

July 2010 Retired Association Meeting

Call to Order:

Prayers: The membership prayed for Myrtle Switzer, wife of deceased Brother William Switzer Sr., who lost her son William Switzer Jr.

The membership prayed for a speedy recovery for Brothers Eddie Armstrong, Gary Johnson, and Gary Pickering.

Pledge of Allegiance:

New Retirees: Valerie Cary, James Shomper, Doug Easter, Kevin Sullivan, David Cutlip, Frank Mammano, Kevin Carter, Mike Cleveland, Tony Girard, Paul Tucker, James Gamble, Mark Coutler, Ike Crudup, Steve Wingate, Bruce Duncan, and Sam Smith.

Seldom Seen: Bob Borruso, Jeff Krauss, John Harrison, Bill Stagg

Minutes: Reading of the minutes was waived.

Treasurers Report: \$14, 551.19

Special Guest:

Captain George Nader, Commander of Personnel spoke to the membership regarding recruiting. Captain Nader was accompanied by **Jewel Graves, Director of police personnel**. The department would like recommendations of candidates to join the police department to come from retired members. Candidates recommended by retired officers will be given immediate attention. Captain Nader stated he recognizes the retired membership would not send unqualified recruits to personnel. In recent years the department has tested over 4000 men and women but only accepted just over 200. The department would like to start a class immediately but only has less than 20 qualified student officers. Captain Nader can be reached at 301-794-1049 gnader@co.pg.md.us (that's g r Nader no space)

Old Business:

Lunch with Charlie Ward will be on Wednesday July 14 at 1100 AM Lexington Park Restaurant; Crystal Palace Prince Frederick July 21 at 1130 AM and July 28 at the Country Buffet in Annapolis.

The Florida Reunion was even better than last year. I wrote a more detailed review in the

Retirees' Newsletter.

The applications for the Denny Husk Scholarship Award are in the July Newsletter.

Pensions: The Plan lost 5.36% in May. The Plan has now lost .47% year to date.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Right to Carry a Concealed Weapon commonly referred to as HR 218 had to be amended. Besides lowering the number of years a retired officer must serve before they are eligible to carry the qualification method had to be addressed. There are some states that will not qualify retired officers. Therefore Congress amended the law that any qualified instructor from that state may qualify retired officers. No longer must the state or a particular department approve.

FOP news: Vice President Dean Jones reports:

- Apologized that President Canalis had to be at a meeting elsewhere.
- Vice President Jones reiterated what Captain Nader was explaining. He also introduced Jewel Graves, who besides her assignment as Director of Police Personnel has been appointed acting Lieutenant Colonel. Vice President Jones applauded the efforts of Personnel to weed out drug abusers, those who are deceptive on the polygraph and gang members. Chief Hylton will not waiver in his policy to accept only upstanding highly qualified applicants.
- Vice President Jones spoke briefly on how the FOP lost the furlough law suit. The judges believed because the FOP/County contract had once called for a no furlough clause, that the clause should have been renewed to prevent furloughs. The County Personnel Law allows for furloughs and without the no furlough clause in the contract furloughs can be allowed.
- The county has begun electronic time sheets for all members. All officers must punch a time card. The FOP will ensure overtime is paid for active members who must return to their duty station to punch out.
- Thanks to all retirees who assisted in the COPS Ride. Jones noted Brother Jimmy Pessagno help.
- Contract negotiations have been difficult. The FOP has been negotiating with this administration for over two years. The county has sent letters to the commanders asking them to opt out of the FOP. The FOP still affords all benefits except contract negotiations to all FOP members including commanders. The benefits include attorney representation.
- Vice President Jones told the membership what a fantastic time he had at the Florida Reunion. He stated it was a "BLAST".
- The FOP has hired a professional health care benefits overseer called CBIZ. CBIZ gave a seminar on the national health care bill. CBIZ admits it only understands about half of the bill. The bill will not affect most retirees until 2011. The IRS will be asking on your next tax form 'What do you pay for health care?' It appears that by 2018 the county's contribution will be included as income and will be taxed. CBIZ will keep studying the bill. It is not clear yet if the health care we have will be designated as a "Cadillac Plan". The FOP is very frustrated with this administration and will wait for the election in

November before going further on grievance such as the co pay issue.

New Business:

Brother George Robey will be 89 years old in July. He has entered William Hill Assisted Living Home in Easton. Brother Pat Grogan stopped by to see him and reported Brother Robey is doing well. Brother Grogan is going to bring Brother Robey a birthday cake on Thursday July 22 at noon. Some of our membership will also be attending. If you would like to call George call 410-822-8888 cards may be sent to 501 Dutchman's Lane Easton, MD 21601

Brother Huck Stahl has entered Gettysburg Center 867 York Road Gettysburg, MD 17325. Brother Stahl can be phoned at 717-337-3238. If anyone has questions Brother Stahl's son, Denny can be reached at 717-253-1269.

Prince George's County Public Schools are looking for security guard and investigators. The FOP web site has further details and School Board Security can be reached at 301-499-7000.

The Ocean City Reunion will be on October 28, 29, and 30 at the Clarion Hotel.

The COPS organization will have a fundraiser at the Green Turtle restaurant in Prince Frederick on July 20 all day. Ten percent of all sales will go to COPS.

Sister Teresa Chambers reports that there is a problem with FOP tags. The MVA computer has a difficult time distinguishing the difference between the FOP logo tag and the old style FOP 1234 tag. The wrong vehicle owner is given red light violations.

Officers Reports: State FOP President and Retired Association Vice President, John Rodney Bartlett reports:

- The DC FOP is not complying with the Maryland Law concerning the FOP tags. There may now appear a thin blue line tag and the driver may not be a police officer.
- President Bartlett praised Brother Milt Crump, Calvert County Correction Center Director, for his compassion in the dealing with an inmate and the death on the inmate's mother.
- The Maryland State Police are not allowed to make arrests while working part time. The arrest procedure could have figured into the incident involving the recent death of a trooper. The Maryland State FOP has approached the governor to study the actions of off duty troopers working part time. Also there are no Maryland State Police female barrack commanders. The last female barrack commander was recently transferred to Sykesville.
- The governor made the Blue Light Bill an executive order that will take effect immediately instead of October.
- The State Prosecutor has been asked to investigate the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office and that offices handling of FOP missing funds. The State FOP is also investigating the problems between the Sheriff and the FOP president.
- The Baltimore City police department pension fund is not included in the Baltimore

police and city contract. The city just voted to change the retirement policy so those officers with 15 or more years on will still retire at 20 years. Those with 14 years or less will have to work 25 years to retire.

- The issue in Calvert County and the dismissal of an injured deputy has been re-thought. The deputy will now be given a non-service retirement. The state FOP will continue its quest to have the member receive a service connected retirement.
- The House of Representatives has passed a national collective bargaining bill. The bill now moves into the senate. President Bartlett states Senator Cardin has been unresponsive to his calls.
- President Bartlett reminded everyone that the Supreme Court ruled that any employee who has a company phone or computer has no expectation to privacy.

State Lodge Legislative Chairman, Percy Alston reports:

- Nine candidates have filed to be on the ballot for representative in the 27th District. Past President Alston believes some have put their name on the ballot not expected to win but to draw votes.
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- **Committee Reports:** None

Raffles: 50/50 was won by Brother Dick Reinoehl \$108.

The Attendance Raffle is at \$450 for July. Danny Burch was not in attendance.

Brother and Sisters in Attendance: 52

Good of the Order None.

Dinner: Provided by the Maryland Country Caterers: Baked chicken, potato salad, Greek salad, with raspberry vinaigrette, pasta salad, and pudding.