

June 2014

Sentinel



Chicago Police

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MIKE RYAN

Contract

Some benefits of the new agreement have already been enjoyed by the membership with the opportunities for movement provided therein. We are waiting for a final version of the new agreement before it can be posted online. However, all of the changes to the last contract are posted on the website in the upper right-hand corner under "Contract-Tentatively agreed to provisions..." or directly at http://cpdlts.com/tentatively_agreed_provisions_web_version.DOCX. This is the document everyone voted on and is in effect. The retroactive checks should have been received by now. Anyone with issues regarding compensation should first contact Finance and attempt to resolve the problem there.

With regards to the 55 Healthcare provision in our contract, the opportunity to retire in 2014 under

this benefit for 2% of the annuity has passed. Going forward in 2015 and ensuing years, this benefit is available anytime after 1 May with 30 days prior notice. All of the provisions have been posted on line since December 2013, and was voted on by the membership. There was a window for free healthcare at age 55, but the one annuitant who took advantage of this had to retire by 31 March



2014. The language is pretty clear and can be referenced as mentioned above.

Pension

The biggest concern at present is the attack on our pension. The "We Are One-Chicago" coalition recently conducted a Tele-Town hall conference. All our members were contacted by phone to partake in this event by a contractor who received and screened calls for propriety. The purpose of which was to educate the members of the coalition units on our mutual issues, and prompt the membership to take action by contacting the Governor to Veto SB 1922. Additionally, everyone has been asked to contact their elected State officials and Aldermen to ask them to oppose any legislation not agreed to by the affected units, and to ensure

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President's Message - continued from page 1

that all revenue to pay for “reform” be clearly designated. It’s imperative that the city get “creative” with funding, we all just want to have the revenue stream identified and guaranteed prior to implementation of any “reform.” More information on the efforts of the coalition and what you can do to protect your future can be found on the coalition website at <http://www.weareonechicago.org/>. This matter will not work itself out without your input and dedication to action. The lifetime ramifications of this issue cannot be overstated. All the coalition members understand that because of the unique problems facing each particular fund, pension solutions will be looked at and worked on individually. But we are joined in many common areas and present this united front that threatens the future of our families. This is NOT a pension crisis, but a Revenue Crisis that culminated from the years of underfunding by the city. To suggest that property taxes are the only option to fund the politically created revenue shortfall is ludicrous and insulting. Please educate yourself on the issues, so that you can get our side of the issue out. The general public is still unaware that we don’t get Social Security (*their pension*) and that we already have begun pension reform. Currently, 10% of sworn personnel are under the Tier 2 provisions the city wanted and had a funding component to which they agreed, and are now trying to *ramp* out of. This is all of our fight; don’t go down without taking a couple of shots.

Everyone have a great summer, spend some time with your loved ones, and let’s remember to make sure we take good care of the most vital asset this Department has - the men and women doing the work.





Retirees Corner

By Terry McMahon

I want to say, "thank you" to all the retiree's that have updated their contact information. As of mid-May, almost 100 retired Lt.'s have updated their information. This is a great start in compiling a database of retiree's so that the Board and we can effectively communicate with each other on matters that are important to both of us. Quite a few of you updated your information after having been contacted by other retired CPD retirees. I have contacted the approx. 15 breakfast/luncheon retiree groups in the city and around the country that I am aware of. Please reach out to any retired Lt., anywhere in the country, that you may have contact information for and ask them to go to www.cpdltts.com and click on the Membership Update tab.

Many retirees' have asked about membership requirements and/or dues. Any Lt. who retired in good standing is a Member of the Lt.'s Association for life. There are still no dues for retired Lt.'s to stay in the Association. We have 3 general membership meetings with dinner provided during the year (Jan., Mar., and Sept.). The newsletter is published 4 times throughout the year. Because of expenses it is not mailed out any longer; it is viewable on-line at the Lt.'s website, www.cpdltts.com.

NEW CONTRACT: The mayor signed the new Lt.'s contract in April. For those of you that retired recently and will have \$\$\$'s coming due to having worked since June/12 it is my understanding that \$\$\$ will be calculated and paid in June.

St. Jude March

By Bob Stasch

St. Jude Revisited

As I was contemplating what to write about for this issue of the Sentinel the only thing that kept coming to the forefront was the St. Jude March. I know that the location of the March is somewhat controversial. There are some that like it where it is at near Memorial Park and others, like me, who believe it should be held downtown like so many years ago.

So this month, so close to St. Jude, I am asking that a reprint of an earlier article be published. St. Jude means a lot to me. I'm proud to attend each and every year and prouder still to serve as a Parade Marshal. There have been close to 90 police officers killed since I came on the job. Close to two dozen were personal friends and an-

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Wellness Program by Bob Lewjewski

NEW! QUARTERLY POINTS EARNING REQUIREMENT

Beginning April 2014, all participants in the Chicago Lives Healthy program will be required to earn 12 new points each quarter, instead of 4 points each month as we did last year, by completing wellness program activities. You can even earn all 12 quarterly points at one time to make it more convenient for you. Below are examples of how you can earn points.

Complete "Action Items" 1 point each,

"Journal Entries" 1 point each,

"Audio/Video Articles" 1 point each or

Complete a Telephonic Coaching Session, each coaching call is worth 6 participation points

Get more information and earn the points at the website: <http://www.chicagoliveshealthy.com>

Quarter 2 4/1/2014-6/30/2014

Quarter 3 7/1/2014 -9/30/2014

Quarter 4 10/1/2014-12/31/2014

Also ensure your personal information is correct.

If the phone number they have listed for you is wrong, you won't get the coaching call. In addition, the same thing goes with respect to your e-mail to receive updated information.

Be Careful,

Bob Lajewski
Sgt. at Arms

Pension Representative - Jim Maloney

Congratulations to all our recent retirees, may you enjoy a long retirement. Make sure you send your updated contact information and email address to our Retiree Representative, Terry McMahon at retireerep@cpdlts.com.

Here are some numbers: Retirees so far for 2014 total 140, the total retirees for 2013 were 406 and for 2012 there were 570.

Remember to follow all the procedures if you are considering retirement.

The Fund has recently received the Official Pay Schedule for Lieutenants and Pensions will be adjusted accordingly to those affected. The Pension calculator will be adjusted as well.

As of March 15, 2014, there were 12,153 sworn officers paying into the Pension Fund. This number includes all title codes.

I have met with many State of Illinois Legislators regarding our Pension. I have given them the correct information on our earned benefits. The current City administration continues to misinform the media and the public in regards to our benefits.

I work closely with the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association (IPPPFA). They have close contacts with State legislators and inform them of our concerns.

The Pension Fund is still conducting Request For Proposals (RFPs) for Global, Absolute Return and Unconstrained Fixed Income managers. With the low interest rate environment, the Fund is looking into a more global outlook to seek out better opportunities.

I cannot stress enough the importance of the Legislation that is introduced in Springfield. It is extremely important for all of us to be in contact with our Representatives. I recently attended a "We Are One Chicago" rally at the Capital in Springfield. It was well attended and shows that we can work together to preserve our Pensions. Good luck and stay safe.

St. Jude March—Revisited ***By Bob Stasch***

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other dozen or so acquaintances.

The St. Jude March—Reprinted

Five hundred twenty six Chicago Police Officers have given their lives for this city. That is an unbelievable number. As I stood among a sea of dress blues this Sunday to honor our fallen comrades I thought a lot about that number. As the march progressed I watched the close knit family of Chicago cops grow – State Police, Cook County Sheriff's, Oak Park Police and others all came to pass a couple of solemn hours with us.

Along the route were the family members of so many police officers. But where was the public? Where were the people we protect and serve on a daily basis this fine Sunday morning? The only ones I saw were the early morning joggers, walkers and bicyclists. That is because, for the second year in a row, the St. Jude March is held along the lakefront behind Soldier Field by the Police Memorial Park. What is the reason for leaving our Michigan Ave. route? I hope it is not so the public we so graciously serve won't be inconvenienced?

But wait. Isn't the public inconvenienced when we shut down the north side for the Gay Pride Parade? Weren't people inconvenienced on Belmont so the Polish could hold their parade from Laramie to Narragansett? What about the clogged neighborhoods for the South Side Irish Parade; the closure of Cermak for Cinco de Mayo; the shutdown of Martin Luther King Drive for Bud Billiken; Division St. for the Puerto Rican Days march, and the complete abandonment of Lake Shore Drive to vehicular traffic for a bunch of bicyclists?

We used to march on Michigan Ave. each St. Jude where at least some citizens, tourists and early morning workers paused to watch and thought about what the meaning was that so many cops were out in dress blues on a Sunday morning. But once the Memorial Park was opened we were moved to the lakefront. I don't like it. The park is a beautiful tribute, and a candlelight vigil there on Saturday night before the march is appropriate. But the march should be held back on Michigan Ave.

As a matter of fact, the St. Jude March should be held at high noon on Friday down the center of Michigan Ave, or even State St., so everyone who works or visits this city knows about the sacrifice that cops make. Five hundred twenty six sacrifices. They should all be inconvenienced and asked to wait while the placards bearing the names and faces of those killed in the line of duty slowly pass by. It might cause a moment of reflection on what it really means to be the police. And what they give to this city so many call home. Maybe their preconceived notions of our brutality and corruption will wane for an hour or two. Maybe they'll remember a past newspaper article or TV story about a cop killing and maybe the haunting sounds of the bagpipes playing Amazing Grace will chill their spines as it does mine.

We've given enough. I've buried too many friends during my 27 year career. Maybe the city needs to give back a little, as it does to all those neighborhood groups who "celebrate" their day. Are you listening Mr. Mayor and Mr. Superintendent? Those that sacrifice everyday for you, the city, the public and their fellow cops have a lot of reasons for wanting to return the St. Jude march to Michigan Ave. Five hundred twenty six reasons.

Retiree Corner By Terry McMahon

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PENSION NEWS: A suit was filed in Sangamon County in mid-May by WeAreOneIllinois to stay **SB 1** from taking affect until the suit claiming that is unconstitutional is ruled on by the Illinois Supreme Court. Although SB 1 affects the pensions of State of Illinois employees and not us directly, if it goes through it will be a blueprint to go after us. The Sangamon County Circuit Court granted a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction halting the implementation of Senate Bill 1. The law will **not** go into effect on June 1 as scheduled. The court found that the plaintiffs have shown a likelihood of success on their contention that SB 1 violates the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution.

The next day Attorney General Lisa Madigan filed suit in support of the law contending that the law is constitutional. Her argument admits that the underfunding of the States pension funds was caused by the States underfunding of the funds but because the financial cost of the underfunding is so huge now, the State is allowed to say it is an “emergency” and they don’t have to pay what they contractually owe to the funds. So, her legal argument is that if you do something wrong long enough, you cannot be held responsible for your actions if the damage you caused is so big that paying for that damage would be a great financial hardship for you.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan files suit all the time against individuals and businesses that she contends violate state laws in Illinois. I am curious as to what her response in court would be if these defendants argued in court that the damage they caused was so big that they should not be held accountable for their actions. For that matter, I wonder if this “legal” argument would work with my bank if I didn’t pay my mortgage for years.

With all of the multiple attacks on our pension and healthcare benefits, our best chance for protecting what we have earned and been promised through our service is to be able to speak with a unified voice. The Lt.'s Association has partnered with We Are One Chicago, www.weareonechicago.org. This is an umbrella group comprised of multiple public employee unions in Chicago that is lobbying for our earned benefits. Several Board members have participated recently in meetings/discussions with different civic/business groups in regards to our pension.

This is an ongoing process and the Board cannot do it all. Politicians do pay attention when they get phone calls, emails, or letters on a subject. Look at it as an investment. Ten minutes every so often to protect your fixed income is a good use of your time. If we all do a little then our collective voice may be heard.

Stay Safe & Good Health

June 2014

SENTINEL



Standing Watch for Chicago Police Lieutenants



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