

June 2013 Sentinel



Chicago Police Lieutenants Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MIKE RYAN

KORSHAK AGREEMENT

With the expiration of the Korshak agreement, the city has taken the first step in their intention to “get out of the health care business.” As most of you have heard. The Comptroller recently sent out a letter, which can be viewed on our website at <http://www.cpdlts.com/> that outlines the city’s plan beginning at the end of the year. This significant change to retiree health care will be challenged in court by attorney Clinton Krislov, who will be representing retirees. If you desire to support this effort, more information can be obtained from the attorneys at <http://www.krislovlaw.com/> I will be asking for the support of CPLA board to make a contribution to this critical endeavor. It comes as no surprise that the 55 & 60 year old health care benefit wasn’t mentioned in the letter, as that is a contractual issue. Additionally, the Korshak agreement

mandate that the Police Pension Fund subsidize health care has expired, so this added cost will be shifted to the annuitant. Information on the city’s position can be obtained at <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/fin/provdrs/ben.html>

CONTRACT

After presenting our proposal to the city back in December of 2012, the city finally tendered

their proposal to the negotiation committee on 13 May 2013. We are in the process of reviewing the items submitted by the city’s team. With Step 1 of the process finally completed, the negotiating aspect can begin. Without going into specifics of the proposal, I can say that there weren’t any financial, pension, or health care aspect mentioned. The focus at this point is on operational issues affecting the active members of the Lieutenants Association. It should be noted that we are barely out of the starting blocks on this, so it will take some time before we will have an idea of how far apart or close we are.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We have another meeting scheduled for mid June. We have a General Membership meeting scheduled for June 11th at the Sgt’s Association at 6:00pm. There is a by-law change that is pending that will pretty much



President's Message cont.

eliminate this June meeting, and reduces the number to 3 per year. Although I would like to see 4 meetings per year, it is a hard position to defend when many meetings are so poorly attended. If you have a strong position on this matter, please contact your representative prior to our June meeting.

2013 Illinois PBPA Convention

The 2013 Illinois PBPA Convention hosted by the Chicago Sergeants, Lieutenants, and Captains in October is fast approaching and we could use your help. One of the most vital aspects in defraying the cost of this undertaking is the raffle. We are looking for some appropriate gifts to be donated. If anyone has a personal connection with a business (or individual) that would be willing to assist, we have donation request letters with tax IDs available. Please contact Convention Chairman Dean Stone. There are letters for both gifts, and financial donations. Please remember to take care of your people - with all of the overtime opportunities available for our subordinates; let's be mindful of the role that fatigue plays in our profession.

Mike Ryan
President

HAVE AN IDEA FOR THE SENTINEL?

Due to escalating printing and postage costs we have decided to cease printing and mailing the Sentinel Newsletter. Instead we will be only offering it online on our website www.cpdltts.com.

Not only will this be a substantial cost savings to the CPLA but will allow us to include benefits that we could never in the print media. Obviously you have noticed the use of color through out this edition. Color printing costs have always been far to high for us to even consider in the past. Additionally you will notice in the articles words that are different in color and underlined. These are links that will take you to more information. Each Board Member's name is underlined and clicking on the name will take you to your email program and allow you to email the Board Member.

Because of the versatility of the electronic media we can offer many new features in the Sentinel. If there is something you would like to see in the Sentinel please drop us a line at sentinal@cpdlts.com. We are always looking for a good idea, or at least a new idea to keep things fresh.



Below is from a previous issue and was written by the late Joe Maratto. We miss our Department historian.

Historical facts from the Chicago Police Department:

- On 31 January 1835, the State of Illinois authorizes the TOWN of Chicago to establish a police force.
- On 15 August 1835, Orseumus Morrison is elected Chicago's first constable and is assisted by Constables Luther Nichols and John Shrigley. The three-man force protects a population of about 3,200.
- The Department during the period of 1838 – 1854, consisted of a very small collection of officers, constables and part-time night watchmen who served and protected a quickly expanding city.
- In 1855, the Department undergoes a major reorganization under the direction of Captain Cyrus P. Bradley. The city is divided into three police precincts, the day and night watches are combined and the number of officers is increased by six fold.

LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION COMMITTEE

All, at the LMCC Board of Trustees meeting on May 8th it was mentioned that for the open enrollment next fall everyone will be able to use the new City benefits website to update/change any of your health plan information. Hopefully, this will make the process easier.

In regards to the Wellness Program, if any city employee hasn't completed any of the three steps, they will have a letter sent in June to notify them that they will have the non-participation deduction taken from their pay. However, I believe no Lieutenants are in this category. Currently, there is, an approximate, 84% participation rate for City employees. There is an appeals process in which no payroll deduction will be made during the appeal process. I was also informed by Lieutenant Ed Kaup that the program has "...now stopped allowing everyone to participate in the health coach call ins if you are not "at risk." In other words, if you are too healthy you are not allowed to get your 4 points by calling in and speaking with someone." I will bring this issue up at the next LMCC Board meeting.

For those that are trying to stop smoking and have an HMO, they will now pay for prospective smoking cessation drugs. The PPO program has previously agreed to pay for these drugs. I'm sure everyone has read the Sun-Times article about the city phasing out the subsidy for retiree health care. We will have to watch this issue very closely. The city has not put out any information on the specifics of their plan, but we will keep all of you informed of any actions taken by the Lieutenants Association Board regarding this critical issue.

Be Careful,

Bob Lajewski
Sgt-at-Arms

PENSION REFORM QUESTION- AIRE

The CPLA Board requested that members complete a short questionnaire regarding pension reform. (Some like to say "Pension Give Back") This was done in light of the Sergeant's contract being voted down. The results were discussed at the March General Membership meeting.

Although, I am not at liberty to publish the results I can discuss how I feel about the issue:

I DO NOT want our pension issues decided by the Illinois Courts. If we place all our eggs in the Illinois Constitutional basket there is a 100% chance that our pension issues will be decided by the courts. (Remember, we thought the Watch Commander Grievance was a no-brainer and how did that turn out?)

If you believe the Illinois legislators and courts will treat Chicago Pension Reform (or call it what it is, "Pension Give Back" – Who cares whose fault it is at this point) then we should do nothing. Petitioning your Illinois legislators, hiring lobbyists, signing petitions, etc. is placing our hope that someone else will feel our pain and pass favorable legislation. These actions, though admirable, take any leverage out of our hands and places hope in a third party.

I did not approve of the failed Sergeant's agreement for reasons which I will not discuss here. I do fault them for not including all the bargaining units in discussions about issues that affect all of us.

Michael Dejanovich
Headquarter Representative

HERO'S ALL

Like most of the nation I sat riveted to the endless news cycle pouring information out about the bombings at the Boston Marathon. I was transfixed how a happy event could be bloodied by the actions of two unknowns.

The most striking image, although fleeting across the television screen, was front and center in the newspaper the next day. It was a photo of a female Boston cop, pistol drawn, huddled over, escorting victims from the direction of the blasts. Her face was calm; eyes wide open and she appeared to be moving with purpose. She wasn't afraid, she wasn't confused, and she wasn't running from the disaster.

Like cops across America she was running toward the trouble, ready and able to do her job.

The same thing happened in Texas when the fertilizer factory exploded into a fireball. Cops, on and off duty, ran *toward* the disaster, joining firefighters and paramedics in that hellish scene.

Some died – cops and firefighters alike – both in Texas and Massachusetts. They were honored with lavish respectful funerals as they all deserved.

That's something to think about, again, as politicians play with the pensions here in Illinois. Cops and firefighters die doing their jobs. They suffer injuries, both physical and mental on a regular basis. They work long and odd hours away from their families. They miss out on a lot of things in life the regular citizenry take for granted – holidays, birthdays, family events.

No one knows why they do it. I don't think the individual cop really has an explanation on why he or she took the job. Sure, there are pat answers given regularly to hiring and promotion boards but that's all fluff. Deep down in their hearts the real answers are hard to explain. You just can't really articulate why you run toward the gunfire when everyone else runs away.

Although lives were lost in Boston, MA and West, TX , I was, at that moment, prouder than anyone to be a cop. That feeling was a long time coming as it hasn't really been around for awhile. Now it's back with a vengeance.

It means even more this month of May when we honor in Chicago and the nation the sacrifices that police officers have made, giving their lives in the line of duty. During our St. Jude March we remember them all.

That female Boston cop was a real hero, but this nation, as well as the streets of this city, is filled with heroes everyday.

A good explanation about this was given by a Columbian narcotics cop in a book about the cocaine wars of the 1980s. I remember a line in the book when a DEA agent was talking to the Columbian cop about his heroism in the face of bombings, assassinations and drive by shootings of cops, prosecutors and judges by the cartels. The Columbian cop listened, then responded, "You have only once or twice in your lifetime a chance to do something heroic. That's the truth. However, doing this police work, you prove every day that you are not a coward."

Remember that statement during Police Memorial Week: Cowards not; Heroes All.

Robert H. Stasch
Treasurer

SENTINEL

Standing Watch for Chicago Police Lieutenants

Chicago Police Lieutenants Association



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Visit the Chicago Police Lieutenants web site at

www.cpdltts.com

24 hour Emergency Number
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1616 W. Pershing Rd.
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Join us at the next General Membership Meeting

Refreshments will be served

11 June 2012

6:00 PM

1616 W. Pershing Rd.
Chicago, il.

