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COVER STORY PAGE 30

Have Faith

Charlie Kirk was the local boy who made good for millions of people and thousands of young people. This tribute to a life worth living looks at how Charlie was destined to become a guiding light from a young age and what led him to dedicate his life to spreading the gospel. And how he made the country his ministry and left a legacy that will forever be a turning point for the U.S.A.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



Living the life and making every day count!



**JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.**

Coming to you from Glendale, Arizona, the day after being with the masses who attended the memorial service for Charlie Kirk on Sept. 21. I went on my own dime and my own time because I felt the kindred spirit to Charlie like the 90,000 who attended and the 3 million who watched on cable or steamed online.

My dime and my time are important to note, not just because there's so much politicking about money right now. No price is too great for the affirmation of Charlie's mission, a shared vision, I feel, of everything I have ever tried to do for this Lodge and its members.

Listening to people talk at Charlie's memorial was beyond surreal, relating to my approach to leading Lodge 7. What I thought it should be. What I want it to be, believing I can convince our opposers that we are right. There is always a better way forward. You're sitting there thinking about a life worth living and wondering whether mine has been, in terms of doing everything I have promised our members, no matter the cost.

I know some people have disagreed with me. Vehemently. To the point of hating me. But if I learned anything from the Charlie Kirk memorial, God bless them. I feel sorry for them if they live in such a dark place in their head.

I'm not sure I expected the soul-searching that came over me during the memorial service. I feel like my intentions have always been pure. My efforts have always been pure. Leading this Lodge has never been self-serving or about an ego. It's always been about the best representation that our law enforcement officers deserve and can get. It's frustrating at times, but I try to not let it get to me.

Understanding Charlie's perseverance is a gift I brought home from Arizona. I think we have stayed the course here. If people don't always see it, it's probably my fault on the PR side of it and explaining why we do what we do, or why I do what I do.

If there is a gift Charlie gave to everybody, it's a big mirror. Let's all take a long, hard look at it right now and make sure we like what we see.

Charlie knew how there are always people who will say you shouldn't be doing what you are doing. That happens almost every day here. I hear a lot of comments about how what I do doesn't do anything for the Chicago Police Department.

I couldn't disagree more. We're all connected in this profession, and I think fighting the fight is worth it. And at some point, I will not be here to carry the fight. Someone else will have to pick up that baton. And my hope and my goal has always been to set up the next person for success, continue the fight and make law enforcement recognized by more and more people for the noble profession it is and motivate more people to do it.



President's Report continues on Page 6

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Accentuating the positive in the face of people who don't see eye to eye was Charlie's expertise. He changed hearts and minds on college campuses. He knew the personal attacks were always going to be there. With homage to Charlie, I am now more motivated than ever.

Chicago Lodge 7 members are no different than general society. There are petty jealousies within us. But you deal with them, and you move on. I promise it's not going to deter me from what our mission has always been from Day 1 — to provide the best representation for the members and get them the best benefits and salary possible in a financially responsible way.

You no doubt heard the messages coming through Charlie's memorial that emphasized the need for fairness. The value of fairness. Made me think about whether we have been fair in the approach to our negotiations with the City or with legislators.

We've always tried to be fair. Our goal was never to bankrupt the City. People can complain about pension benefits crippling the City, but the City had no problem coming up with half a billion dollars or more for migrants who are in this city illegally.

When you're wrestling through leadership positions, you understand it's about priorities. Nothing gets the juices flowing more than when you commit to what you realize is most important to your people. I can tell you that's what gets me going in front of a microphone.

You feel the drive to take care of the home front first, then go elsewhere. So if that's your argument about what you see me doing, well, believe me, that is not what keeps me up at night.

I actually rest easy knowing the home front is taken care of. Knowing we have won many fights. Knowing we continue to make progress in other fights.

The home front will never be done. The fights will always be there as long as there is incompetence in the Chicago Police Department and City Hall. So you can't stop growing, because there's always a fight locally.

I have always tried to place first our Gold Star families because they are enduring a sacrifice that none of us hope to ever have to deal with. Now is the time more than ever to never forget that whatever we can do for them as an organization, I think we're obligated to do.

After the pilgrimage to Arizona, I felt more empowered about what we have done to make Lodge 7 great again. See, I've never tried to be everybody's cup of tea. I've just tried to be effective.

Don't bitch about the moves, the effort, the things we've done that have flat out promoted the good and welfare of the Lodge and its members. I'm sitting here in the desert, not sweating the masses, because running it down in my head almost person to person, who would take issue with that?

No grudges, though. I think it sometimes gets lost, maybe in my own head and heart, that there are people who greatly appreciate the effort. Listening to Charlie's wife saying she forgives the shooter kind of reminded me that it comes straight from the heart.

There was no better life lesson than that one from Erika Kirk. I mean, that young man is exactly the type of person Charlie was trying to help. Which led me to another great takeaway that made the trip to the memorial service so worthwhile:

Charlie absolutely was committed to his beliefs, based mostly in scripture and Christianity. I can relate to the sense that I firmly believe what we are doing is the right path, and I'm not going to be deterred from following it.

If the membership decides in 18 months that the path I have steered for this organization is not beneficial and there are no results to show, then I guess they will make a change. And I will live with that. But until



then, it's full steam ahead.

And if we can maintain that path, we can take the baton from Charlie. When it comes to Turning Point USA and what Charlie envisioned, it proved that commitment, faith, hard work and support can go a long way to create success.

Charlie grew up in the shade of Chicago. I know he loves Chicago. I know it broke his heart to see what Chicago has become. And I think everybody close to him knows his love for Chicago and how he prayed, hoped, strived and attempted to change minds to save Chicago. So with the days I have left, I'm personally going to carry that baton and try to fulfill what was in Charlie's heart, because it's in mine, too.

I always said, you save Chicago, you save this state. Because as Chicago goes, this state goes, and in many ways it can be a shiny example of a turning point that matters for generations to come. People think that's grandiose. That's just feeding your ego and all of that good stuff. But if nobody ever fights the fight, how does it ever change?

So I'm not sitting here saying we're going to be successful, but I'm going to try like hell to make sure we are. There's a balance, an inner struggle of resolve versus stubbornness. At what point does your resolve turn into stubbornness and an unwillingness to listen or to change?

So that's the constant battle, at least internally, for me. I try not to be that stubborn old bastard. It's hard.

That's why I've made a conscious effort to always listen to different opinions that historically have not been heard at Lodge 7. Because your opinions matter. For the 5 1/2 years I've been president, I've said it's easy to go into the rooms full of like-minded people, but you don't move the needle doing that.

You have to go into the hard rooms and have hard conversations to change hearts and minds — theirs and possibly even your own. And if you're not willing to do that, you're not a leader. Leaders listen. And one thing I absolutely keep telling myself in my head are the words of my dear friend, Dr. Willie Wilson: "We have to talk." Charlie lived for that, going into the hard rooms, because that's where change occurs.

As horrific as his assassination was, it first struck me that it was like a light switch being flipped off. But the light didn't really go off. The light has gotten brighter. The message has become louder. The result is stronger for what he championed.

That's what a life worth living is all about.

Bylaws bypass

When the time came at the September general membership meeting to discuss the bylaws change that would allow the Lodge 7 board to examine growth opportunities, well, the time did not come. Except for cleaning up some language in the existing bylaws, there was just too much else going on to get to it this year to vote on the question of "Is bigger better?"

But specific to expanding who Lodge 7 represents, it was always part of a bigger vision. I don't use that word lightly, because from the beginning of this journey in 2019, it was always about a vision I had of what police labor unions are supposed to do for members. And how that can affect the profession itself, not only here, but in the Chicagoland area, in the state and nationally.

I never thought that we had a loud enough voice for this profession. Yes, I was elected as Lodge 7 president. That's where my heart lies and

where all my efforts are concentrated. But I think it's shortsighted for anybody, including our own members, to not realize the benefit of being involved outside the geographic boundaries of the City of Chicago.

Illinois is probably the best example of that. What we have done in Springfield has made the profession better in the whole state and, by default, in Chicago. If you just concentrate on Chicago and you don't deal with Springfield, none of that happens.

Lodge 7 is a brand and brands need to, I don't want to say reinvent themselves, but tweak things, try things, explore, cut things out that don't work. Growth opportunities will come when the time is right, and they will be for the betterment of Lodge 7 members, law enforcement throughout the state and the profession as a whole. And so the expansion conversation will wait for another day.

A Lodge worth having

So much has been expressed about what money can do to people. President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "Happiness is not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort." President Donald Trump offered this pearl: "As long as you're going to be thinking anyway, think big." P.T. Barnum declared, "Money is a terrible master but an excellent servant," and Sir Richard Branson philosophized, "Screw it, let's do it!"

What might resonate most to me are the words of Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Some members might have an issue with spending money. We're an \$11 million a year organization in revenue. So to think that we're only going to spend pennies to make that entity function properly and move forward is just ridiculous.

I hear specific people trying to always convince others that what I'm doing — what we're doing — is nefarious and secretive. And if you give them a little inch of information, they twist it into miles of shit.

But it's not going to stop me or us from what we're doing as long as I'm in the chair I'm in. I'm pretty certain the vast majority of the members understand that and appreciate it because of the difference they have seen in Lodge 7 during the past six years.

You never know when your last president's report might come. I want to assure you that it's

been the pleasure of a lifetime to lead this organization, to fight on behalf of the 17,000 members to try and do things differently and better. This day, and every day, I will always be grateful to those who put their faith in me.

Going back to 2021, some of our expenditures have been called into question. Back then, I was considering a run for National FOP president. Lodge 7 and the Illinois State FOP each gave me money to fund the run. Some bad information is going around about that.

Right before the national conference in Indianapolis in 2021, Ella French was killed in the line of duty. So I used the money to have shirts made in honor of Ella to distribute at the conference. You still see some of those light-blue shirts adorned with her smiling face at a Lodge 7, State or National FOP event.

I never had any intention when I was planning on running to print political palm cards or anything like that. My goal was always to honor Ella and let that speak for who I am and what matters to me by distributing her T-shirts to all the delegates. It's not about hot sauce or vodka bottles or any of that nonsense.

I wanted something more lasting and more meaningful if I was going to run. As it turned out, I was talked out of it, but the shirts were still paid for. They were still purchased. When it became an issue, the receipt was produced. There was never an obligation to open up a presidential campaign fund. We are a public union, not a private union. Private unions have different obligations for campaigns, and that's where the bad information came in.

Every donation I have made on behalf of this Lodge, like the one to

get the St. Michael painting at the 2025 national conference, has been accounted for. Every dinner, every tip, etc. Some of it has come out of my pocket, and, yes, some bad information has circulated about the accounting. Some have required a need to get approval from the Lodge 7 board of directors, which isn't always timely.

There will always be members who want to be penny-wise. But that has led to pounds of foolish information.

In addition to the ones noted at the beginning here, *Forbes'* list of top 100 sayings about money includes this one from the great Vince Lombardi:

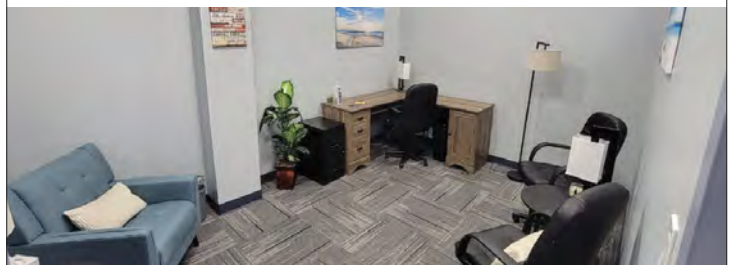
"It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it."



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The Role and Responsibilities of the First Vice President



**MICHAEL
METTE**

As the first vice president of the Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7, my position is not simply a title – it carries with it a clear set of responsibilities to our members, our board, and the integrity of our Lodge. The first vice president serves as a key support to the president, ensuring that the Lodge functions smoothly and in accordance with our constitution and bylaws. My role includes stepping in when the president is unavailable, assisting with the administration of Lodge business, and making sure that our policies and practices remain transparent and accountable.

Equally important, the first vice president has an obligation to serve as a safeguard for the membership. Members place their trust in the elected board to act in their best interests. This means that each of us on the board must not only carry out our daily duties but also uphold the highest standards of honesty and fairness.

Duty to Address Misconduct

Part of my responsibility is to act when I have knowledge or evidence that another board member may have engaged in misconduct or violated the bylaws. This is not an easy responsibility, but it is an essential one. The Lodge cannot function effectively if concerns are

ignored or swept aside. When questions of integrity arise, our by-laws provide a process to ensure fairness, accountability, and due process.

As first vice president, I am obligated to:

- File charges if I become aware of behavior that could harm the Lodge, its finances, or its reputation. (Bylaws Article II Section 8)
- Follow the established procedures laid out in our constitution and by-laws to ensure the matter is handled properly and impartially.
- Protect the rights of members and officers alike by ensuring any allegations are addressed through due process, rather than personal disputes or political maneuvering.

Accountability to the Membership

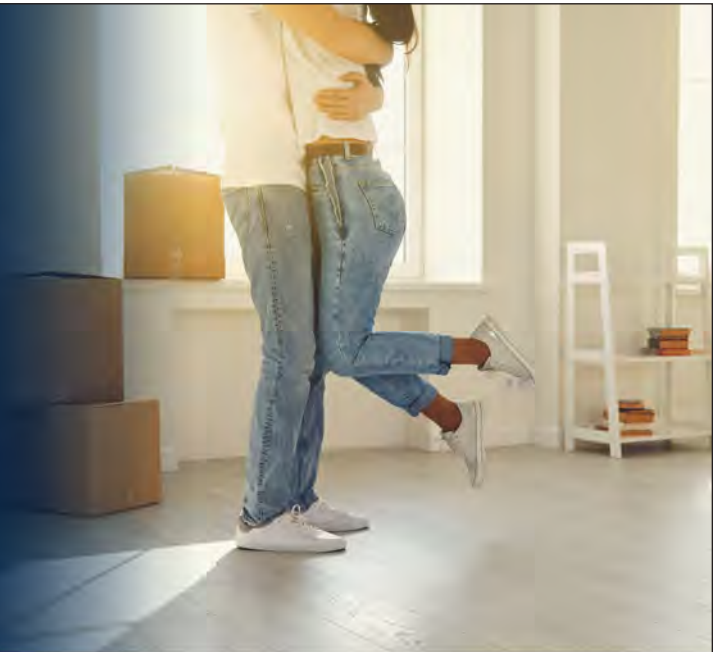
Ultimately, my duty is to the membership. When issues arise, it is not about personalities, friendships, or politics – it is about protecting the Lodge and ensuring its continued strength. Every member deserves confidence that their elected officers are acting responsibly, ethically, and in full compliance with our governing documents.

For me, the responsibility of being first vice president means always putting the Lodge first, even when difficult decisions must be made. It is a role of service, accountability, and integrity – one that I am committed to fulfilling to the best of my ability.



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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
Inappropriate comments	7-day suspension	5-day suspension
Disrespect towards supervisor	5-day suspension	3-day suspension
Alleged unjustified taser use (when responding to a fight at a funeral service). (COPA issued 5 separate rule violations).	1-day suspension	Expunged
-Alleged verbal abuse (of a offender who battered an officer).	5-day suspension	Reprimand Violation Noted
Fail to secure arrestee (2013)	1-day suspension (2x)	Expunged
"Threat" to arrest	5-day suspension	Expunged
-Unjustified stop -Unjustified search -No ISR -No ISR receipt	30-day suspension 30-day suspension 25-day suspension	Stop: Expunged Search: Expunged ISR: Violation Noted (3x's) No receipt: Violation Noted (3x's).

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.

Quote from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Inappropriate comments

"I have also reviewed all the factors in aggravation and mitigation. In aggravation, Police Officers must be aware of the potential consequences of their actions. In this case, the [Officer's] comments were verbally offensive and degrading to a coworker and not consistent with the Department's Policies. I also note that the members of the CCR unanimously concurred with the recommended penalty".

"In mitigation, I note that at the time [the accused Officer] was interviewed by BIA in January 2024, he had been on the job for over 23 years, had no prior discipline, and an exemplary Complimentary History.

As I have indicated in other Awards, I will not overturn discipline unless I find it to be unreasonable."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

Disrespect towards a Supervisor

"It is imperative for Officers to show respect to their Supervisors. In this case, engaging in conduct that was intended to be disrespectful to a Supervisor is clearly inappropriate and unacceptable." "Based on the evidence, specifically including the nature of the offense, I find that the 5-day Suspension was excessive, particularly given that it was predicated on two allegations, and I have found only the second allegation is sustained. In view of the totality of circumstances in this case, I find an appropriate penalty is a 3-day Suspension."

Quote from the 6-page arbitration decision re: Unjustified Taser Use

"After careful review of the record, I find that the City [COPA] has not met its burden to prove that [the Officer] violated the relevant Rules. I find that [she] was justified in using her Taser on [the aggressor]. In addition, I find that [the Officer] properly notified [the aggressor] that she was about to engage her Taser."

"Further, as COPA stated in its Report, "[The accused officer] was faced with a rapidly developing situation and a subject who was much larger than her and her partner".

"I note that in [the Officer's] Tactical Response Report, [the LT] checked the box that indicates that [the Officer's] use of force response was "In compliance with Department Policy and Directives."

Quotes from the 10-page arbitration decision re: Alleged verbal abuse & No ISR

"During the course of the Investigation, both Officers acknowledged their errors and were receptive to correction by the Investigator. The Officers attribute their failure to submit an ISR after their encounter with [the offender] to miscommunication between the Officers involved when the task of completing the paperwork at the end of their tour of duty was divided up."

"[The grievant] officer noted that following his return to the station after his release from the hospital, he was on medication, and off work for approximately two months due to his injuries."

"...I find that the [penalties] were excessive, given the Officers' records, their willingness to admit their errors, the extenuating circumstances under which the errors occurred, and the excessive delay in the Investigation. I also note that two members of the CCR recommended significantly lower penalties for both Officers."

Quote from the 6-page arbitration decision re: Fail to secure arrestee (2013 incident)

"As a procedural matter, I note that this case concerns an incident that occurred on November 2, 2013." "The Union argues that two years elapsed after the incident before IPRA interviewed the Officers, and it was five years after the incident before COPA finalized its Investigation and served the Officers with the allegations."

"The Union contends that [the Officer] was served his discipline ... five years later than the other Officers involved."

"The Union argues that such a delay significantly undermines

any remedial effect of the discipline. I agree.” “Nothing in the record suggests that there was a valid reason or justification for the excessive delay.” “To impose discipline ten years after the incident is unreasonable and unfair to [the Officer].

Quotes from the 10-page arbitration decision re:

Alleged “Threat” to arrest and no ISR receipt

The ISR stated that [the Officer] was on a call for service when [the offender] yelled obscenities on the residential street, shouting, “Get a real f**ing job” and “F** you pig!” “The ISR also stated that [the offender’s] actions were disruptive to the public, occurring in an area where kids and elderly citizens were present.”

“Further, he said that [the offender] was obstructing his investigation on a vehicle.” “...repeatedly hassled [him] during the course of his duties. “[The Officer] stated that he advised [the offender] that if his actions continued, there would be repercussions.”

“However, COPA nonetheless sustained Allegation #4 and #5, in that [the Officer] threatened to arrest [the offender] ..., and in that [the Officer] failed to provide...an Investigatory Stop Receipt...”. “COPA recommended a 20-day Suspension.”

“I find that when the entire interaction is considered in context, there is insufficient evidence to show that [the Officer] specifically threatened to arrest [the offender] for failing to provide identification.” “I also find it noteworthy that COPA did not find [the offender] credible because his statement contradicted [the] video”.

Note:

In this “Alleged threat” case, the Lodge gives honorable mentions to Commander Beth Giltmier and Deputy Chief Gabby Shemash

for taking the time to issue relative lengthy non-concurrences to COPA’s findings and effectively disagreed with COPA’s recommendation for the officer to serve a 20-day suspension. The officer was then served with a 5-day suspension, which the officer promptly filed the grievance. The arbitrator in this case credited both the Commander and the Deputy Chief’s opinions, and ultimately, the arbitrator granted the grievance thereby “Expunging” the CR number.

Quotes from the 12-page arbitration decision re:

Alleged unjustified stop/search; no ISR; and No receipt (investigative delay)

“Given the excessive and unjustified delay conducting this Investigation, I agree with the Union that the delay is a significant mitigating factor. The Officers were interviewed four years after the incident and after COPA interviewed the Complainants. A delay of such magnitude without justification is prejudicial to the three Officers”.

“...I cannot find sufficient proof to question the Officers’ decision to conduct the investigatory stop and subsequently perform a search of the vehicle...”. “I note that it is uncontested that immediately after the stop, [the offender] exited the vehicle and began to walk away. This provided the Officers with reasonable articulable suspicion to search the vehicle and ultimately arrest [the offender].

“In mitigation, I agree with the Union that an unexplained delay of over four years to interview the Officers and almost another year to serve them notice of the discipline was excessive, and thus a significant mitigating factor. Further, I have only sustained the ISR and ISR Receipt violations, not the stop or search allegations.”

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Tuohy Law Offices has served FOP members for 36 years
Tom Tuohy is the grandson of a CPD Chief and son of a CPD Detective

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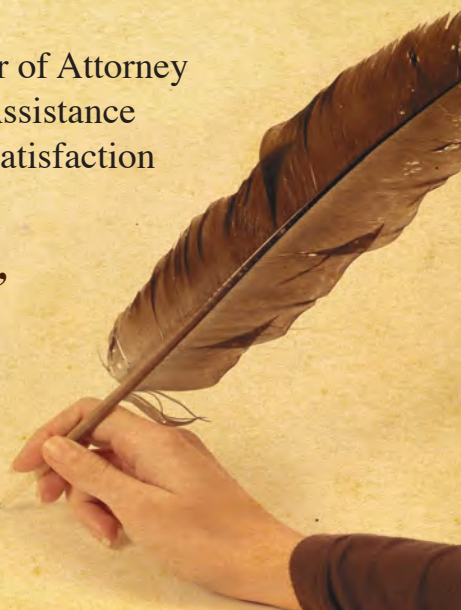


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City of Chicago Open Enrollment Changes



**MONICA
ORTIZ**

It's that time of year when you can make changes to your medical benefits during the open enrollment period. The benefits manager contacted the Lodge to inform us of the changes being made during open enrollment. It's a yearly process that occurs in October, and each year, city employees have been mailed the Healthcare and Other Benefits Open Enrollment Guide (OE) to their homes. I'm referring to the large envelope that's mailed annually, which includes an explanation of your insurance benefits. This year, the city will not be conducting open enrollment as usual. City workers will not be receiving an (OE) guide, so you need to stay informed about these changes. The city will post the OE guide online, and each employee will receive a personal benefits cover sheet in the mail, along with a brief explanation of how to find the open enrollment guide online.

To access the guide, you can visit www.cityofchicago.org/benefits. You can access the guide from your computer or mobile device by typing in the link. A QR code will also be available to access the guide online. A limited number of hard copies of the open enroll-

ment guide will be provided at the Lodge, as well as police stations and the public safety building. The open enrollment guide links that are online will be clickable, making it convenient for members to access the open enrollment system.

For officers who prefer to complete open enrollment by phone, there is a toll-free number. This option will continue to be provided as in the past, ensuring that you have the flexibility to choose the method that best suits your needs.

The 2026 open enrollment guide will be available at www.cityofchicago.org/benefits. This is where you can find all the information you need to make informed decisions about your benefits. The Benefits Service Center's toll-free number is 1-877-299-5111 should you have any questions or need assistance.

If you haven't already, please set up your account with the benefits management website. This will allow you to make changes and understand the benefits you are entitled to for medical, dental, and vision. Also, read everything carefully when making changes, check off boxes, and make changes promptly.

God bless and please stay safe.

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Bye Bye Bed Bugs



**ROB
NOCEDA**

Hello Lodge 7, I pray this finds you well. When I became the safety chairman for the Lodge a few years ago, I set out to hold the city accountable to better maintain the buildings that our members use every day. This is for a multitude of reasons that include health and safety, morale boosters, and just plain maintenance and upkeep. This is a daily struggle. As I have mentioned to the membership, there are so many issues. These include pothole-filled parking lots, poor district lighting, busting pipes, furnace problems, mold, asbestos, flooding in locker rooms, leaky roofs, rodent issues, and the list goes on.

But I have some good news. A victory, in that regard. Operation Bed Bug, yeah well, I made up the operation's name for my own motivation. So, please hear me out. Recently, I have been notified that at HQ, aka 35th street, the city vendors will start the removal and renovations on the aka Bed Bug 3rd floor. This should start after the first week of October. So, I hope as you read this the bugs will forever leave the building. Members are being moved around HQ while demolition and replacement takes place.

The city vendors who are removing file cabinets, old partitions, and furniture. This will all be properly disposed. The carpet there will also be removed, new floors will be installed, and a fresh coat of paint will go on the walls. I have discussed this issue for quite some time. I have written about the bed bugs in the past and went back and forth over emails and meetings with the city. This endeavor was long overdue.

It took time, determination and a help from people who care about our members. I would like to thank recent CPD retiree Marie Gasca. Marie was the unit rep for Unit 166. She always kept me up to speed on the issues and the infamous bed bug sightings. I also need to thank Alderman Silvana Tabares who helped facilitate meetings that lead to the meaningful conversations and results. Special thanks to Risk Management Kim Woods who is now Lt. Kim Woods. I do appreciate Frank Lindbloom who recently left city employment. Thanks also to city of Chicago, Director of Facilities Kevin Daniel and Deputy Director General Support Iris Archilla.

All things said, the members will have better working conditions and won't have to worry about bringing bed bugs home. Unfortunately, bed bugs did get brought to a member's home. We assisted to ensure they were reimbursed for the treatment. No more getting bitten by the bed bugs if you work in that infested area. No more signs with, "Don't sit on this chair, bed bugs were found on it." No more bed bug distractions. Again, I hope those bugs are gone forever.

These members on the 3rd floor of HQ endured during these gross conditions. Many of these members who worked on the bed bug floor were Injured on Duty Officers. This issue, was a daily issue that these injured Officers encountered. This situation is best described as "To add insult to Injury."

We are glad there is now a resolution to this many years long issue. We will continue the daily fight for better working conditions for the members. At the Lodge, we are here for you anytime. God Bless, be safe, and continue to stay in the fight. "You're the Angels on the Street."

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SGT. Promotional Classes set to begin



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, officers, both active and retired. The promotional calendar was updated, and the sergeant's promotional class is set to begin on Oct. 6, 2025. The department flipped flopped the sergeant and the detective promotional classes. This adjustment was met with the ire of a few officers on the rank order sergeant list who would have just made their six-and-a-half years in grade, making them eligible for the originally scheduled Oct. 27, 2025, promotional class. The department has the ability to change the dates for promotional classes. The FOP has no say in when the department starts a class or the number of officers that they will promote. The office staff and field reps are tasked with many questions in the upcoming days of a promotional class. These are the answers to some commonly asked questions.

- 1) We do not know the exact number of officers being promoted. We hear rumors from the training academy about the numbers of lockers that they reserve or learning the number of sergeants that put in for retirements, but these do not allow us at FOP to give a concrete answer.
- 2) The department can select up to 30 percent merit candidates for the sergeant promotional class. Although in the past few sergeant promotional classes, there has been under the 30 percent threshold.
- 3) If an officer has a preplanned furlough, it is up to that officer if

they want to defer the promotional opportunity or enter the promotional class and use the rest of their V-Days or hours after the training is completed. When you get assigned, you must let your new unit of assignment know if you did not receive your furlough or if you have "use or lose" V days or hours that need to be used before the end of the year.

4) If an officer is on parental leave, and they want to return to work in time to get vetted and accept the sergeant promotion, they should return to work in time to be accepted into the promotional class. Remember that, according to the parental leave order, you cannot resume your leave once you have returned to work.

5) If an officer chooses to defer the current sergeant promotion, they will remain on the list as long as the current list is active.

6) The vetting process takes place a couple weeks before the promotional class is set to begin. You will be flagged for debts to the city (parking tickets, red light tickets, outstanding water bills), your educational requirement must be on file with Human Resources (it is best to hand carry sealed transcripts), you must be a full-duty officer (limited-duty will be passed over). Lastly, and as is the case with all promotional classes, you will take a drug test at the start of the class.

Congratulations to all and don't forget where you came from. Stay safe.



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Honoring an FOP Legend



MICHAEL
COLLINS

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. Coming from a large police family, I've always had a special respect for retired police officers who have dedicated their lives to the job. I also enjoy listening to their stories about the old days. Many retirees remain very active with the police department and the FOP. One in particular I would like to acknowledge today is my friend Harold Brown.

Harold joined the Chicago Police Department and the FOP in 1965. Over the course of his career, he has received many accommodations and awards. He spent his career working in 014, 016, 019, 020, Airport Operations, and the

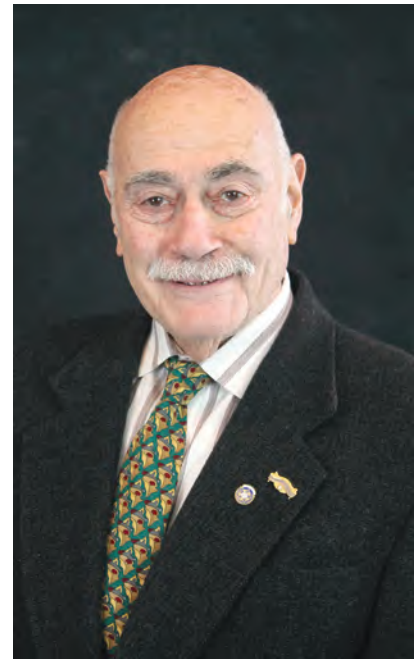
Traffic Section, where he retired out of in 2003. He was also elected as an FOP trustee since 1991 where he served as chairman of the trustees, along with many committee assignments over the years. Harold continues to stay active at almost 85 years old serving on the FOP Board of Directors, working in the FOP gift shop, and volunteering his time with many police officer charity events. You will also see him out there working on the food trailer serving food to our members across the city.

In addition to his roles at FOP, he is also the President of the RCPA (Retired Chicago Police Association) and serves on the national police federal credit union board of directors.

In August at the 2025 FOP national conference in Miami, Harold was brought up on stage by FOP National President Patrick Yoes to acknowledge his lifetime achievements of 60-plus years with the FOP. It was very humbling to witness in front of thousands of fellow brothers and sisters.

Harold's knowledge of FOP business has made him a very valuable asset to many administrations throughout the years. He continues to serve as a mentor to the younger board members, and we look forward to many more years together. He resides in the Edgebrook/Wildwood neighborhood with his wife Patricia of 64 years. Next time you see Harold, please congratulate him on his 60-plus years of service with the FOP.

Stay safe everyone!



Service Worth a Spotlight



KENYATTA
GAINES

The "Southside Police & Community Ride Against Gun Violence" is being held at 63rd DuSable Lake Shore Drive - 53rd St. (On the Lakeside Bike Trail) on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025 at 11 a.m.

From 2020 to now there have been approximately 3,000 people killed by gun violence within the city of Chicago. Eighty-seven of these homicides were committed within the Chicago Police 003rd District - Grand Crossing area. Neighborhoods within the south and west side of Chicago have commonly been highly affected by gun violence. Officer Angela Mack Browner #19866, has made it her mission to promote awareness and encourage police and community to work together, to build trust and stronger partnerships with each other. She knows that "Together We Can" make an impact to reduce gun violence incidents within our city.

PO Browner is a 29-year veteran of CPD. She has served 21 years within the 003rd District. Officer Angela received specialized training through Family Rescue Social Services and the Illinois Attorney General's Office. She worked as beat officer #314 for 10 consecutive years, community policing officer appointed to senior service officer, domestic violence liaison, and alderman liaison for 10 years, and one year with the

003rd District Tactical Team.

During her tenure within the CAPS office, she received special recognitions, certificates, and awards from different entities. The Chicago Commission on Human Relations presented her



with a Valor & Outstanding Leadership Award. She was nominated as Woman of the Year by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, Xi Mu Zeta Chapter. Her other awards include: Outstanding Senior Service Officer of the Year, Outstanding Community Leadership Award and the A.G.A.P.E Shepard's Award. Browner is presently detailed to unit 543 - Detached services under the Office of the 1st Deputy Superintendent. She is the FOP watch rep, terrorism liaison, and St. Jude representative. As you can tell she is no stranger to the service of others.

PO Browner invites each of you to throw on something orange and join her and some of our Gold Star Families on the bike trail in October. These are our communities, this is our city, we must take steps to unite and strengthen the voice of the good people within each neighborhood. The problems within the 003rd district are not restricted to 003. Let us gather and ride, skate, walk together showing the evil of this area that we are uniting to fight back against gun violence.

Stay safe!

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The First Amendment and Social Media



PAT
FIORETTO

Attorneys in our office are often asked: Do First Amendment rights related to social media postings apply to police officers? The typical attorney response is: It depends. Here is why.

The starting principle is that the First Amendment, generally, applies to all speech. However, courts have found that speech by government employees receives less protection than speech by members of the public.

This does not mean that public employees surrender all of their First Amendment rights simply because they are police officers. Rather, courts look at a variety of factors.

As a recent Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals case issued last year explained, “...the government, as employer, has greater leeway to control the speech of its employees to ensure discipline and harmony in government operation.” In *Hicks v. Illinois Department of Corrections* (7th Cir. 2024), the Seventh Circuit ruled on the efficacy of a First Amendment retaliation claim of an Illinois Department of Corrections sergeant whom the employer suspended for 10 days after an internal investigation of his alleged “Islamophobic” and “offensive” social media posts. The sergeant’s Facebook posts gained notoriety when the Chicago Sun-Times published an article accusing Illinois Department of Corrections employees of posting “offensive” and “Islamophobic” content on Facebook, citing to the sergeant’s specific Facebook posts as evidence. The posts came from the sergeant’s public Facebook profile, which listed his occupation as “Corrections Sergeant at Illinois Department of Corrections” and included a photo of himself in uniform.

An internal investigation found that the sergeant’s posts violated the department’s code of conduct which requires “employees to conduct themselves in a professional manner and, whether on duty or not, not engage in conduct unbecoming of a State employee or that may reflect unfavorably on or impair operations of the Department.” The employer subsequently suspended him for 10 days. Following issuance of his discipline, the sergeant filed suit in federal district court alleging violations of his First Amendment free speech rights. The District Court granted summary judgement in favor of the defendants and the sergeant then appealed to the case to the Seventh Circuit.

As the Seventh Circuit explained, to establish a First Amendment retaliation claim, a government employee must show that the speech was constitutionally protected, the employee suffered a deprivation likely to deter free speech, and the speech was at least a motivating factor in the employer’s actions. The court also looks to see if the plaintiff “suffered a deprivation likely to deter free speech.” The Hicks Court held that to determine whether the First Amendment protects a government employee’s speech, a “two-step” inquiry is required. The first step asks whether the employee, “spoke as a citizen upon matters of public concern.” If the first step is satisfied, the second step uses a “balancing test” to deter-

mine “whether the employee’s interests in speaking on a matter of public concern outweighs the government’s interest in promoting effective and efficient public services.” The Seventh Circuit easily found that the plaintiff’s speech was constitutionally protected since both parties in the suit conceded that the sergeant “spoke as a citizen on matters of public concern,” and quickly moved onto the balancing test. The Hicks Court outlined several nonexclusive and interrelated factors to determine if “the employee’s interests in speaking on a matter of public concern outweigh the government’s interest in promoting effective and efficient public services.” Those factors include: (1) whether the speech would create problems in maintaining discipline or harmony among co-workers; (2) whether the employment relationship is one in which personal loyalty and confidence are necessary; (3) whether the speech impeded the employee’s ability to perform her responsibilities; (4) the time, place and manner of the speech; (5) the context in which the underlying dispute arose; (6) whether the matter was one on which debate was vital to informed decision-making; and (7) whether the speaker should be regarded as a member of the general public.

When analyzing these factors, courts cannot “merely count how many factors line up on each side...” Instead, as the Hicks Court explained, “...one factor of great weight may offset several which lean slightly in the other direction.” In addition, “[l]aw enforcement agencies tasked with protecting and maintaining correctional centers function as “paramilitary organizations” charged with maintaining public safety and order... As a result, they receive more latitude in their discipline decisions and personnel regulations than an ordinary government employer.” The Hicks Court also emphasized that “[a] government employer need not prove that the employee’s speech actually disrupted efficiency; rather, the employer’s burden is to show “the potential disruptiveness’ of the employee’s speech.” Upon applying these factors to the facts in the Hicks case, the Hicks Court ruled that many of the factors favored the employer’s action and upheld the district court’s dismissal. For example, the court stressed how the employment relationship between the sergeant and the department required “loyalty and confidence” yet the sergeant’s post encouraging the overthrow of the government conflicted with loyalty to said government (i.e. the department). Ultimately, the Seventh Circuit held that “the Department’s interest in workplace efficiency and preventing disruption outweighed any interest Hicks had in commenting as he did.”

The main lesson to be learned here is to be careful – especially when posting controversial topics on your social media platforms. Always assume the department and citizens are watching. As the old saying goes, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” In other words, it is far easier and more effective to prevent a problem from happening in the first place than to fix it after it has occurred.

Will Garrity Protect You



**TIM
GRACE**

One of the greatest protections a public employee has and specifically a police officer can be found in the case of *New Jersey v. Garrity*. Garrity rights are central to the right against incriminating yourself in a criminal setting. We have written about this right in the past, but it bears revisiting. When a police officer is the subject of a criminal investigation and invokes his right to remain silent, that right should be respected. However, what if he or she is given a direct order to answer questions? You can't refuse a legal direct order. So, do you choose between your employment rights or your right against self-incrimination? What to do. Get prosecuted or lose your job? Not really a good choice.

In 1961, six police officers in Bellmawr and Barrington boroughs in New Jersey were suspected of police corruption in that they were engaging in fixing tickets for money. Edward Garrity was the chief of police and according to the New Jersey attorney general was at the center of the probe. An investigation began and eventually statements of their involvement were sought. Mr. Garrity and his officers found themselves in a very precarious situation. If they invoked their right to remain silent, their silence would certainly raise eyebrows as to their illegal activity. If they answered the questions, they may very well incriminate themselves. Assuming Ed and his fellow officers had a moment of morality and decided not to lie to the attorney general, the decision was made to invoke

their right to remain silent under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Probably good advice.

Well, that New Jersey attorney general appeared to have one more arrow left in its quill. Garrity and his fellow officers were then threatened with termination and removal from office if they refused to answer questions. At this point all officers gave incriminating statements that led to criminal charges and eventually they were convicted. The case wound its way all the way up to the United States Supreme Court. The issue before the Supreme Court was whether a prosecutor in a criminal trial can use statements made by a police officer who wants to invoke the Fifth Amendment but was threatened with termination. To put it more bluntly, is it legal to make a police officer choose between his constitutional rights versus his employment rights? The United States Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional to force a public employee to make the choice between self-incrimination or job forfeiture. It appears Edward Garrity and his merry band of ticker fixers unknowingly provided many protections not only for police officers but public employees.

The legal concept of "Garrity Rights" then morphed into what we commonly call our "administrative rights" which are read to us before every disciplinary statement. The administrative rights tell us that anything we say cannot be used against us in a subsequent criminal prosecution. Hence, when we are notified to provide a statement at COPA and are given our Garrity Rights, we cannot refuse to answer questions even after a direct order is given. It is perhaps the most significant labor case to come down in the last 50 years. Even the collective bargaining agreement, which is the "contract" between the city of Chicago and Fraternal Order of Police recognizes that when criminal prosecution is probable against an officer, COPA will give the officer his or her Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination and if he or she invokes those rights, the officer cannot be disciplined. Sounds like a win for labor. But not so fast.

First and foremost, Garrity has been whittled down over the last 50 years. It only applies to testimonial evidence. Meaning the prosecutor can use your administrative BAC blow in a DUI trial. The prosecutor can also use your statement against your partner in his criminal prosecution. Garrity statements are not suppressed in a federal civil rights trial and can be used against you. While anything you say during a Garrity-protected statement cannot be used against you, the fruits or the information that is obtained based upon that statement can be used against you. Typically, Garrity-protected statements could not be used for purpose, including impeachment at a criminal trial, but recent court cases have shown a reluctance to allow officers to give trial testimony that conflicts with the statement given pursuant to Garrity. So far, no court has ruled it is admissible, but many have begrudgingly upheld the rule. One federal district judge noted that "Garrity protection is not a license to lie or commit perjury." A group of officers on a Miami Police narcotics team learned that a known drug dealer was trying to kill a member of their team. The officer located the drug dealer and allegedly beat him to death. When the internal investigation began, the officers were given their Garrity Rights and eventually charged with obstruction of justice among other things based upon the statement given. They were eventually charged and convicted, and the appellate court ruled that it was proper to introduce the statements.

Of course, COPA does not believe in Garrity Rights. Even though the contract mirrors Garrity and clearly states that an officer should



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be afforded his constitutional rights when criminal prosecution is probable. While it should not be a big surprise that COPA ignores the contract, what is disconcerting is that COPA ignores the United States Supreme Court. I suppose when you believe in the movement then you can pick and choose which amendments to the United States Constitutional are mandatory and which are simply advisory. The end result is that Garrity protections may soon go the way of the Crown Vic, a fuzzy memory from the past.

The FOP continues to hold the line. Unfair labor practices have been filed and litigated over the issue. Each and every day we are demanding that the statements be Garrity-protected and put a disclaimer in stating that we are only given this statement because we have been advised that disciplinary proceedings and termination are possible. You should be aware of these rights as they are not abstract but real. While COPA may try to chip away at these rights, so far, the substance of the case remains law. Hopefully, this will continue. Who would have thought that making a couple of parking tickets go away would have produced 50 years of scrutiny?

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Petitions & Veto Session



DAVE
SULLIVAN

Legislators will meet for their fall veto session in October while they are also busy passing petitions for re-election. There is a lot of discussion about energy, pension, and transit funding issues among others. As of this writing, I am not convinced that the legislature will take action on these this fall, but we shall see. In addition to these big issues, legislators are also passing petitions for next year's election. Legislators are actively out there walking precincts and talking with their neighbors as they collect the hundreds of signatures they need for their petitions.

The political musical chairs game that is going on currently is a lot to watch. As noted before, U.S. Sen. Durbin, Lt. Gov. Stratton, and Comptroller Mendoza are not seeking re-election. Stratton is running for the U.S. Senate while Mendoza is rumored to be contemplating another bid for mayor of Chicago in 2027. I don't recall a time when we have had four members of the Illinois congressio-

nal delegation leave their seats at the same time. Chicago U.S. Reps. Danny Davis and Jan Schakowsky are both retiring while U.S. Reps. Robin Kelly and Raja Krishnamoorthi are both seeking the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Dick Durbin. As one would expect, the races to succeed them are very full with nearly two dozen declared candidates just for U.S. Rep. Schakowsky's seat. These races are winner-take-all so the victor in these races could win with less than 30 percent of the vote since there are so many candidates. There is not a runoff.

More than a dozen state legislators are not seeking re-election. This unfortunately includes one of our greatest allies, southwest side state Sen. Bill Cunningham. Bill has been a great friend and a staunch advocate for first responders. He will certainly be missed in the state Senate. There will be another large turnover in a legislature in which many legislators have less than five years seniority in the current make-up of the General Assembly.

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Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Raymond Adams	Retired	80	April 13, 2024
James Alexander	Retired	93	July 18, 2025
Harry Fenner	Retired	79	August 7, 2025
Robert Muscolino	Retired	81	August 9, 2025
Lorraine Schereck	Retired	75	August 22, 2025
Robert Schumacher	Retired	77	September 2, 2025
Reginald Betts	Retired	78	September 10, 2025
James Begley	Retired	93	September 12, 2025
William Haiman	Retired	92	September 15, 2025
Robert Sadler	Retired	78	September 17, 2025
Richard Cauble	Retired	83	September 22, 2025
Gregory Bronsberg	Retired	77	September 25, 2025

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				Rosario Lazzara	Officer	189	20
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Bernardo Loleng	Officer	014	26
Julius Beacham	Officer	006	28	Arnold Lozada	Officer	050	31
Marco Campos	Detective	610	29	Jon Ohlicher	Officer	024	22
Carrie Cooney	Sgt.	124	29	Sheryl Panek	Officer	017	26
Anthony Driver	Officer	001	29	Wayne Patnett	Officer	014	31
Leonidas Ferreras	Officer	124	18	Daniel Rodriguez	Detective	630	30
Marie Gasca	Officer	007	29	Scott Soreghen	Officer	188	27
Juanita Gomez	Officer	018	21	Devonna Young	Officer	003	27

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.
Jedi's Garden, Oak Lawn

8-Ball Luncheon

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

Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of month
@ 9 a.m.
Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant
Chicago
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

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

Arizona Retirees

Third Thursday of month
@ 11 a.m.

Eagle Buffet at Casino Arizona
524 N. 92nd St.
Scottsdale, Arizona
Brian DuFour, 623-521-6146 or
bdu4@aol.com

Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of month
@ noon
Elks Lodge
Mountain Home, Arkansas
Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407

Florida Retirees

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

Michigan Retirees

First Thursday of month
@ 8 a.m.
Macks on Main
101 W. Cedar Ave.

Gladwin, Michigan
John Nielson
989-324-0877
jnnielson@gmail.com

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month
Herner's Hideaway
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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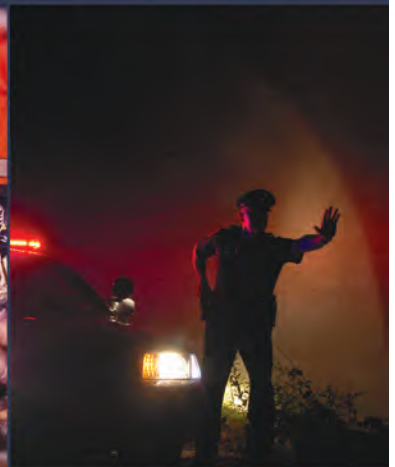
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Handling Life's Challenges



**RABBI
MOSHE WOLF**

I recently had a lengthily conversation with one of our members, "Billy," who was battling serious physical illness. One challenge after the other, Billy would not give up. He would never use his illness as an excuse, as a way out, to stay away from work. Barring those days that he was just "down and out," he always showed up for work. He was and is an inspiration to all his friends and co-workers. He said to me, "Rabbi, you remember the story of the kid asking their Dad how to handle challenges?" And Dad answered, "Remember the story of Carrots, Eggs, and Coffee, and I decided to be like the coffee and never give up." Then Billy asked that I share the story again with the troops, to help guide us all through those challenging moments. Here it is "Are You a Carrot, an Egg or Coffee?"

A teenager complained to her Dad about her life and how things have been so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it through life and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed that just as one problem was solved, another arose. Her Dad, a chef, took her to the kitchen, filled three pots with water, and placed the fire on high. Soon the three pots came to a boil. In one he placed carrots, in the other he placed eggs, and in the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word. The daughter sucked her teeth and impatiently wondered what he was trying to do. She had problems, and he was making this strange concoction. In a half-hour he walked over to the oven and turned down the fire. He pulled the carrots out and placed them in the bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in the bowl. Then he ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to his daughter he asked, "Darling what do you see,"

Smartly, she replied, "carrots, eggs, and coffee."

He brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Her face frowned from the strength of the coffee.

Humbly, she asked, "What does it mean Dad?"

He explained, "Each of them faced the same adversity, 212 degrees of boiling hot water. However, each reacted differently."

"The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. But after going through boiling hot water, it softened and became weak.

"The egg was fragile. A thin outer shell protected a liquid center. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

"The coffee beans are unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, it became stronger and richer.

"Which are you?" he asked his daughter.

When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond?

Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

Are you the carrot that seems hard, but with the smallest amount of pain, adversity, heat you wilt and become soft with no strength?

Are you the egg, which starts off with a malleable heart? A fluid spirit. But after suffering death of a loved one, a breakup, a divorce, a layoff, you became hardened and stiff. Your shell looks the same, but you are so bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and heart, internally.

Or are you like the coffee bean? The bean does not get its peak flavor and robust until it reaches 212 degrees. When the water gets

the hottest, it just tastes better. When things are at their worst, you get better. When people talk the most, your praises increase. When the hour is the darkest, trials are their greatest, your prayer and faith elevate you to another level?

How do you handle challenges? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? May G-d bless you with enough strength to face all your challenges with faith, courage and trust that, "If God brought you to it, He will bring you through it." Amen.

Some points to ponder: "Old Time Advice Still Applicable Today"

- 1) Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- 2) Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
- 3) Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- 4) You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- 5) Every path in life has a few puddles.
- 6) The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- 7) Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- 8) Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- 9) Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- 10) Don't interfere with something that ain't bothering you.
- 11) If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.
- 12) Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- 13) Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot that comes from bad judgment.
- 14) Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to G-d.
- 15) Last but not least, find something to laugh about every day, even if you have to look in the mirror...lol.

Before we close a quick joke from "the Moshe Files:

The Speeding Driver:

A man is speeding down a highway late one night at 11:30 p.m., when he gets pulled over by a cop. The officer comes up to the car and says, "Do you have any idea how fast you were going?"

The man replies, "I'm sorry officer, I was rushing to a lecture about the negative impacts of alcohol abuse and the importance of staying within the law."

Intrigued, the officer asks, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man smirks and says, "My wife." LOL

On behalf of all your chaplains, may God bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in his loving care. Amen. All our direct numbers are listed in your FOP handbooks under chaplains.

Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on or perhaps have some good humor to share, (I take humor seriously, please let me hear from you!) please do not hesitate to call.

We are here for you 24/7! Police chaplain's website: www.chicagopcm.org, look us up.

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

It was really nice to see so many familiar faces at St. Christina Parish's Blue Mass last month and a pleasant surprise to see more of you all the way out in LaGrange at St. Cletus! Below is a picture of that Mass, celebrated on a stage-turned-sanctuary at their annual "Fall Fest."

Upcoming Blue Masses I have the honor to celebrate include:

- St. Eugene (NW side) Sunday, Oct. 5, at 11:30 a.m.
- Holy Name Cathedral (downtown) Sunday, Oct. 12, at 10:30 a.m.
- St. Gianna (Evergreen Park) Sunday, Oct. 19, at 10:30 a.m.
- St. Paul of the Cross (Park Ridge) Saturday, Oct. 25, at 4:30 p.m.

As always, ALL are welcome to come and pray with/for our police at these Blue Masses...perhaps in your neighborhood! Of

course, you're also welcome at the police Mass every second and fourth Sunday (except Chicago Marathon Sunday) at 11 a.m. at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Boulevard). See our website for more information.

It was also really nice to again see hundreds of friendly faces at the Brotherhood For The Fallen's annual Blue Tie Gala last month. You can see several pictures of the event on our website's "Photo Album" page.

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

773/550-2369 (cell/text)

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



CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Police Officer Jonathan Morlock
#15358 Unit Rep from 606



On Jan. 17, 2024, at the location of 13088 S. Evans, Officers Drapala and Jimenez were assigned to a "ShotSpotter alert." Upon their arrival on scene, the offender came from behind a building and began firing shots towards the officers while they were still seated in their vehicle. The officers called a 10-1 and returned fire at the offender. The officers' vehicle was rendered inoperable, and the officers exited their vehicle to find cover. The officers continued transmitting information over the zone and helped responding

units to establish a perimeter to contain the offender. Sgt. James Paoletti #924 arrived on scene and, with the officers, utilized time as a tactic, created distance, and used cover to apprehend the armed offender. The offender was placed into custody and charged with two counts of attempted murder.

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





KEEP THE FAITH

Many are called, but few are chosen, and Charlie Kirk answered the call, living a life that will be with us forever.

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Of all the declarations and exclamations from Charlie Kirk, sending inspiration out to the masses, one message might have been especially for Chicago Police Officers. On an episode of “The Charlie Kirk Show” podcast in August, he had a wish for his beloved city, which isn’t far from where he grew up, in Prospect Heights.

“I want to be able to walk the Magnificent Mile in Chicago without having to look over my shoulder,” Kirk proclaimed on the show.

Lodge 7 Recording Secretary Rob Noceda is one in the mass of people who followed Kirk ardently. A devout Christian drawn to the way Charlie lived by the Scriptures, Noceda hit spot-on when explaining how Charlie looked at the country as his ministry. And he offered some of his own gospel of the kinship between Charlie and Lodge 7 members.

“Charlie would’ve been a great police officer,” Noceda described. “An officer has to go on scene, and, in reality, they have dialogue with people telling them the facts. Some people don’t like it. So they’re debating with you. Most of the time, you’re not in a shooting, you’re not fighting, you’re not slamming people. You’re honestly having a conversation. Charlie did the same thing.”

And so begins this appreciation of a life worth living, an account of why Charlie Kirk brought pride and joy to so many of those in Illinois. In celebrating Charlie as a national hero and mourning his assassination on Sept. 10, let’s honor and revere how the formative years that shaped his faith came about here and how he carried that faith to college campuses and other venues where they needed it most.

“He made more out of his life than I think he could even imagine,” Noceda continued. “But that’s heavenly sent. It’s truly a life worth living. It’s truly a life that was destined for him to live.”

The heart of a lion

That life began on Oct. 14, 1993. Born to an architect father who was involved in the construction of Trump Tower and a mother who was a trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and subsequently worked as a mental health counselor, Charlie became an Eagle Scout and once said he experienced a political awakening in middle school when he read books by economist Milton Friedman.

In 2010, while a junior at Wheeling High School, 16-year-old Charlie was on the cusp of his public service life, catapulted by two seminal experiences. He volunteered for the U.S. Senate campaign of Illinois Republican Mark Kirk (no relation). And he began listening to “The Rush Limbaugh Show.”



And then from seminal to watershed. During his senior year, Charlie initiated a boycott of cookies at the school cafeteria due to a price increase. He wrote an article for *Breitbart News* alleging liberal bias in high-school textbooks. That earned him an appearance on Fox Business. At 17.

And so an icon of contemporary conservatism was born again.

According to a Wikipedia page that it is hard to believe was only 31 years in the making, 18-year-old Charlie — fresh off leaving Harper College in Palatine after just a semester — made a speech at Benedictine University’s Youth Government Day. Bill Montgomery, a 72-year-old retiree, was in the audience and encouraged Charlie to pursue political activism full time.

A month later, Montgomery and Kirk co-founded Turning Point USA as a student organization advocating for free markets and limited government. By 2025, TPUSA had grown to include chapters at more than 2,000 college and high school campuses. According to ProPublica, that is now more than 3,500 chapters in high schools and colleges and more than \$85 million raised.

At 22, Charlie was one of the youngest speakers at the 2016 Republican National Convention. At the time, Kirk — who had worked with more conventional Republican candidates in the past — admitted to *Wired* magazine that he “was not the world’s biggest Donald Trump fan.”

But following his death, Jared Kushner wrote on X that Charlie “played a significant role in helping President Trump’s 2016 campaign,” adding that he told established political organizations that Kirk “comes with big ideas, is easy to work with and always overdelivers.”

Charlie was recognized on the 2018 *Forbes* “30 Under 30” list in law and policy. And before the 2024 election, his tour of college campuses to promote Gen Z voter turnout reportedly produced approximately 2 billion views on social media.

All of which does not fully measure a life worth living.

“As a born-again, Bible-carrying Christian, I have to say that the man lived a true Christian life by speaking the truth and having valid discussions,” Noceda submitted. “You always challenge people to be better people, and not everything is based upon legalism. It was based on God-made laws, meaning aren’t you going to help someone if they’re in need?”

To everything, there is a season

Regalia of a life worth living came full force at Charlie’s memorial service on Sept. 21. Within minutes of Turning



CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Point USA announcing the service would take place at State Farm Arena in Glendale, Arizona, more than 200,000 people registered for tickets to the event. Arena capacity is 73,000.

Drone views of a large crowd gathered in a vast parking lot prior to the memorial service showed people wearing red, white and blue as Turning Point USA had suggested. One of those making the personal pilgrimage to the memorial was Lodge 7 President John Catanzara. He was among the masses taking part in what was described as the start of a revival for religious conservatives.

Millions more watched on TV or online, seeing singers such as Brandon Lake, Chris Tomlin, Phil Wickham, Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes and Lee Greenwood perform. President Trump, Vice President Vance and most of the Cabinet members attended. Too many elected officials to count were seen, with the crowd flowing into the arena early to get seats.

The tributes flowed as well. The president's resonating praise honored Charlie as "a noble spirit with a great, great purpose." U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth offered what seemed to be a virtuous summation of a life worth living — even if for only 31 years — by saying, "Charlie started a political movement but unleashed a spiritual revival."

Florida Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna might have been just another voice at the podium when she noted how Charlie helped her get elected. And then she made the statement that everyone in this following no doubt can plug into.

"We are all Charlie Kirk now, and his legacy has just begun," she said.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio added some definition to the legacy.

"Charlie understood that we were not created to isolate ourselves from one another, but to engage," he explained. "The irony in all this is that what our nation needs, one of the many things it needs, is the



ability to discuss our differences openly, honestly, peacefully, respectfully."

And because millions marveled at the words that came from Charlie's wife, Erika, they are worth repeating.

"Charlie passionately wanted to reach and save the young men who feel like they have no direction, no purpose, no faith and no reason to live," she proclaimed. "The men wasting their lives on distractions and the men consumed with resentment, anger and hate. He was looking to show them a better path and a better life that was right there for the taking."

And her comments about the assassin can never be heard enough.



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"That young man, I forgive him," she said. "I forgive him because it was what Christ did and what Charlie would do. The answer is not hate. The answer we know from the Gospel is love and always love, love for our enemies and love for those who persecute us."

Let there be light

Interpreting the gospel according to Charlie comes from followers like Noceda, one of the millions of lives he impacted. Starting with Erika's message to the masses about forgiveness at the memorial service, he referenced another life worth living ended far too soon.

"I think that's one of the most amazing things for her to openly say to the whole country, 'I forgive him,'" Noceda stated. "That's what Jesus would want. As he said on the cross, 'Forgive them for they know not what they do.'"

As some described Charlie, he delighted in his belief that people could be persuaded. He believed the way to win hearts was with truth, with courage and with conversation.

Noceda conveyed that Charlie lived a Christian life by speaking the truth, speaking the gospel and having valid arguments.

"It wasn't hurtful speech when you speak the truth, especially about things that are statistically speaking about what occurs throughout the country, and everyone says, 'Oh, conservative, conservative,'" Noceda advocated. "There's a lot of Christian speaking points and talking points. That's why I enjoyed him so much because it was the gospel. He was preaching reality of the gospel."

Turning to another point of reference, Noceda considered wheth-

er Charlie viewed his ministry with an MLK perspective. No doubt Charlie had a dream that very well could have united the country.

"I love that comparison," Noceda commented. "It was very peaceful. Everything about it was peaceful. There was nothing violent about it. There was nothing telling you to riot, not one person. So why was he so impactful? Because he was genuine."

Noceda went on to share how Charlie spread the heart of the gospel from Peter and Paul, especially about not repaying evil with evil. Because when Charlie didn't share your viewpoint, he didn't insult you. He talked to you.

In this conversation, Noceda evoked Romans 8:28, the verse that confirms, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Charlie was called for God's purpose, to go out and challenge popular topics that were never tested. And for the difference that has made.

"It helped me to be rejuvenated and just dedicated and continue to be disciplined,"

Noceda articulated. "Because Charlie was not bashful about it."

Scrolling through social media, as Noceda and many others of the faith have done, there is clip after clip telling about the life Charlie lived. He lived in faith, and if that is the legacy, than it will always make his life worthwhile.

"I think that's what made him special," Noceda added. "Because you could see he was extremely genuine and extremely heartfelt."



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Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 Second Annual Fishing Derby

Biggest Bass: PO Anthony Szul and PO Ernesto Amparan 5 lbs. 2 oz.

Photo Credit: Marta Zamojska





RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is the application form for the annual scholarship drawing of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7. The scholarship awards are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each and are given in honor of our late State Lodge President, Richard Lis. There will be twenty names drawn at the November 19, 2025 General Meeting, and we will also draw five additional names, in case some of the winners are not in college or elect not to continue their education. All applications are to be filled out and mailed to: FOP, Chicago Lodge #7, by police mail or U.S. Post to 1412 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607-1821, Attention: Scholarship Committee.

The following rules apply to applicants requesting scholarships:

- Scholarship grants are available to the sons and daughters (including stepchildren) of members of FOP Lodge #7, who will be attending a college or trade school for the first semester of the school year, with passing grades.
- There will be 20 scholarship grants given for \$1,000.00 each on a one-time basis. Payment will be made at our general meeting in January after proof of attendance is received by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships will be available to high school graduates and any student who is presently attending a college or recognized trade school.
- The college attended must be recognized by the North Central Accrediting Association or the trade school must be recognized by the Illinois Department of Registration.
- **Only one** application per eligible child will be accepted.
- The scholarship grants will be awarded on the basis of a **drawing** of the submitted applications at the **November 19, 2025 General Meeting**.
- **Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 19, 2025 General Meeting.**

RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION

Applicant's First Name: _____ Applicant's Last Name: _____

Member's First Name: _____ Member's Last Name: _____ Unit# or RTD: _____ Star #: _____

Member's Phone: _____ Member's Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Relationship to Applicant (Son/Daughter) : _____ College or Trade School: _____

*Mail To: Richard Lis Scholarship Fund., FOP Lodge 7, (Unit 541 via Police Mail), 1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607
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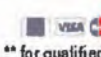
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