

March 2015

Sentinel

Chicago Police Lieutenant's Association



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MIKE RYAN

Promotions

Congratulations to all the Lieutenant's recently promoted, trained and awaiting promotion, and those eligible for promotion to Captain. New to this selection was the addition of an eligibility list, so the likelihood that you will be moving on in your careers is great and we wish you all the best as you go forward in your careers.

While we're on the topic of promotions, the CPLA joined in a court action brought forward by the Sgt's Association that the city violated terms of their agreement to conduct a promotional exam and promote Sergeants to the rank of Lieutenant. The CPLA and its members are a third party beneficiary in the Sgt's contract with the city and therefore have standing in this issue. Apparently the concept of the contract being a guide to appropriate conduct by both the department and the

members of the bargaining unit covered by the agreement continues to confuse. The Board of the CPLA could better use its time if all the parties would stick to the terms of the agreement and the accepted understanding of the provisions. Unfortunately, we must continue to address manipulations of language and the negotiated terms of our agreements.



Pension

The attack to weaken public sector Unions by Gov Rauner has begun. Although he stated that first responders are not part of his initial volley, police and fire are *Included* in body of his proposal, as of this writing. While this applies to State employees only at this time, it could easily be used as a blueprint for action against city police and private sector Unions as well. His "Businessman" approach to government includes making Illinois more appealing to business. This is a wonderful goal, lest the plan includes cheaper labor by replacing union with non-union members. What a great way for business to make more money – diverting wages from middle-class union members to company profits. It's infuriating how detached Gov Richie Rich is

from the working class.

The Public Safety Pension coalition, comprised of all Chicago Police and Fire bargaining units, are continuing to meet and are working towards alternative options to the pension funding crisis created by city government leaders. The coalition has contracted Ralph Martire (Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability) to assist us in developing these plans to regain the vitality of our pension funds. The research is moving along well and we are eager to hear what Ralph and his staff has come up with.

CPLA

Several members of the association have been promoted or included on the Captains list and a few more are close to retirement. It is important for the future of our rank that individuals with time left to serve get involved. Most people making Lieutenant will have achieved their highest rank, so it's in all our interest for good people to start serving.

What better way to get started then by coming to our next general membership meeting at the American Legion Post 854 at 9701 S Kedzie at 6:00pm on 10 Mar 2015. Please notify me of your intention to attend at president@cpdlts.com Please let me know if you have recently retired and would like to receive a retirement star from your fellow Lieutenants. Remember to take care of our officers on the street, and I hope see you on March 10th.

*Mike Ryan
President*

Retiree News by Terry McMahon

After what seemed like a short but beautiful fall season, the weather definitely changed. As I write this, in mid-February, we have had record-breaking snowstorms and multiple below 0 degree temperature days. In case we had forgot, IT IS WINTER! For those of you that have moved where you have no idea what a shovel looks like; Congratulations! Time for you to sit back, smile, and remember that all 4 seasons are not mandatory.

As of Jan/15 there were 12,041 sworn officers of all ranks paying into the Pension Fund. 350 sworn Dept. members retired in 2014. There are 197 Lt.'s assigned (out of a budgeted 217). In addition, 17 Exempts are paying dues.

Retiree contact information: Over the last year the Association has received updated contact information from 118 retired Lt.'s across the country. To put this into context, in Jan./14 due to a lost database, the Association had contact information for zero (0) retired Lt.'s. Many of these updates came about because of a retired Lt. reaching out to other retired Lt.'s in their personal contact list. Again, THANK YOU. Anyone that may have overlooked a retired Lt. in their contact list, or know of a retired Lt. through one of the breakfast/luncheon groups around the country, please ask them to go to www.cpdltts.com, the Membership Update tab.

March/15 General Membership Meeting/Dinner: The meeting/dinner in March/15 is the annual corn beef & cabbage dinner. This is always a great meal with the chance to see a lot of old friends. Again, it is at the American Legion Post # 854, 9701 S. Kedzie, Evergreen Park, IL. at 1800 hrs. In order to ensure there is enough food for everyone **please RSVP to president@cpdlts.com**. Hope to see you there.

Continued on next page:

Continued from page 2: **Retiree News** *by Terry McMahon*

Healthcare Lawsuit: The lawsuit, **Michael Underwood, et al v. City of Chicago**, to stop the City from eliminating or diminishing retiree healthcare benefits was set for oral arguments on December 10, 2014. The judge stated he would rule in about 7 weeks. The Court could rule one way or another, stay a decision while waiting for a ruling on another case that is somewhat similar to ours, or remand our case back to the Illinois Supreme Court. We are waiting for the ruling, which should be any week now.

FOIA lawsuit: The FOIA litigation is continuing: This is where the contract states that all disciplinary records over 5 yrs. are required to be destroyed by the City and they did not do so. Now the news media has requested these records and the City wishes to turn them over. At the most recent court hearing the judge ruled that the city may release only the last 4 yrs. worth of records while he takes more time to rule on the rest of the case.

--A sample review of these records shows that many of them are incorrect: officers named as offenders when they are victims, accused of incidents when they were not the correct accused, etc.

Pensions: The First Responders that are in the City Pension Plans (Captains, Lt.'s, Sgt.'s, FOP, & CFD Local 2) have been meeting to develop a strategy to present a viable alternative solution to the attacks on our pensions. Since we know that the pension "problem" is a funding problem (actually, a lack of funding) this coalition of First Responders is partnering with the CTBA (Center for Tax & Budget Accountability). This is a bipartisan, nonprofit research organization that analyses the actual math in government budgets. The idea is that they will be able to give us fact-based recommendations for a **dedicated** funding source for the pension funds other than just property taxes.

Handbooks, Membership cards, and Vehicle windshield stickers: In the past, (3-4 yrs. ago), books, cards, & stickers were mailed out to all retiree's the Association had mailing addresses for even if the retiree had not asked for them. The little cardboard membership card is not issued by the Association anymore. The thought is, what better ID could you have than your retired star or CPD ID card?

Also, since then, costs have risen dramatically. The Sgt.'s Association has the books printed up for the Sgt.'s, Lt.'s and Capt.'s Association as an overall cost saving measure. Still, the cost the Associations pay to the printer is \$5.00/book. Plus \$1.00+ to mail them out. As you can see, this could easily cost the Association some money.

In addition, quite a few retirees have mentioned to me that they are not interested in getting the book, stickers, or both. I have discussed this with the Board trying to come to a position that would be a good balance between those retiree's that want both, neither, or one of the items and a reasonable cost policy for the Board. At the 13Jan15 meeting the Board ok'd the following policy.

For those retiree's that want both the book and the vehicle windshield stickers (which are dated for two years now, not one as in the past) the following will apply:

-- The retiree will send a check, made out to the **Chicago Police Sergeants Association**, in the amount of \$5.00 to cover the cost of the book. **Include the address that you want it sent to.** The Lt.'s Association will cover the cost of the mailing and send you the book and the vehicle stickers.



From the Secretary—*Eve Gushes* Good News Will Travel Faster. . . .

One of the harshest and most deserved criticisms of our Association over the years has been that our website is not a useful tool for our membership. With that in mind, it is my great pleasure to announce that a complete overhaul of the CPD Lieutenant's Association website is underway.

As your Secretary, I conducted extensive research into our options for modernizing the website in order to make it a place for our members to visit to get current and relevant information. The new format will be organized by category so locating information will be quick and efficient. It will also be easier to update the website which will result in faster information turnover. As a result, the seniority roster and bid assignment information will be updated monthly to allow our membership to make informed decisions when District Bids are posted. The Sentinel will continue to be posted electronically to the new website.

It is our objective to make the new website as useful as possible to our membership. With that in mind, I encourage you to email me with any suggestions for what you would like to see included in the new format. Please watch for email updates from me as the project moves forward.

Congratulations to the children of Jim Lavoy, John Deane, Patrick Crawford and Gloria Hannah whose names were drawn at random at the January General Membership Meeting as the winners of the 2015 James L. O'Neill and Timothy Nolan Scholarship. Each student will receive a \$500 check for educational expenses.

Please join us on March 10th, 2015 at the annual corned beef and cabbage dinner that will be held at the American Legion Post at 9701 S. Kedzie. Remember to RSVP to the event so that we can ensure enough Harrington's corned beef for everyone.

Fraternally,

Lt. Eve M. Gushes
Secretary

“An Active Mind” by *Robert H. Stasch*

Do you ever get to the point that so much information is going through your mind that you feel like you're in sensory overload? I'm there. There have been days recently that I'm sometimes not sure if I am coming or going. I've got a lot on my mind. Some is job related and some isn't. But I've learned a long time ago that if you keep it in then the key you will need to release it – stress I think they call it – is a couple of fingers of Gentleman Jack. Since that's not the route I want to take at this time, I'll just purge my brain and let the swirling thoughts.

So hear is what I'm thinking:

1. The French did a hell of a job with handling their terrorist incidents. I always wonder what will happen and how we – CPD – will respond. Although I have faith in the department I fear that we will be taught a tragic lesson when it happens here...and it will. I wish there was more intense and regular terrorism related training

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Mail it to: Chicago Police Lieutenants Association
1616 W. Pershing Rd.
Chicago, Ill.60609

Attention: Terry McMahon, Retiree Representative

For those that want only the vehicle windshield stickers the following will apply:

-- Send me an email at, retireerep@cpdlts.com, letting me know you want the stickers. **Include the address that you want them sent to.** The Association will cover the cost of the mailing and send you the vehicle stickers.

Rest in Peace: Oct/14----Retired Lt. Raymond Greenwood (Age 73)
Oct/14----Retired Lt. Raymond Gilhooly (Age 84)
Feb/15----Retired Lt. Fred Wheat (Age 65)

A Birthday and Pension Milestone: On 18Nov14, retired CPD Lt. Peter Murany celebrated his 100th birthday and 37 yrs. being able to collect his pension. Retired CPD Lt. Peter Murany, with his son, retired CPD Sgt. Peter Murany, was able to attend our Jan/15 dinner/meeting at Home Run Inn and let us see that retirement can last past the age of 60, or 70, or 80, or 90! The Association extends its congratulations and best wishes to retired Lt. Peter Murany.



Stay Safe & Good Health,

*Terry McMahon
Retiree Representative*

Retired CPD Lt. Peter
Murany at his 100 birthday
with his son, retired CPD
Sgt. Peter Murany in



Continued from page 4: "An Active Mind"

2. I can't figure out what political platform goes which mayoral candidate. There are days I feel that they are more confused than we are. But they're all spending a ton of money for my vote. You want my vote Mr. Mayoral candidate? Put that money into my pension fund. Then you'll win me over.
3. Body cameras bother me. I'm not sure if they'll be good or bad but I feel we're jumping into it too quickly without looking at all aspects of developing a viable program. What I do wish is that pro-camera pundits stop talking about how effective they are in Rialto, CA. Rialto is a city of less than 100,000 with a police department numbering about 100 police officers. It's not Chicago. We have watches that have more manpower than in all of Rialto and our problems are a lot more severe. I guess that what I would have wanted was a decent evaluation period in a controlled environment – say scenario training – prior to the decision being made about a pilot program in a district. And I certainly would have wanted street cops conducting the scenarios with union leaders and brass watching.
4. I need to buy a new truck, but I can't decide on what to get. Should I get another SUV or a pick-up? And what make and model will work best for me? Maybe the Auto Show in February will answer that question. What I am sure about though is being thrilled with the falling price of gasoline. I hope it continues to drop. I filled up in Wisconsin over a weekend visit to friends and paid \$1.95 per gallon.
5. I thought that the 4/2 schedule was designed to prevent working a 6th day. And I think it works well. Now we have a schedule that will have us working 5, 10.5 hour days for 3 weeks in a row, more hours than a 6 day work week. I know all about the notion that 10 hour days will give us more days off per year, but that is the same argument that was made for the 9 hour day. When will it all end?
6. Do you believe, like I do, that the president's State of the Union Address is a waste of time? Too bad the president doesn't just go back to sending a letter to Congress each year. After all, *Justified* premieres the same day.

Well I'm done. And I thought that this venting would help but it hasn't. I've reread my thoughts and more questions have come to the surface. Will gas continue to drop? Will gas taxes be raised? Did Rialto PD see a drop in arrest and contact activity after the cameras came to be? What color truck should I get? Will 12 hour days be proposed next year?

I'm really done now. I have a headache. Where's the Jack?

P.S. On another, good note, the CPLA operating fund has closed with a budget surplus that will negate having to raise, or even think about raising, union dues for a several years (unless the state PBPA raises them dramatically). Thank you to a Board of Directors that took on this fiscal responsibility and presently provide you, the membership, with a hell of a service for a great price. Now buy me a Gentleman Jack so I can relax.

Robert H. Stasch
Treasurer - CPLA

Retired Lt. Murany in approx: 1950 (he is on the right)



Join us for the General Membership meeting and Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Tuesday, 10 March 2015 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 U.S. 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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at the next
General Membership Meeting

&

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

10 March 2015

6:00 PM

American Legion Post #854

9701 S. Kedzie

RSVP