



Baltimore RETIRED POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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WINTER 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday. This is a wonderful time of the year for all denominations. There is something to celebrate no matter who you pray to or even those who pray to no one.

Consider this message a "Thank You Note." This is a note of gratitude to all who have assisted me during my first year as President of the BRPBA. I know I have left some out. Chalk it up to a 75-year-old mind and a senior moment. Space does not allow me to name everyone and everything I am thankful for this year.

I believe we have had much to be thankful for over this past year. Those of you who have reached the age of 55 by June 30, 2011 will receive a wonderful raise the second pay of January. Imagine how many donuts and coffees you can buy with a one percent raise! And for those lucky or unlucky enough to reach the ripe old age of 65 you get a whopping two percent raise. That's twice as many donuts and a bucket of coffee. Whoopee!

What I am most happy about this year is that an additional one hundred or so of our survivors will see a drastic increase in their pension check for that same pay period. At last they will be able to purchase both medication and food instead of having to choose which is more important to them.

I want to thank all the members of the current City Council for passing this legislation; especially the members of the Taxation, Finance and Economic Finance Committee, led by Councilman Carl Stokes, for all their help in getting

this important piece of legislation enacted. The bill was passed unanimously and on the night of the Third Reader they presented me a copy of the bill signed by the entire Council. "It was the right thing to do" said Councilman Bill Cole. Then there was Council President Jack Young. Without his help, there would have been no bill. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake who, although concerned about cost to the city, graciously met with me and we were able to reach a compromise that was acceptable to all concerned. And most importantly, I want to thank Mr. Frank Boston Esq. Frank is our Legislative Lobbyist and a member of the Bar. It is because of his tireless efforts on our behalf and his dogged tenacity that this bill became reality.

I thank FOP President Robert Cherry, who is very astute in political matters and Vice President Gene Ryan, FOP Chaplain Don Helms and Errol Etting, both BRPBA members, who while representing the FOP, were at every City Council meeting to show support for this bill. In addition, Richard Simmons, also a BRPBA member and a past President of the FOP showed his support by being at the Council hearing. I certainly forgot a few names here. There were others. Sorry if I forgot you.

I can't seem to find the proper words to thank our executive Board for all the support and guidance they have given me this past year. Make no mistake about it; the President is only as good as the Executive Board he works for. Both I and the membership are very fortunate to have such a diversified and knowledgeable group of individuals whose only interest is the welfare and wellbe-

ing of the membership. We are very lucky to have two Attorneys on our Board; Mike May and Barry Powell. I am constantly in contact with both of them, picking their collective brains. They both do a lot of research for this organization. Their advice is priceless and it is Pro-Bono. That's the best kind!

I would be remiss if I did not give a special thanks to Past President John Lewandowski. John has been a good friend, a mentor and has been at my side at every meeting, every visit to Federal Court and every trip to City Hall. John is on call for me 24/7. This is dedication both to the BRPBA and to me personally.

Each and every member of the Executive Board has their distinct personality and their own ideas on the many matters that come before us throughout the year. Many times there is disagreement on issues needing to be dealt with by the Board. It takes a special kind of person to compromise and reach a consensus so that we may solve problems concerning the BRPBA. We have that kind of Board.

We all owe a big debt of gratitude to our Secretary, Daryl Buhrman. Daryl works tirelessly the entire year as Chairman of the Distress Fund. Not only is he always available to help our less fortunate members with monetary aide, which requires an extensive investigation by him, Trustee Pat Youells and 2nd Vice President Sam Walters, Daryl also works throughout the year on the Raffle, which raises most of the money used by this fund.

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BRPBA Newsletter is printed quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter by the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association.

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Pension Board Trustee

Ted Weintraub



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

This year a Call box was donated to us and Daryl started a second raffle whose funds will also go into the Distress Fund. To run a raffle of this size, which distributes at least 16,000 tickets by mail, takes a very dedicated person. To do that twice is beyond the normal call of duty. Remember, you send ten tickets to an envelope. Each has to be recorded and each return envelope must be logged and the money accounted for. How many of us can devote the time necessary for such a monumental task? How many of us would take on such an endeavor? Daryl does all of this with a smile. He is a priceless asset to this organization.

Thanks to Bob Haukdal who is not afraid to ask questions. To Charlie Brawner who says little but when he speaks, everyone listens; to Domenic Mastromatteo who always brings a different view to the table; my good friend Ellis "Ditty" Baldwin, who I talk to almost daily and to Donald Kent whose very sound advice and friendship I cherish.

Then there is First Vice President, Richard Nevin, who sits beside me at our Board Meetings. Dick watches over me in a very special way. Sometimes when things aren't going as I would like and discussions get a bit heated, Dick will lean over and remind me to stay calm. Richard, you have no idea how much I appreciate that and your friendship. I have known and respected you for some 54 years, since the day we were sworn in together in January 1958.

Further on in this publication you will read an article by our Elected F&P Representative, Ted Weintraub. Ted has devoted a great deal of his personal time to the Pension System, rising to become Chairman this past year. That's sixteen years of dedicated service to be exact; always doing what he thought was right. While there were times when you may

not have agreed with his actions, I believe Ted always acted honorably and with a personal conviction that each of his actions and votes were for the good of the system.

I worked for Ted when he was a Sergeant in the Northern District when I was little more than an insignificant rookie. I never saw or heard Ted lose his temper, nor raise his voice. He knew how to write and would always do his best to keep you out of trouble. He never criticized you, but offered calm, polite suggestions on how to correct the many mistakes a young rookie could make. He was not someone to be feared, but he was someone to be respected. Thank you, Teddy Weintraub, for all your service to each and every one of us. By the way, Ted is a Minch.

And a special thanks to Karen Rader our Administrative Assistant. It's hard to place a value on the many services she is asked to do and the timely manner in which she accomplishes them.

In closing this note of thanks for all my blessings throughout my first year as President of the BRPBA, I want to sincerely give thanks to you, the membership of the BRPBA. Thank you for allowing me to be the President of this great organization. Thank you for your confidence in electing me. Thank you for giving me a purpose to get out of bed in the morning and for a job I get great pleasure and satisfaction doing and am proud to have.

Nick Caprinolo

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Today I am going to become very sage and, hopefully, informative. There is a part of the Old Testament called Ecclesiastes; it is part of Proverbs. It begins by saying, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to pick up that which is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal." We all get the gist of what is being quoted. There was a time for me to be your Trustee of the Baltimore Fire and Police Retirement System and now we are approaching the time when I will no longer perform that duty. It kind of reminds me of the closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympics held in Barcelona, Spain. The world famous tenor, Andrea Bocelli and the equally famous soprano, Sarah Brightman sang, "Time to Say Goodbye." That time has arrived for me.

Now, after almost sixteen years since the first time you elected me, I will not seek reelection in this springs' election for a trustee to the system. Saying goodbye is not enough. I must pass on to those seeking that office to be aware of the requirements of that office. First of all, there is no salary or insider informa-

tion that can help you acquire wealth. The data that you will receive is always at least a month old, so there are no "Hot Tips". Second, it will help to keep you busy. There are volumes of investment reports to review and become conversant with. You must be willing to travel because you will be asked to attend schools, conferences and seminars all over the country, and once in a while in foreign countries. The expenses for the above will not come out of your pocket. Every trustee has an \$8500 a year budget for travel and tuitions. Some are one or two day trips, but quite a few are as much as a week long. If you want your spouse or significant other to accompany you, those expenses will come out of your pocket.

Now for the part that is rigged so that those who are elected have little actual influence when a vote on policy is necessary: There is only one active fireman, one retired fireman, one active police officer and one retired police officer who, even if voting as a unit, will have little effect if the other board members decide to vote to benefit the City, either by their own decision or on advice from the administration. That is four mem-

bers out of the 11 members of the Board of Directors. The others are either part of the city government or appointees of the Mayor. As we learned recently, if the administration wants a retirement action to occur, they have the votes to swing whatever is wanted. If you seek the office, be prepared to attend at least one and sometimes multiple meetings a month that are usually 6-8 hours in length, plus the time it takes to read all of the meeting criteria which will be discussed.

I am not trying to discourage anyone from seeking the office of trustee. Just be aware that it is not a cakewalk. I personally will not endorse any individual to be my successor.

It has been a pleasure to serve these past 16 years and I congratulate and commiserate with the next trustee. I will not be like an old soldier and gently fade away (Douglas McArthur). I will be around to help whenever I am called on.

All told,
Ted Weintraub



DISTRESS FUND UPDATE

Another year is coming to a close and with it, the drawings for two separate Raffles. First is our usual raffle we send out every year, which you are all familiar with. The second raffle is for a Call Box and Pedestal (circa 1930's-1940') donated to us by a very generous member of the BRPBA. What a unique piece of memorabilia to own. Both raffles are doing well, but, as always, we could always do better.

This year the Distress Fund received more requests for help than any year in the past. Obviously this is the direct result of our economy. Imagine living on \$1600 a month and your bills are almost \$1500? That leaves you \$100 a month to eat, pay for clothing, over-the-counter medications, and the day-to-day expenses of our normal toiletries. Could you eat, buy clothes, etc. on \$25.00 a week on a four week month?

Another case that came to our attention was a person living on \$1,000 a month, with monthly expenses of \$1100. You surely can see the problem there.

Unfortunately, this is becoming the case more and more across this country. People are going hungry, houses are going into neglect, if not foreclosed

upon, medications cannot be purchased, etc. I could go on and on, but I do not think I am telling you anything you do not already know.

Therefore, I want to thank all who partook of either or both raffles. Not to mention those who gave above and beyond the costs of the raffle tickets. Your generous donations will go towards keeping someone's gas and electric on, or put food on their table for another night, or help to buy them a pair of glasses so that they can see. You will never know how valuable your donation is to someone who feels all alone in the world.

Both raffles will be drawn on December 21st at our Holiday Celebration/Meeting. You can purchase tickets for both up to and including the meeting on Dec. 21st. There is still time. We cannot do it without you.

Again, I and the rest of the BRPBA Board thank you for all of your generous donations with our two raffles and for your continued generosity throughout the year.

Daryl Buhrman
Chairman,
BRPBA Distress Fund

BRPBA WEBSITE

Please visit the BRPBA web site (<http://baltimoreretiredpolicebenevolentassociation.org>) for information regarding:

License tag qualifications and contact information.

Application for Distress Fund relief.

If you do not have access to the internet, please call Daryl Buhrman at 410-803-2293.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Matthew J. Bauler
Kevin Ege
Dale R. Fields
William E. Fitzgerald
Jon D. Foster
Christopher E. Goldbeck
Ronald J. Kessler
Kimberly J. Mclean
Deborah A. Owens
Aaron D. Perkins
Goldie Phillips
Scott G. Roper
Jose L. Ruiz
Renee M. Saul
Gary L. Williams



IN REFERENCE TO LEOSA

The LEOSA testing and issuance of carrying permits by the Police Department is in its final stages of implementation. We are awaiting the signature of the Police Commissioner who has shown interest in providing this program for Retirees.

The BRPBA and the FOP have pledged to donate money to the Department for the purchase of equipment to launch this program. This is necessary because the Departments' budget has already been pared to the bone in these poor economic times.

Thanks to Ed Wagner for his dedicated and tenacious walk down this long road. It is because of his efforts that this program is within sight.

For those of you wondering if the Maryland State Training Commission will dis-

continue their training program for Baltimore City retirees, worry no more. I have been in contact with retired Officer Stephen Kuhn, an instructor at the Training Commission, who emphatically emphasized to me that the Commission will continue to offer training to all retirees, no matter what department the retiree retired from, even if that department offers its own Certification Program; so nothing has changed in that respect.

LEOSA is a Federal Law. Notice I said Federal Law, as it supersedes State Law. In fact, Congress passed this bill with the express intent of bypassing the restrictive and completely unjustified restraints of State and local governments on retired police officers.

Under LEOSA, individual states and local municipalities have no rights of restriction concerning our permit to carry firearms. Simply put, they are completely out of the picture.

Now, that is not to say individual building owners cannot restrict the carrying of weapons within their premises. Also Federal, State and local Governments sometimes do place restrictions on weapons in their buildings and even some open areas.

My thanks go to Herb Weiner for his providing me with the actual LEOSA law and its amendments. He also provided me with some valued advice on the interpretation of the statute.

Nick Caprinolo
President BRPBA

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS!

If you wish to sell anything, a one-time only opportunity is available in the newsletter to all members. The ad must be no larger than the size of a standard business card.

Please send your information to the address on this newsletter and we will print your ad if space allows.

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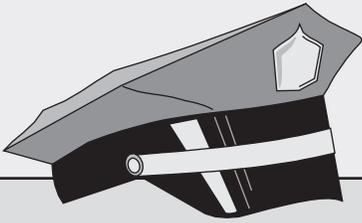
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FINAL ROLL CALL



Charles Alfinito
(10/31/11)

John T. Antlitz
(10/25/11)

Frederick Entz, Jr.
(11/13/11)

John McHale
(04/05/11)

Walter Pitkevits
(10/10/11)

Mercedes V. Rankin
(09/04/11)

Robert Schmelz, III
(10/26/11)

Henry Schmidt
(11/20/11)

Charles R. Scruggs
(09/15/11)

Harry Joseph Silk
(10/16/11)

Frank Snyder
(10/29/11)

David Webb
(04/17/11)

SICKNESS OR DEATH OF A MEMBER

Please arrange for someone to call **Ditty Baldwin** at **410-666-7279** whenever a member is sick. This is the only way our Association is aware of it. Remember, upon your death, your spouse or immediate family should notify the **Police Personnel Board** at **410-396-2546**.

MISSING IN ACTION

Please help us find these missing members. We have no contact information for them.

Lavon'De Alston
Richard Bernhardt
Eunice Berry
Paul Choi
Thomas Clemons, Jr.
Trina Edwards
Joanne Griffin
Mark Haygood
James Hicks, Jr.
Timothy Keel
Norbert Leonardi
Phillip Ludd
James McGuire
Charles McLaughlin, Jr.
Clyde McWilliams
Timothy Redding
Joseph M. Russell
Jay Schiner
Neil Sewell

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

President:

Nick Caprinolo410-686-6380

1st Vice President:

Richard Nevin.....410-876-1027

Heritage Gardens410 254 2272

BRPBA Email

.....brpbaemail@AOL.com

Website

.....BaltimoreRetiredPolice.org

The phone number at the Heritage Gardens to be used only in an emergency at home is 410-254-2272.

MEDICAL

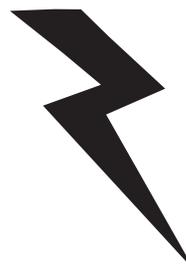
Remember our Sick and Shut-ins with a visit, a card, or a phone call.

IN MEMORIAM

Charlotte Hosier
wife of Robert Hosier
(10/19/11)

Carolyn J. Ceruti
(9/22/11)

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