

March 2013

Sentinel

Chicago Police Lieutenants Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MIKE RYAN



My Fellow Lieutenants,

The March General Membership Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner/meeting is upon us. So that we may accommodate the Lieutenants who live south (yes both of us), we have moved the location to the American Legion Post 854 located at 9701 S Kedzie. The meeting will start at 6:00pm with dinner to follow. We will be enjoying Harrington's corned beef as they continue to cater our March meeting. The easiest way to notify me of your ability to attend is by email at president@cpdlts.com or you can fill out the form by using this link and following the instructions; <http://www.cpdltts.com/SentinalCornedBeefResponse2013.pdf> If you are a recent retiree that has NOT received a retirement star from the CPLA and will be attending, please include that information as well. Please make your notification early, so that we can ensure that there is plenty of meat on hand. It comes as no surprise that all

anyone in the Police Department is talking about this week is the "offer" the city has made to the Sergeants. While the guts of this proposal have yet to be released, it has caused considerable discussion throughout the Department. I give the Sergeant's negotiating team a lot of credit for having the guts to tackle a problem that no one has seen fit to discuss thus far. I think we all realize that this is something that needs to be ad-



dressed sooner, rather than later. The under-funding of the Pension Fund will only grow exponentially with time, and make the solution more onerous. Exactly what that solution is remains to be determined. Hiding behind the "it's in the Constitution so they can't change it" mantra dooms the Fund. We only have to look back to the last ballot and the defeat of the Resolution 49 Amendment to the Illinois Constitution. Though it was narrowly defeat due to the three-fifths requirement, it still had the majority of the vote (nearly 500,00 more!). That tells me that changes through this route are possible. It's time to face reality. To that end, we look forward to the cooperation of the other bargaining units while moving towards a solution with the city that we all can bear. To help us serve you better, VP Dean Stone has sent out a questionnaire so that we can get a better idea of your position on pension reform. Please take the time to fill out the

questionnaire and return it to Dean as soon as you can. It is important for the membership to contribute their opinions before crisis hits, instead of only hearing them when you have a beef.

. C O N T R A C T U P D A T E

Our proposal was presented to the city prior to the end of last year. Since that time, we have had one other meeting with city negotiators to clarify some of the language on our submission, which does not include any pension language. We have another meeting scheduled for March 1st in which it is expected that the city will tender their offer. While pension issues and reform are separate from the Collective Bargaining Agreement, it is expected that the topic will arise. This is not the first time the two have been co-mingled, as the 2 ½ % per year after 20 years was a product from Collective Bargaining negotiations between FOP and the city. Let's all remember to take care of our people.

Mike Ryan
President

Wellness Program

You should have received a postcard if you have completed all four of the enrollment steps (consent, biometric screening, WBA & Health Advisor Call) or a letter if you are missing any steps in the process.

I believe all Lieutenants have completed all of the steps required for the Wellness Program at chicagoliveshealthy.com. If anyone still has some steps to do, the program has extended the dates to complete these steps. The Biometric Screening has been extended to 23 FEB 13. However, the biometric screenings will only be available through Walgreens during this period. The Well-Being Assessment, online health questionnaire, is extended to 28 FEB 13 and the Health Check-In Call by 13 MAR 13.

The Wellness Program also requires ongoing participation from us. We are required to do either one of the two steps listed below after we complete the Well-Being Assessment:

COMPLETE ANY ONE PER MONTH: ON-SITE OR TELEPHONICALLY

- Complete an on-site challenge
- Complete a health check in call
- Complete a health coaching call
- Complete an on-site educational seminar
- Attend a group exercise class
- Attend a health education presentation

OR

COMPLETE FOUR PER MONTH: ONLINE (REPEATS ALLOWED)

- Create a well-being plan
- Complete an action item
- Track your body weight
- Track your food servings
- Track your exercise activities
- View/Listen/Read/Rate resource material
- Complete a journal entry
- Other online engagements on the chicagoliveshealthy.com website

Bob Lajewski
Sgt-at-Arms

Vice-President's Message

Hello everyone, as most of you are aware the Sergeants Association as part of their Collective Bargaining Agreement (subject to ratification) has agreed to changes in their pension. Our contract negotiating team of Mike Ryan, Robert Stasch and myself along with the board of directors are interested in your opinion on pension reform. A questionnaire was developed and sent to every active member via department email seeking your input on this important issue. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to me as an attachment to: vicepresident@cpdlts.com or through department mail to Unit 015 by February 28, 2013. It is suggested that you return your questionnaire from your personal email. Your questionnaire will be kept confidential and your answers will not be individually disclosed.

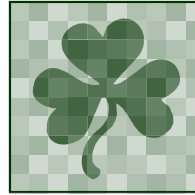
Grievance Chairman: so far this year we have had two (2) grievances filed. I am working on grievances from past years and trying to get them resolved. Along with our attorney, we should be meeting with Commander O'Neill to try and resolve some of these grievances next month. As always if you want to file a grievance and need some help contact your unit representative. After you file the grievance please send me a copy either by mail to Unit 015 or as an attachment to: vicepresident@cpdlts.com. This is important as time constraints are involved with grievances.

Convention Committee 2013 Chairman: we are moving along with the process of setting up the convention for the Policeman's Benevolent Protection Association (PBPA) to be held October, 2013. So far we have secured the location, food and entertainment. Soon we will be sending out donation letters seeking money, gifts, prizes or refreshments which will help offset the costs of the convention. Any member, active or retired, who would wish to donate or know someone who would want to donate or help with the convention please contact me via email at: chicagobpaconvention2013@gmail.com or at 1.773.315.1861.

As you are aware the association sends flowers to wakes for the loss of active and retired members and the immediate families of active members. Sometimes we miss the wake because of a short notice then we will send the flowers to the home of the member, but we would prefer to send them to the wake. Therefore, if a member in your unit suffers a loss or you are aware of a death of a retired member, **please** call me or send me an email.

Fraternally,

*Dean Stone
Vice-President*



From the Secretary

Scholarships

Three \$500 Nolan-O'Neill Scholarships were awarded at the December general membership meeting to children of the following active members: John Broderick—District 024, Cassandra Judon—Unit 126 and James LaVoy—District 022. Congratulations to all!

Calendar Books

All active members should have received their 2013 calendar books and the newly-redesigned Active Member window decals. If you need an additional sticker at a later date, please email me at eve.gushes@chicagopolice.org and I will get one out to you via Inter Department Mail.

Family Membership Cards

Family Membership Cards for your immediate family are now available. Please email me at eve.gushes@chicagopolice.org if you want one and I will send it via Inter Department Mail. Be sure to include your current district/unit of assignment in your request.

Retired Members

Heartfelt condolences go out to the family of retired member Joseph Maratto. Joe always had a smile for everyone he encountered, and he served on the Executive Board of the Chicago Police Lieutenant's Association for many years as the Retiree Representative.

As a result of Joe's passing, President Ryan has appointed Bob Weisskopf as the Retiree Representative. Any retired members who would like a calendar book or a Retired Member window sticker can contact Bob at retireerep@cpdlts.com.

Eve Gushes
Secretary

“Guns and Cops” by Robert H. Stasch

A lot is being spoken about in the media, by the politicians and even by police administrators about the proliferation of guns in this country. Especially prevalent is that same topic here in Chicago, as well as the whole state, because a judge ruled that some type of concealed carry must be approved by the state legislature.

Wow! They make it seem like that's a terrifying prospect, this concealed carry law, as if hundreds of people aren't already carrying concealed guns on their person, albeit illegally. Of course a large majority of these gun toting people are gangbangers who do not have FOID cards, have had no formal training, obtained their guns illegally, don't have them registered and certainly don't give a shit about any federal, state or local law. Those people are a far cry from the legitimate, honest, hard working civilians who realize that a depleted and over worked police force cannot always be there to protect them.

When concealed carry is approved, the most likely result will be a decline in the number of violent crimes. After all, that's exactly what happened in places like Miami, Houston, Dallas, Memphis, and other cities *within the 49 states that already have concealed carry*. Yes, as of this writing, only Illinois does not have concealed carry and we have paid for it by

“Necessary Force to Effect the Arrest” by Bob Kero

Some of us have been on the job long enough to remember this phrase being on just about every arrest report. At the time it was a catch all phrase that was thought to "CYA." Whether you used a wrist lock or resorted to a flashlight or night stick, you used "necessary force."

As we found out, this phrase did nothing to keep us from visiting OPS or, in some instances, 219 S. Dearborn. On its face it seemed like a good idea but as time went on we found that it turned out to be patently incorrect.

Somewhere along the line we have picked up another line that everyone seems intent on finding a way into an arrest report: "Above arrested on signed complaints."

In nearly every arrest situation the offender is in cuffs and in the back of the squad or away from the scene of the incident before the complaints are even brought out of the briefcase. How about the times that the victim is taken from the scene in an ambulance due to injuries, or brought to the station to continue the investigation? What about a homicide arrest? The most serious crime that we can make an arrest for and we can do it without "signed complaints."

The signing of a criminal complaint has nothing to do with probable cause to effect an arrest. All we need is a level of reasonableness that we can articulate to show that we believe that the person committed that crime in order to make the arrest. The fact that we are stating that someone else signed the complaint does nothing to lessen any liability should we make an illegal arrest. Should anyone have a need to see who is the complainant all they need to do is look at the complaints themselves or look at the section of the arrest report where the complainant is listed. There is no need for redundancy in the narrative of the arrest report. In fact, the only need for a complaint is to fulfill a requirement of the court system to get the case into court.

Think about this scenario: A flash from an adjoining district, which is on a different radio zone, comes out with a car taken in a vehicular hijacking. A description of the vehicle, with an accurate plate number as well as that of the driver/offender is given. Your officers spot the vehicle, attempt to stop it and it takes off. After a short chase it crashes and the offender flees on foot. He is pursued and apprehended, taken back to the scene and identified by a witness as the victim has been removed to a hospital for injuries received. Arrest report starts "Above arrested on signed complaints..."

Now the case comes to court. Great pinch, copper is proud of the job done. Defense attorney pulls out the complaint, which the detectives had the victim sign the next day after surgery, and asks the officer if that is the complaint signed by the victim. The officer replies that it is. The defense attorney then asks the officer to read aloud, in open court, the first line of the arrest report. After doing so the defense attorney then asks how that is possible since you made the arrest two districts away and by the time you came back for the showup, the victim is on the way to the hospital? Now, what does the officer say? The defense attorney continues to push the issue, asking what other mistakes might have been made in the course of the arrest, even asking if maybe the officer made a mistake in the person he/she arrested. So now the jury looks at the officer with disdain and distrust. A few of them are thinking of previous negative publicity regarding police and wondering to themselves if this is one of those "bad apples." A defense attorney with not much to go on could beat this into the ground to impugn the officer's testimony and with the current atmosphere the possibility that the jury returns a not guilty verdict becomes a real possibility.

Our officers look to us for guidance, direction and leadership. Let's remember that this responsibility also goes to our officers' ability to present a winnable case in court, right down to the wording on their reports. The troops do a great job day in and day out. We need to ensure that they show off their professionalism and dedication in every way and not allow them to detract from that by the use of redundant and mostly inaccurate terminology.

Bob Kero
Area 5 Representative

Continued from page 4: "Guns and Cops" by Robert H. Stasch

having our fair city known, once again, as the Murder Capital of the U.S. Maybe the politicians and police leadership should read John Lott's book, *More Guns, Less Crime*, and study the research that shows a drop in major crimes everywhere that concealed carry has been approved.

And while they are doing that, maybe these same politicians and police leaders can take a poll of real police – you know those guys and gals working the streets every day – and see what they think about concealed carry. I believe that if such a poll were conducted you would easily find that a majority of real cops have no problem with concealed carry. I don't think any street cop really would fear a properly licensed citizen who is carrying concealed.

And for the most part those same street cops don't give a hoot about assault weapons bans and limited magazine capacity. Limited magazine capacity. That's a good one. Let's ban magazines that hold 30 rounds and limit them to 10 rounds as if saying that if only 10 people were killed by a madman instead of 30 that it is OK. I am lost in this convoluted logic. As well as I am lost in the notion that folding stocks, bayonet lugs and pistol grips matter at all in determining the deadliness of a rifle. I am not, nor ever have been a fan of smoke and mirror laws, exactly what the feds, the state, the county and the city are constantly trying to implement.

What I am a fan of is this: Enforce the laws on the books. If CPD took 7500 illegally carried guns off the street in 2012, why aren't 7500 offenders locked up? UUC is a felony, one that very few people ever go to jail for. So let's do this instead. Change the UUC law back to a misdemeanor with a mandatory sentence, if convicted, of 6 months in jail and a \$2500 fine. The fine would go towards Victim Assistance Programs run by the county and the CCSA's primary goal would be to not plead down any UUC arrests, take as many as possible to trial, and lock these offenders up. I would say right now that a large majority of the CPD would be in agreement to these proposals. As a matter of fact, I also believe that a large number of fellow cops would tell me that these proposals are too lenient.

What we really need to do about guns is make it difficult for a bad guy to use one. Make them pay for their transgression. We also need to start profiling (Yes! I know that is a bad word) people who use guns illegally. In regards to the recent mass shooters – Aurora, CO; Sandy Hook, the Oregon Mall shooting – these nitwits were already on someone's radar. A true fact is guns don't kill; people do. A loaded gun lying on a table will remain there harmlessly for a hundred years until a person picks it up and uses it unlawfully. Another old adage, that we need to better realize, is that what we need is "People control, not gun control."

Unfortunately this issue will be debated back and forth for months and years to come. Most likely, in a short period of time, we will all see new laws entered into the books that will, in actuality, accomplish almost nothing, but will make good press and allow a lot of people to feel good about themselves.

But what we must also remember is that old document known as the Constitution with its Bill of Rights.

You see, when we were having problems with the British, our founding fathers decided to give certain rights to the individual. The most important rights were Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of the Press and Freedom to Redress the Government. These were banded together in we know as the 1st Amendment. And our founding fathers decided that the 1st Amendment was so important that the only way to defend it, like defending anything of value, was with arms. So they wrote the 2nd Amendment, allowing states to form militias and the individual to bear arms.

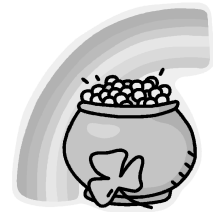
To me that says something. These men thought the right to own a gun was so valuable that it was the second thing on their minds when discussing freedoms and they came to the conclusion that none of the freedoms outlined in the 1st Amendment could exist without the 2nd Amendment.

Hundreds of thousand Americans fought and died throughout the years to ensure these rights were never trampled on. Let's just hope that political correctness and paranoia today do not overcome those sacrifices.

Let's instead hope that we all slow things down and have a realistic discussion about gun control, mental health issues and crime. And in the meantime, let's get the word out from hilltop to valley, rural farm to urban street, that we all can do something about guns and crime: Obey the Law. It is really that simple.

Robert H. Stasch
Treasurer - CPLA

***Annual Corned Beef
and
Cabbage Dinner
&
General Membership Meeting***



Join us for the General Membership meeting and Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Tuesday, 12 March 2013 at the American Legion Post #854, 9701 S. Kedzie Ave. The meeting starts at 6 pm with the dinner to follow. Please RSVP for the dinner as soon as possible. Complete the response below and send it to Mike Ryan by US mail or CPD mail or by e-mail with your information to president@cpdlts.com



***Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Response***

I will be attending the dinner

Last Name

First Name

Unit or Retired

Please clip this out and send to Mike Ryan by CPD mail to unit 022 or by mail to 1900 W. Monterey, Chicago, IL 60643

SENTINEL

Standing Watch for Chicago Police Lieutenants

Chicago Police
Lieutenants Association
1616 W. Pershing Rd.
Chicago, IL 60609



CPD Mail

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at the next
General Membership Meeting

&

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

12 March 2013

6:00 PM

American Legion Post #854

9701 S. Kedzie

Chicago, il.

[RSVP](#)