

September 2015



Sentinel

Chicago Police Lieutenant's Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MIKE RYAN

Pension

The gridlock on pension issues in Springfield continues. A Pension relief bill was supported by the FOP and Chicago Firefighters Lodge 2 with Mayor Emanuel that had the city increasing the contribution to \$319 million next year, but well short of paying the mandated \$538 million. The money needed for the future payments was reliant on a casino bill that mandated all revenue from the casino go to pension obligations first. Although the City maintained at a recent LMCC meeting that the casino bill is ready to go, it has not been introduced or even spotted on the horizon. PBPA member units could have supported this if the alleged casino bill was introduced prior to/or with the pension relief for the city. As of this writing, nothing from the FOP/Lodge 2/city pact is in play. The FOP/Lodge 2 supported pension bill that passed was then pulled by Senator Cullerton on a "motion to reconsider." Speculation of the reason for the motion

is that the Governor probably would not have signed it or may have added harmful language to the bill. The Governor has added language to another bill that limits or prohibits collective bargaining from negotiating on wages, hours, health insurance, seniority and retirement benefits. Which makes one wonder what is the purpose and function of public (or private) collective bargaining units? This

comes as no surprise to anyone who paid attention while he was running for Governor. Sometimes you have to hold your nose and cast a vote that protects your family's well-being instead of voting for Illinois version of Scott Walker. We have to watch out for ourselves and each other, because no one else will.

Public Safety Pension Coalition

Since nothing is happening on above issues, it's prudent to continue to pursue other sources of revenue to address the city's pension funding issue. The PBPA Units have been steadfast in our position that we must stick together in order to have the best chance at success. That was the stated mission of the Coalition prior to the events mentioned above. A meeting has been scheduled in September to continue to explore alternative resources to funding



President's Message - continued from page 1

of the police and fire pension systems. We have contracted with the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability in researching these different revenue sources. We look forward to seeing what Ralph Martire, Vasyl Markus and the rest of the CTBA have come up with. The PBPA member units are committed to a unified effort towards safeguarding our financial future and the well-being of our families.

CPLA

Sometimes it's hard to make the right decision when it has the potential to have an adverse effect on us individually. I would never ask anyone to jeopardize their future, but I would ask them to at least consider the impact their decision has on Lieutenants as a whole. When the employer (or the city) violate your contractual rights and you allow it to occur, it does have a negative effect on the rank as a whole. The Board of the CPLA has taken on many fights in the form of class action grievances, but an individual harmed is usually required to file the grievance. At least factor the overall good into your decision. In the words of the immortal Mr Spock, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one."

The Executive Board (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Sgt at Arms) terms will be completed at the end of this year. I'm sure some CPLA Board members will be moving up or on, so if you are interested in running for an Executive Board spot, any Active Member seeking office must submit their name to the Secretary of the Lieutenants' Association by October 15th. If you are interested in a representative position, please let us know at president@cpdlts.com there will appointed spots that open up throughout the year.

Oktoberfest

Please join us for the OKTOBERFEST Meeting & Dinner to be held on 8 Sep 15. Due to the unfortunate closing of Mirabel Restaurant, the new location is Edelweiss German American Cuisine at 7650 W Irving Park Rd. The general membership meeting will be held at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to: president@cpdlts.com.

*Fraternally yours,
Mike Ryan*

A Message from the Secretary—Eve Gushes

**ATTENTION ALL RETIREES—
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM
YOU!!**

When we all joined the Chicago Police Department many years ago, retirement was the last thing on our minds. We were too busy chasing the bad guys and having fun with our partners to think about what life was going to be like when we got old---you know...like 50 or so! But

by the time we achieve the rank of Lieutenant, the concept of "retirement" is something we consider more often than not.

Over the years, keeping in touch with old friends and keeping up to date on pension reform, legislation, and social events has been difficult for our retirees. We hope to change that with the roll out of our new website. We have a tab on the navi-



Continued: Page #6

Are the Police Stopping a lot of youths on the South Side?

The Answer is "YES" by Michael Dejanovich

I attended the first afternoon of a two day Youth/Police Conference at the University of Chicago Law School that focused on the day to day, normal interaction between neighborhood youth and the police. Area youth and their teachers, professors and students, parents and law enforcement were in attendance. The entire afternoon of the conference was filmed.

Statistics will show that police stop more subjects in high-crime districts/neighborhoods than in low-crime areas. This is perfectly logical. If more crimes occur in an area then naturally one assumes there are more criminals in the area. Citizens report crimes, give descriptions of the alleged offender and expect the police to do something about it. But is it true that more crimes equal more criminals or is it that the same criminals are committing more crimes because they are not being caught and punished?

Statistics show that a small percentage of the population is responsible for a large percentage of crime. Any neighborhood kid can tell you who the troublemakers are. Parents know, teachers know, business owners know, park district administrators know, even the crossing guards know who the troublemakers are.

How do the police know - by interacting with the neighborhood kids, parents, business owners, etc, asking lots of questions after a crime but more preferably asking lots of questions BEFORE the crime even occurs.

It sounds simple. Knowledge is power. It is the neighborhood that holds the power not the police. The kids, parents, teachers, stakeholders have information the police need to connect the dots. BUT, the kids and parents must live in the neighborhood, business owners make a living in the neighborhood, teachers must travel to and from and through the neighborhood.

One of the student panel members said she would not call the police if she or someone else needed assistance because the police would ask her, "What's going on?" This sentiment was echoed by additional youth that if the police are summoned the police will ask too many questions. The attitude was that the police are not to be trusted.

Professor Futterman from the University of Chicago along with Jamie Kalven from the Invisible Institute authored a paper dated 24 April 2015 that was handed out at the Conference. They acknowledge that this distrustful attitude toward the police is a learned behavior; this attitude is shaped from, "teaching of elders, experiences of friends, stories in the media, etc."

Of course direct youth/police interaction shapes these attitudes also. But as one panel member said, "They're still kids." Show me a teenager who didn't rebel against authority, such as, their parents, teachers and even the police. I, as a parent and a police officer, expect it.

The Chicago Police Department stresses the dignified, respectful treatment of citizens. Police Legitimacy and Procedural Justice are terms heard in the news today but the Chicago Police Department has been teaching this to its officers for the last few years. It is working; statistics show complaints against officers are down.

The neighborhood and our youth hold the power. They say the police always stop them to ask questions. They come up with strategies not to interact with the police. The police want to connect the dots and identify the subjects causing the most disorder in a neighborhood. If youth want less police interaction then there needs to be more dialogue.

Michael Dejanovich
Headquarter's Rep

Keeping up With Technology

Eve Gushes - Secretary

At long last I am pleased to announce that the new Chicago Police Lieutenant's Association website is up and running. Please take a moment to visit the new site at the old address: www.cpdlts.com

On your visit to the site, you will be prompted to register and to create a unique user ID and password. Some areas of the new site will require you to sign in for access, while access to other stories and features will be available to the general public. Our website features the latest in encryption technology including the "Captcha" feature to ensure that our site is safe from remote on-line hackers.

Our new website was designed with the membership in mind and allows for quick and easy access to the information that you asked for. The contract and by-laws are available, and a current listing of Unit and Watch Bids is featured in a new story. The navigation bar will allow you to quickly send an email to members of the Executive Board and to Unit Representatives. In addition, special consideration went into selecting an easy to read font and type size to make the website more accessible to our entire membership.

Our first year maintaining the website will be a learning one. I encourage our members to contact me at secretary@cpdlts.com with suggestions for items or articles to include on our website.

On behalf of the Executive Board and the Unit Representatives, I'd like to thank you all for your patience with our new endeavor. The roll out has had its share of hiccups, but we hope that it was worth the wait!

*Fraternally,
Lt. Eve M. Gushes
Secretary*

History Repeats Itself

By Bob Stasch

After the turbulent days of the 1960's, the sentiment toward police officers was taking on a negative aura. In New York City a group known as the Black Liberation Army was striking out.

In May of 1971 they ambushed and executed NYPD Officers Jones and Piagentini. Then in January of 1972 the BLA ambushed and executed Officers Rocco and Laurie. Between those times the BLA struck other NYPD and San Francisco police officers, racking up nearly a dozen victims.

Nationally, the police were a hated group.

Here in Chicago that hate was brought to light a little earlier in the murders of Sgt. Severin and PO Rizzato during a Walk & Talk at Cabrini Green on July 17, 1970.

But whether it was in NYC or Chicago, everyone who wore a cop's uniform during those times, like now when a cop falls, felt the pain. We were them and they were us. Those were some bad times for policing.

And here it is again, the hatred and vilification of police officers who are just doing their jobs. It began in Ferguson, travelled to Baltimore and reared its ugly head, again, in New York, after the Garner incident, when a madman shot and killed NYPD officers Liu and Ramos as they sat in their squad car on a quiet street. All because he was pissed at the police.

And it may get worse as daily we are barraged by dashcam and body camera footage of police encounters. Not to mention the myriad number of citizens who are using their phones to capture what they believe is a real life cop show unfolding before their eyes.

And to hurt the police profession even more, to exacerbate that hate, was the short footage of the South Carolina police officer shooting a fleeing offender in the back. What an ass.

All of this, bad policing as well as the negative media and citizenry impression of anything the police do, is causing a rise in crime throughout the United States. I know that criminologists and sociologists and police brass nationwide may disagree but I'm entitled to my opinion. Look what happened in Baltimore after the rioting. Look at New York City where violent crime is rising rapidly. Look right here at Chicago.

Police morale nationwide is probably at the lowest it has been since those violent 1970s. Back then violent crime peaked. Was it because of an early version of "de-policing?"

In many ways there is an unwritten "us vs them" mentality. That is simply because when the police are brutishly attacked by politicians, the public and the media, they, like a family, band together and lean on each other. Just like they did with the families of those slain officers mentioned above. In reality there is nothing wrong with that.

Part of that mentality and bonding is a wait and see attitude about how things will pan out and change for the better. The cops begin to do only what is required of them, not shirking their responsibilities to protect and to serve, but not being as aggressive as they could be. They begin to worry about each other and family at home. No one wants to die, no one wants to be fired and no one wants to face a trial and possible imprisonment. So they band together, like a big family, and protect each other, you know, because it's us, believing in what we do and the role we play, against them – those who vilify everything defining law and order.

Hopefully, soon, things will change and improve. Society will once again realize that when criminals rule the street it is a short trip toward anarchy. The police may be a necessary evil but they are necessary. When they are most proactive, when they know they have support, crime declines.

Now if only the legislatures, the prosecutors, the judges and juries would jump on the bandwagon

Continued from Page #5 History Repeats Itself—By Bob Stasch

and do their job proactively we could start seeing crime trends that have risen so much start to go down. They will eventually. After all it's just another cycle of ups and downs. It has happened before and in the future it will happen again.

Until then it will most likely remain a bit of "us" against "them". You know, cops wanting law and order and bad guys locked up. "Them" wanting even stricter control of policing methods and use of force, less incarceration and the outright elimination of some laws.

Only the future will determine who prevails.

Robert H. Stasch

Treasurer - CPLA



Continued from Page #2 From the Secretary—Eve Gushes

gation bar dedicated specifically to our retirees. Currently, you may access important information on Concealed Carry under the tab link. In the future, we hope to have articles and information tailored specifically to those of you lucky enough to be collecting the coveted pension check! **PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REGISTER ON THE NEW WEBSITE IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.**

Do some of you regularly get together for breakfast on a specific day of the month? **WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.** Have some of you left the job for greener pastures, taken a different job or moved to a place that is retiree-friendly when it comes to taxes? **WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.** Take some pictures at your events. **WE WANT TO SEE THOSE, TOO!** In short, we are striving to make our new website a place that's inclusive to all, whether you're still on the job or not.

To that end, our Retiree Representative Terry McMahon has undertaken the herculean task of gathering contact information for our retirees. At last count, he had in excess of 125 retiree contacts and we are hoping for many more. If you have a question about a retirement issue, need a window sticker or just want to touch base with a fellow retired lieutenant, please contact Terry at retireerep@cpdlts.com. If you have an idea for a story that affects retirees or pictures or announcements you'd like to share, please drop me an email at secretary@cpdlts.com. We hope to hear from you soon!

Fraternally,

*Lt. Eve M. Gushes
Secretary*

Retiree Corner *By Terry McMahon*

Well, I believe that we have all had an occasion to realize that if we didn't have bad luck we wouldn't have any luck at all. The Association for the last year has been attempting to get back in touch with all of its retirees. Part of that effort was a letter, paid for by the Association, which was mailed out to all 344 Lt. retirees by the Pension Board in mid April/15. The letter basically asked all retirees to go to the Lt.'s website and update their contact information. Just as the letters were being delivered the new Lt.'s website went live but the Membership Update tab was not functional. In addition, I was able to send but not receive from my email. As of mid-Aug the website is becoming more functional and I am able to send & receive from my retireerep@cpdlts.com email again. When the Membership Update tab is fully functional I will send out an FYI. Murphy's Law strikes again.

Membership: There are 221 budgeted Lt. positions; we currently have 211 active Lt.'s. In addition, 17 Ex-empts are dues paying members.

Retiree contact information: Over the last year the Association has received updated contact information from 146 retired Lt.'s across the country. The Pension Board has notified us that there are 344 retired Lt.'s receiving an annuity.

Healthcare Lawsuit:

---The judge ruled on the lawsuit, **Michael Underwood, et al v. City of Chicago**, to stop the City from eliminating or diminishing retiree healthcare benefits. He ruled that the suit should be sent back to the Circuit Court for a full hearing. The lawyer states that this is a victory as the affected retirees now have an opportunity to present their case in a court of law.

---In July/15 the court ruled that the City's attempt to reduce the pension benefits for the Municipal and Laborers' Annuity and Benefit Funds was unconstitutional. This did not directly affect us but if the City had won we know they would have tried to use this to go after our benefits. Of course, the City has decided to appeal the ruling to the Illinois Supreme Court.

FOIA lawsuit: This is where the contract states that all disciplinary records over 4 yrs. are required to be destroyed by the City and they did not do so. The arbitrator has heard this case and we are waiting on his ruling.

Oktoberfest Dinner/Meeting: All retirees are invited to this annual dinner/meeting. As Mirabel's has closed this year it will be held at Edelweiss Restaurant, 7650 W. Irving Park Road, Norridge, IL on 08 September at 1800 hrs. Please email president@cpdlts.com to ensure that there is enough food prepared for all.

Rest in Peace: Apr/15----Retired Lt. Robert Osmondson (Age 92)

Stay Safe & Good Health
Terry McMahon
Retiree Representative



September 2015

S E N T I N E L



Standing Watch for Chicago Police Lieutenants



OFFICERS

MIKE RYAN
PRESIDENT

DEAN STONE
VICE-PRESIDENT

EVE GUSHES
SECRETARY

BOB STASCH
TREASURER

KENNETH STOPPA
SERGEANT AT ARMS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry McGuire
Area 1 Representative

Terry McMahan
Area 2 Representative

Jonathan Reckard
Area 3 Representative

Joseph Andruzzi
Area 4 Representative

Bob Kero
Area 5 Representative

Michael Dejanovich
Headquarters Representative

Jim Maloney
Pension Representative

Terry McMahan
Retiree's Representative

Contact the Sentinel Newsletter via e-mail at
Sentinal@cpdlts.com
Visit the Chicago Police Lieutenants web site at
www.cpdltts.com

24 hour Emergency Number
Phone: 312-332-7432

1616 W. Pershing Rd.
Chicago, IL 60609

Join us at the next
General Membership Meeting
For
Oktoberfest

Dinner will be served
08 September 2014
6:00 PM

Edelweiss German American Cuisine at 7650 W. Irving Park Rd
Please RSVP to president@cpdlts.com