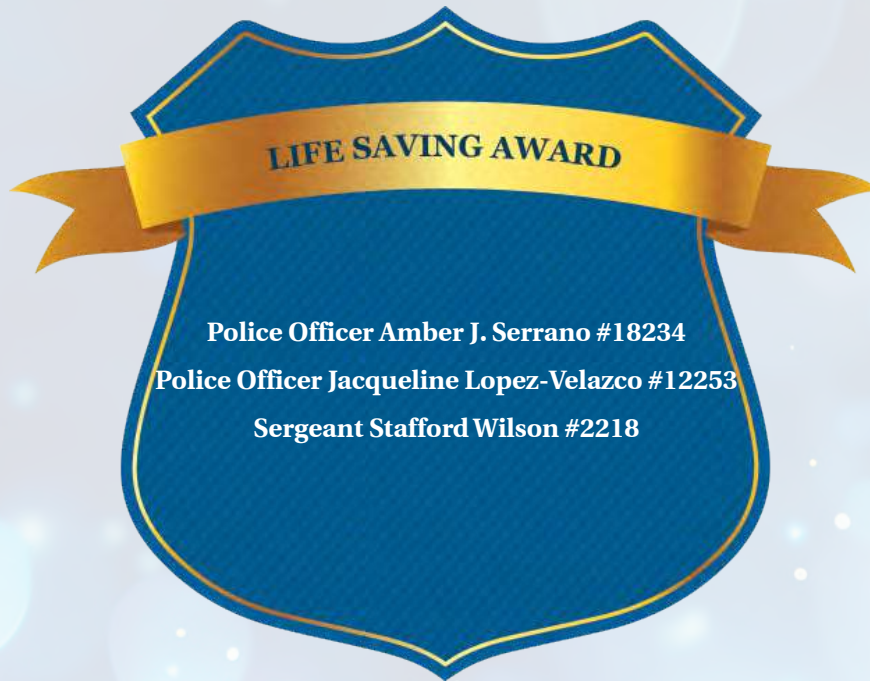
while waiting for EMS to arrive. The officers, with the help of EMS, were able to revive the victim who was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. These officers' actions were surely responsible for saving the victim's life.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Award.



Officer St. Louis pictured above.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Police Officer Anthony Rouba #15409
012th District Unit Rep



On June 28, 2024, R/Os responded to a call of “shots fired” at the location of 18th Street and Carpenter. R/Os curbed a white Hummer that was reported to be fleeing from that scene. Upon approaching the vehicle, an intoxicated passenger stumbled out and a holster fell to the ground. R/Os detained that subject and further observed a second occupant covered in blood with a gunshot to his arm. There was a handgun in the center console next to him. R/Os ordered that subject from the vehicle and applied a tourniquet to his arm and notified EMS. The investigation revealed that the subjects were in an altercation that originated at Senorita’s Cantina on 18th Street. The intoxicated passenger had struck an unknown male in the

groin and then repeatedly headbutted him. The second male subject had produced a handgun from the white Hummer and placed it to the neck of the unknown male before they walked back to their vehicle. As they pulled away from their parking space, the unknown male retrieved a gun from the trunk of his car and fired at the subjects, striking the male subject in the arm causing him to strike multiple parked cars before fleeing the scene. The officers’ lifesaving actions surely saved the male subject so he could go on and offend another day.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents the Life Saving Award to these officers.

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Police Officer Matthew Beesley #18844 FOP Trustee



On March 21, 2024, at the location of 3836 W Ferdinand St, 011th District tactical officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle. The officers requested that the offender lower his car window at which time he complied with their directions. The offender then rolled his window back up, refusing to comply with any verbal direction. The officers ordered the offender to step out of his vehicle while attempting to maintain a visual of the offender. The offender exited his vehicle and produced a handgun firing upon the officers and striking Officer Saint

Louis in his left forearm, shattering the bones. The officers then returned fire at the offender after his failed attempt to murder a police officer. The offender was struck multiple times and attempted to flee in his vehicle but was unsuccessful. The offender then reemerged from his vehicle and the officers fired until the threat was eliminated.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the prestigious Award of Valor.



Comfort Food

Lodge 7's Friendsgiving brings holiday happiness to Gold Star Families

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Trays of food spread out in the Chicago FOP Hall have become a staple. But not quite like this.

Those big, rectangular pans piled high with mashed potatoes, ham, beef tenderloin, assorted vegetables, stuffing, cornbread stuffing and fast-becoming-famous White Castle stuffing. And, of course, turkey. Turkey legs. Deep-fried turkey. Don't forget the big pots of gravy.

People who were lined up seemed to be salivating as they worked through this bountiful buffet. Familiar people, kind of like relatives. Family, to be sure.

All of these trimmings are spread throughout the FOP Hall the weekend before Thanksgiving. Since 2021, Lodge 7 has been hosting a Friendsgiving for Gold Star Families. They are scheduled to gather on the night of Nov. 22, when up to 150 people will give each other a group hug they so need this time of year.

"A love language," Gold Star Families Chair Maria Marmolejo expressed about seeing the spread when she attended Friendsgiving last year. She has known what it's like to have an empty chair at the table since Dec. 17, 2018, when her husband, Chicago Police Officer Eduardo "Lalo" Marmolejo, was lost in the line of duty. And what it means

to have this Friendsgiving table at Lodge 7.

"You're like, 'Let me go here, have some good company and just have a good meal and be OK,'" Maria continued. "It's really nice to be among each other during, because the holidays are just a hard time. The little things can comfort people, because on holidays, you can feel the absence of that family member even more."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



The Gold Star families form one big family, particularly to Lodge 7 President John Catanzara. He has adopted them as his family since at least 2021, when he initiated Friendsgiving as a family affair featuring his favorite pastime — cooking. All the trimmings served up here are his handiwork, with the White Castle stuffing being his unique concoction.

Top Chef Lodge 7 gets calls well in advance to make sure the families and friends are getting together again. One of those calls has come from Dionne Mhoon, who has been there every year since her daughter, Officer Aréanah Preston, was lost on May 6, 2023.

“I would definitely say it's just a time to be around people that are going through the same thing as you,” Dionne praised. “And I love the food. It is really great. It's a feast.”

Friended

Once the table is set, Chicago Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf sets the tone by making a pre-meal blessing as only he can. Last year, laughter spread through the hall during Moshe's standard clever comments, leading Maria Marmolejo to observe what made this meal different than other occasions when Gold Star families break bread together.

“It wasn't somber,” she observed. “And so I know everybody who was there enjoyed that.”

A football game projected on the big screen hanging at the front of the hall added some Thanksgiving feel to the atmosphere. Families just came in, sat down and relaxed with people they knew and were comfortable sitting next to, just as they should be able to on Friendsgiving, Thanksgiving and every other day.

And no fuss, no muss. No worries about cooking or cleaning up.

“It's fellowship with families that we already have a relationship with,” Mhoon noted. “We shared memories, which is such a coincidence because most of us talk about how we didn't want our children to be police officers. And how we were very proud them.”

Listening in on some of the conversations finds families letting their guard down, along with their hair. This allows the comfort of talking about things that they might not otherwise be able to, the shared experiences of being a Gold Star Family.

“Just really getting to know their officer through them,” explained Crystal Jimenez, whose husband Samuel was lost on Nov. 19, 2018, and who has become one of the Gold Star's most embracing friends.

She went on to recall the 2024 Friendsgiving, which was the first of these events the Martinez family attended. Enrique Martinez was lost in the line of duty on Nov. 4, 2024, and presumably, his family realized the opportunity to come to Lodge 7 and feel the healing with the Gold Star extended family.

“We listen to their stories, what were their family traditions and what type of things did they do as a family for these type of holidays,” Crystal recalled.

At another table, you might have overheard Maria Marmolejo's mother-in-law, Rebeca, chatting with Edith Huesca, who lost her son, Luis, on April 21, 2024. Two moms consoling each other by talking about their sons in their native Spanish.

“It was really nice and comforting to see all the mothers sitting at one table,” Maria shared. “I mean, everything was warm. Seeing the FOP members pass out food and all the board members there, it was not so intense and so sad. It was what it needed to be.”

Friend zone

Families seem to come to Friendsgiving as a respite, a place to have a holiday gathering that fills the void. Dionne Mhoon vividly recalls the last Thanksgiving with her daughter.

They ate early because Aréanah had to work that night. They were enjoying dinner in the basement. Dionne talks about the picture she has of her daughter from that afternoon doing homework for one of her Loyola University master's degree classes, sitting on the couch next to the dog.

Perhaps Friendsgiving puts a smile on their faces that feels like



the best of times.

"I always say that we are our own community," commented Dionne, who added that last year she sat with the other moms — Edith Huesca, Rebeca Marmolejo, Enrique Martinez's mom, Rosa Mayen, and, of course, Elizabeth French. "There's a fellowship with the families and seeing them and talking about what the Christmas plans are and that type of stuff."

Crystal Jimenez shares a similar sentiment. Sam was lost three days before Thanksgiving. He finally had the day off, and the family was looking forward to having him home for the holiday that year.

So the Lodge 7 Friendsgiving apparently has become a unique day of thanks for them.

"I've always said it brings a type of comfort to know that we all understand each other in a unique way because of our loss," Crystal said. "Including sharing memories of our officer."

The uplifting aspect of the friends' gathering makes a mark beyond the families. Lodge 7 executive board members are there to hang out with the families while also acting as servers.

From his perspective, David DiSanti, the Lodge 7 Executive Board trustee chairman, captured the spirit of the holiday when giving thanks for being part of Friendsgiving.

"It's really gratifying and sentimental to spend time with the families just as families, not as Gold Star Families," he described. "Sharing laughs, catching up, seeing pictures of the kids, that sort of thing."

Maria Marmolejo expressed how Lodge 7 Friendsgiving furthers the mission of making sure to put Gold Star Families together as a way to help them during the holidays and every day.

"I think that's what FOP was doing for sure," she confirmed. "And it just feels so homey. It was sweet, too."

Friend request

Lodge 7 has been outspoken about how the Department has not done as much for the Gold Star families as possible. So another void is being filled with Friendsgiving, if you will.

It's a way of life for the FOP, which DiSanti says will spare no expense for the Gold Star Families. And he reports it's something Catanzara lives for by giving freely out of his own pocket and even more so of his time.

"I mean, he has a lot of great ideas, but I think the Friendsgiving is one of the better ones because it's more than just lip service," DiSanti stated. "It's 'Come on, let's spend an evening together and just enjoy each other's company.' And I think it shows them that, like we say constantly: Never forget."

In addition to the group hug of it all, there is a group dynamic that draws families to the event. Again, another something that they look for every day.

"People often tell me about grief groups, and I'm very cautious of those because you just never know, 'Am I sitting in a room with a person that is not an officer or a person that doesn't like the police?'" Dionne reasoned. "But here, there's a sense of calmness because all of these people had a loved one who was a police officer."

Friendsgiving helps because to have a holiday dinner with somebody instead of nobody is something.

It helps because Gold Star Families have a chance to ask Lodge 7 questions about issues like obtaining line-of-duty-death benefits.

It helps because family members can see what other family members are doing to get through this time of year.

"You're in a place where everybody surrounding you are people that can help you," Maria Marmolejo declared. "When you go into FOP, it's a place where you feel like you can be heard, and you're respected."

Sure, it's common ground. Certainly, it's a place where they all support each other and inspire each other.

"You can have those conversations to move forward in a healthier, healing way," Maria added. "And who doesn't look forward to having a holiday and having good food with people who care?"




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FINE JEWELRY AT EXCEPTIONAL SAVINGS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

Food for a friend

So, let's eat.

Or let's look at what has made the families come back for seconds, third, fourths and what is scheduled to be the fifth one this year.

Crystal Jimenez recalled first seeing the menu and not being exactly sure what the occasion was.

"Is it the same one where John does the whole ginormous spread?" she asked. "I don't remember everything, but damn, that man just threw it down."

Nobody forgets the White Castle stuffing. Catanzara crushes it with White Castle cheeseburger sliders, including the onions, and makes that a full layer.

"My favorite part of the Friendsgiving menu," DiSanti assured.

Dionne Mhoon remembered it as "some kind of stuffing" and some kind of wonderful. Combined with the full menu, it's hard to not leave stuffed and not leave a lot of food on the table.

But there are few leftovers because all families are encouraged to take food home. Which seems to be a perfect cherry on top of the whole event.

"Some of these people are going home alone, or it's during the holidays and you don't feel like cook-

ing," Maria reminded.

When coming back around on the bounty Lodge 7 serves up, Crystal quipped that she would not forget to bring the Tupperware this year. And she walks out with the same feeling as the other Gold Star family members who attend have when they come to the Lodge 7 Friendsgiving.

"We are just so grateful," she accentuated.

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2025 Top Shot

■ BY JOEL BEMIS AND DAN GORMAN

■ PHOTO BY DAN LOMBARD AND MIKE SALYERS

Great shooting, officers!

On Sept. 27, 2025, local and federal law enforcement officers from across the Midwest met in Lockport, Illinois, at the Illinois State Police District 5 range to compete in the annual Top Shot marksmanship competition, which is hosted by the ISP Troop 3 D5 Firearms Training Unit. This event is only open to active law enforcement officers, and ISP Range Master Keith Malek set up a great shoot this year with all proceeds benefitting the Got Your 6 Foundation. All the trophies and plaques awarded this year were donated by Lodge 7.

This year's event drew 46 shooters with varying tactical and competitive experience from over 22 agencies. The Chicago Police Department and Lodge 7 were well represented with a CPD turnout of twelve officers competing. The Top Shot main event consisted of dragging a 110-pound drag bag dummy 15 yards and then engaging in a fast-paced combat-style run at targets over a 200-yard course. Great shooting, officers.

Three Lodge 7 officers placed in the top 10. The Lodge recognizes the following CPD officers for their efforts:

Stephen Bliss- 5th place
Dan Lombard- 9th place
Michael Dicera- 10th place
Louis Robles- 12th place
Vasile Carceja- 13th place
Michael Salyers- 15th place
Robert Yapdiangco- 19th place
Elvis Turcinovic- 22nd place
Tommy Spanos- 36th place
Ronald Small- 37th place
Robert Biloti- 42nd place
Thomas Jenkins- 44th place

Great job, officers!



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