



Chevrons

Chicago Police Sergeants' Association Newsletter

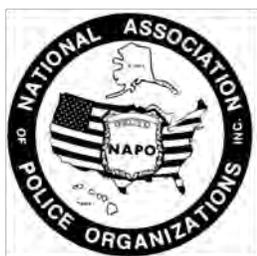
October 2015 Volume 56 Number 4



Police Benevolent &
Protective Association

Unit 156A

Chicago Sergeants



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President's Message

By James Ade President

Unfortunately, one of our brother sergeants took his own life in September. It truly saddens us that someone could arrive at such a dark place in their lives that suicide becomes an option. Please, please pray for his family that now has to continue their lives without a father, husband, etc. I've lost a few friends and coworkers, who took their own lives. Sadly, police suicides are more common than we care to think. We should never turn a blind eye to a fellow policeman that might be struggling with issues in his or her life. I know that we're not psychologists, but as coppers, we can read people. Reach out and simply ask if something is bothering them. Suggest help through EAP, the Chaplains, or any other avenue. Whether the person wants your help or not, knowing that someone else cares enough to ask might be help enough. If you are personally going through a difficult time in your life, know that there are people who care about you; people that are there to help. Let's all take this incident involving our brother and create a positive. Let's do what we can to help each other out. Let's do our part to rid us all of the pain of police suicides.

The Association was successful in the arbitration over the "Me-Too" clause for free healthcare for those who retired after reaching the age of 55. The 2% contribution will no longer be required for their healthcare and any contributions already made will be reimbursed. That section of the award, as well as the granting of the "Me-Too" clause moving forward is a nice benefit gain for our members. The awarding of the benefit prospectively is where some confusion lies. Arbitrator Dan



...Continues on page 2

President's Message*...continued from page 1*

Nielson relates that when the FOP ratified their contract, they received the benefit for 30 months, or until June of 2017. He ruled that we should also be able to take advantage of the benefit for 30 months from the date of our ratification of our agreement, which gives us until May 26, 2016. In other words, if you wish to get the free retiree healthcare benefit, you have the rest of this year and May 1 through May 26, 2016 to retire. The arbitrator will retain jurisdiction in the matter for 60 days. We met with our attorney, Tom Pleines, to discuss the confusion about the award. We explained that if we were awarded the "Me-Too" clause, as the arbitrator wrote, all of the police unions should receive the benefit until the same date. Also, it was not very clear as to why the arbitrator decided in the way that he did. Since that meeting, we have written the arbitrator to relate our concerns and request that he consider what we believe the "Me-Too" clause to represent. Until we hear back from him, which we have no time table other than the 60 days, the award stands as it is. We're hopeful that Arbitrator Nielson will understand our concerns and explain and reconsider the remedy in this case.

For retirees that retired after 1989 and without the contractual benefit of the age 55 enhanced health care option, the city mailed out new retiree rates. These increases are astronomical. For example, a retiree and his spouse, who are not yet Medicare eligible, will pay \$22,080 for health care in 2016. I spoke to Clint Krislov, the attorney handling the matter for retirees, who related that he had no advance notice from the City on this, not even the courtesy of copies the same day they went out. He also related that the next court date is in November. Paul Bilotta and I, with the PB&PA, through IXSolutions, set up a private insurance exchange for police officers and their families. The program is up and running and offers alternatives to the city plan. More information about this option can be found on page 9. The issue with these options is that once you leave the city coverage, you can't go back. So, if the legal challenges to the city's exorbitant contribution hikes are successful, and the courts roll back the rates to 2013 levels, the city health plan could be a better value. That is a pretty big "if" when you're facing paying \$25,000 a year for family coverage.

I spoke to the department about the lieutenant exam results. I was told that the tests are being graded, but there is no indication as to when those results will be available. There were a couple grievances filed with regard to both part one and part two. We related to the department that these grievances should not hold up the release of any results and that we look forward to our members being promoted and advancing their careers.

The PB&PA of Illinois recently held its convention in Springfield. Units from all over the state convened to share information about what their individual organizations are dealing with in regards to collective bargaining, fraternal matters, pensions, etc. Congrats to our own Mark McDermott who was elected to 1st Vice President. Capt. Ron Pontecore was elected to Sergeant at Arms.

The golf outing this year was a tremendous success. Over 200 golfers and guests enjoyed the day at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. The outing and raffle raised over \$12,000 for our Death Benefit for active sergeants. We could not have achieved this success without the efforts of Paul Bilotta, Mark Andersen, our volunteers who were so generous with their time, and the Board of Directors who helped make the day so enjoyable. Thanks to all who participated.

As the holidays approach, I want to wish you and your families a safe and joyful holiday season. Please, remember to stay safe and take care of your people.

Vice-Presidents Report

By Paul Bilotta Vice-President

We have been very fortunate with the generous donors that step up each year for the annual golf outing. This year our golf outing did not do as well as years past. We only earned \$12,000 this year. Two Sergeants died this year to date for which we paid \$10,000 to their beneficiaries. We have had a donor for the last several years named Alamo City Gold & Silver from San Antonio Texas. This jeweler is owned and operated by David Putnam. David is retired from the San Antonio Police Department. Each year David donates a beautiful law enforcement ring for one lucky person to win at the outing. We have had much interest in David's work.

I have spoken with David regarding the interest in his jewelry. The Chicago Police Sergeants' Association is now going to be able to take orders for any product that David's store makes as well as any custom jewelry someone may wish to have made. The best part of this entire story is that David is allowing our department members to purchase these pieces for less than advertised retail cost on his website which is already discounted. This offer is open to



all ranks. The Association thought that with this kind of an offer, everyone in the department should be allowed to partake. Any profits made from the sale of any jewelry will be deposited into the death benefit account.

I have brochures and order forms in the office. I also have sample jewelry in the office of police star pendants and a college style police ring. You may look at David's website as well to get some ideas as to what he currently carries. The web address is www.sadiamonds.com. If you see something you like, you will need to call me in the office to place the order for you so you may receive a discount and not pay the retail advertised price. With the holiday season quickly approaching this will be the perfect time to start thinking about those gifts you may want for someone special in your life.

We are excited to start this relationship with Alamo City Gold & Silver and appreciate their generosity in offering us discounts as well the profits benefitting the death benefit account.

I appreciate all of our members and I am thankful for the fantastic group of women and men that we have the privilege of working with in this department. Take care of each other and be safe. Thank you for all that you do.

DISTRICT / FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

These members serve as Representatives of the PB&PA Sergeants' Association.

- Scott Slavin 145**
- John Slowinski 002**
- Robert Goode III 003**
- Milan Vujic 004**
- Tim Szarzynski 005**
- Rich Bednarek 006**
- Kris Rigan 007**
- 008**
- Tim Moriarty 009**
- Jerry Negrete 010**
- Gerry Murphy 011**
- Mark Juska 012**
- Tom Linnane 014**
- Bob Dolan 015**
- Bill O'Reilly 050**
- Michelle Rubino 017**
- Tim Flisk 018**
- Angelo Hitiris 019**
- Pat Donahue 020**
- Adam Zelitzky 022**
- Dawn Jackson 024**
- Mike Tantilla 025**
- Saadia Carter 142**
- Bob Wheeler 606**

Chicago Police Sergeants Memorial Dedication

Construction of the Chicago Police Sergeants Memorial is complete. The memorial is the Sergeants' Association's tribute to the 56 Sergeants who lost their lives serving and protecting Chicago. On Thursday, October 8, we dedicated the memorial during a short service. Bethany O'Reilly, wife of one of our fallen, Sergeant Philip O'Reilly, EOW 16 March 2003, spoke to the attendees. Rabbi Moshe Wolf prayed for the heroes as well as Sergeants actively working the streets of our city. And Father Dan Brandt blessed the memorial grounds. It truly was a special day. It was nice to see so many come out and prove that we will never forget those who have lost their lives in service to the City of Chicago. If you get the chance, stop by and check out the memorial. Thanks to the all who helped make this memorial a reality



Pension Report

By Brian Wright Pension Board Representative

While the Mayor continues to “reform” the pensions of city workers, the Supreme Court continues to hold that any diminishment of benefits is a violation of the Illinois State Constitution. The Cook County Circuit Court recently struck down the Municipal and Laborer’s changes as unconstitutional. The case is pending with the Illinois Supreme Court which will most likely hold as it did with the state worker’s pension fund that the changes are unconstitutional.

An interesting element of the analysis is union support of the changes. Just because a union supports a change to the pension code, does not make that change constitutional. The changes made to the Municipal and Laborer’s funds had “union support”. While the union does represent a group of workers, it does not have the power to change the pension code in such a manner that violates the state constitution.

Most recently with our own fund, the City offered to pass a “Casino Bill” that would direct all “gambling profits” to the police and fire pension funds. This is all well and good but “gambling profits” needs to be clearly defined so that the funds get paid first and foremost after the basic operating expenses. Also, the bill was supposed to pass BEFORE the bill that gave the City relief on the balloon payment due in May 2016. The relief bill sits on the governor’s desk for signature while the casino bill has not even been put to a vote.

The two bills should have only had “union support” if the casino bill was passed BEFORE or in conjunction with the relief bill. The City went to the legislature touting “union support” for the relief bill. I do not know where the disconnect was, but in the meeting I was in our position was perfectly clear to me: no union support unless the casino bill passed before or in conjunction with the relief bill, not after.

So, ironically, it does not seem as though “union support” is relevant when it comes to the constitutionality of these “reforms” that the City is pushing. The City will actually have to draft changes that do not violate the state constitution, regardless of the union’s position – WHAT A CRAZY CONCEPT!

In Memoriam

The following Sergeants have passed away and will be missed. We extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Name (Age)	Status	Passed Away
Sgt. William Flynn	Retired	08 Jun 2003
Sgt. Leo Clark	Retired (Calif)	20 Jun 2009
Sgt. James Craig	Retired	04 Sept 2011
Sgt. John J. Honan	Retired(Wisc)	17 Feb 2012
Sgt. Robert J. Lane	Retired	26 Mar 2013
Sgt. Edward McCann	Retired	04 Aug 2013
Sgt. Ralph Archulita (63)	Retired	28 Sept 2013
Sgt. Sandra Engemann (71)	Retired	27 July 2015
Sgt. Thomas Finnelly	Active (045)	15 Aug 2015
Sgt. Donald R. Markham (51)	Active (189)	02 Sep 2015
Sgt. Phillip P. Adamovitz (69)	Retired	08 Sep 2015
Sgt. Richard J. O’Conner (86)	Retired	12 Sep 2015

Awards Dinner / Pizza Meeting

The September Awards / Pizza meeting at Home Run Inn was very well attended. Awards for distinguished service were presented to Sgt. Russ Willingham (008), Sgts. Brad Williams and Tom Horton(189), and Sgts. Mike Matijevich and Eddie Yoshimura (019). Congratulations to the awardees.



Sgts. Tom Horton, Brad Williams, and Jim Ade

Sgts. Russ Willingham and Jim Ade

Membership Report

By Paul Bilotta Vice-President

As of this writing there are 1112 members in the 9171 pay code. The budgeted strength for our pay code is 1190 which leaves us 78 sergeants short at this time. With the holidays quickly approaching and furloughs around the corner we would hope that the department would quickly promote to fill these shortages. Unfortunately hope is not a strategy. The constant complaint in Chicago is that crime is high yet the powers that be would rather pay millions of dollars a year in overtime instead of hiring more officers. Remember, retirement is now open from 01 May and your par form must be submitted 30 days prior to retiring.

Upcoming Events

**Thanksgiving Turkey Raffle Meeting
Thursday, November 19 @ Noon**

**Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 15 @ 1800**

Chaplain's Corner

Fr. Dan Brandt Chaplain

Thanks to the hundreds and hundreds who participated in the **BLUE MASS** last month at the parish in 014 where I reside: Resurrection Catholic Church! After the Mass, a beautiful statue was dedicated outside the church building, honoring **St. Michael the Archangel** (whose feast we celebrated last month on 29 SEP). Thanks to our Mounted Unit, Honor Guard, and Knights of Columbus for making the event even more memorable. Next time you're near Francisco and Nelson, stop by this beautiful outdoor shrine, and say a prayer for the 574 officers who died in the line of duty here in Chicago. By the way, at their regular daily and Sunday Masses, Resurrection Parish remembers—by name—these same heroes. For more information on St. Michael the Archangel, our patron, please visit our website and click on the St. Michael link.



With Christmas around the corner... If you'd like a blown glass 3" x 4 1/2" **CPD Christmas tree ornament**, please visit our website, and click on the "PCM Merchandise" link. A limited supply is available at great prices...and bulk prices are available if you'd like to buy them for your team. One side of the ornament reads, "Proud to be the Police," and the other side reads, "Proud to be an American."



Back



Front

Finally, next month Police Chaplains Ministry will once again host our beloved **Gold Star Families** at a holiday dinner on the Club Level of Soldier Field, overlooking the Police Memorial. This is a wonderful evening indeed. Letters are currently being sent to those on our mailing list, soliciting financial support for this evening...but I also wanted to invite **you** via this means to consider making a donation. If you wish to do so, your tax-deductible gift (payable to Police Chaplains Ministry) may be made online at our website, sent via CPD mail to Unit 118, or mailed to/dropped off at 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 60607. Thanks in advance for helping us to remind Gold Star Family members that their loved ones are NEVER FORGOTTEN.

See you on the street,

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

1140 W. Jackson Blvd. | Chicago, IL 60607 | 773/550-2369 (cell/text)

dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org | www.ChicagoPCM.org



Food for Thought

By Rabbi Moshe Wolf Chaplain

You wake up in the morning, turn on the news, or open a newspaper, and the expression of "same news different day" jumps into your mind. Bombings overseas, acts of terrorism wherever you turn, innocent people getting hurt for no reason. Then you look at our own backyard, people getting killed, daily acts of violence against innocent people and it seems that life is one big struggle. I was stopped the other day on the street by one of our members, and was asked "Rabbi, give me an explanation as to why there is so much hurt and pain out there"? I responded, "I don't have an answer as to why all the pain, but thanks to each and every one of my brothers and sisters in blue, for going out every day and making a difference. Thanks to you for being G-d's presence out in the street, providing comfort where there is pain, and peace and justice where needed. Our city could NOT survive without you and for THAT we are MOST grateful. It reminded me of the story of "the Fern and the Bamboo".....

One day Johnny decided to quit...to quit his job, his relationship, his spirituality...he wanted to quit his life. He went to the woods to have one last talk with G-d. "G-d", he said. "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?" His answer surprised Johnny. "Look around", G-d said. "Do you see the fern and the bamboo?" "Yes", Johnny replied. And G-d continued, "When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo. In the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo. In year three there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I would not quit. The same in year four. Then in the fifth year, a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern, it was seemingly small and insignificant. But just six months later, the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall. It had spent the five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I would not give any of my creations a challenge it could not handle. Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots? I would not quit on the bamboo. I will never quit on you." "Don't compare yourself to others." He said. "The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful. Your time will come.", G-d said to Johnny. "You will rise high." "How high should I rise?" Johnny asked. "How high will the bamboo rise?" He asked in return. "As high as it can?" Johnny questioned. "Yes." the Lord said, "Give Me glory by rising as high as you can." Johnny left the forest, realizing that G-d will never give up on him. AND HE WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON YOU!..Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness; bad days give you experiences; both are essential to life. Serenity isn't freedom from the storm, but peace within the storm.

End of parable.

.....Some thoughts to ponder, that will give you a chuckle....."An old farmers input on life".....

* Life is simpler when you plow around the stump. * Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled. * Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads. * Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you. * It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge and don't let those that aggravate you, live rent free in your brain. * You cannot unsay a cruel word

* Every path has a few puddles, expect to get wet every so often. * When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty. * The best sermons are lived, not preached. * Most of the stuff people worry about, ain't never gonna happen anyway. * Don't judge folks by their relatives. * Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer. * Live a good, honorable life, then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Continued on Page 9

Food for Thought

By Rabbi Moshe Wolf Chaplain

* Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none. * Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance, part of life is learning how to run in between the drops. * If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'. * Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got. * The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every morning. * Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of what comes from bad judgment. * Letting the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in. * If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some Influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around. * Live simply, love generously, are deeply. * Speak kindly, leave the rest to G-d.

May G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always in His loving care. If I can be of assistance or if you have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to drop us a line.

A special shout to all members of my flock of the Jewish faith, "Shana Tova" a Happy Blessed New Year to you and your families. May the coming year be one of your best one's yet.

Compliments of your Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf, 773-463-4780 or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com

Retiree Healthcare Options

As many retirees already know, your health care contributions for the city plan are going through the roof. The CPSA has been working with the other unions in the city to find alternatives for you and your families. In the meantime, we have partnered with the PB&PA of Illinois and IXSolutions to provide additional choices for your healthcare needs. IXSolutions provides the PB&PA with access to a private health insurance exchange where there are dozens of individual plans available from insurance providers you know. You can pick a plan that works for you and call a toll-free number if you need assistance. The private exchange is ideal for retirees that wish to explore alternatives to the costly city plan. Should you decide to choose one of the alternatives offered by IXSolutions' Police Insurance Exchange, you also get access to Health Advocate™. This service provides assistance with your health insurance questions as well as health care issues. Call Health Advocate with questions about a test results, ask for help with finding a doctor that accepts your insurance, etc. **To find out more, visit www.policeinsuranceexchange.com, call 855-455-9932, or sign up their webinar.** The webinar is scheduled for November 12. It's easy to dial in and listen, and in a half hour, you'll get a lot of helpful information about how these plans work and how easy it is to opt in. Information for the webinar can be found at this link:

<https://flexiblebenefit.webex.com/flexiblebenefit/onstage/g.php?MTID=eacbase61ee4929b3706ca18a19c36990>

IXSolutions is very happy to extend these benefits to PB&PA members and provide access to affordable healthcare solutions.

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

This page is updated frequently by the Association and by the PB&PA of Illinois. If you do not follow facebook, simply visit our website at chicagosergeants.org and follow the live feed. "Like." at

Chicago Police Sergeants' PB&PA

Recent Retirements

The following have retired since our last Chevrons. These Sergeants have provided the City of Chicago with many years of service. We wish a long, healthy and prosperous retirement to all!!

Name	Star	Unit	Age	Years	Retirement Date
Sgt. Virginia Zic-Schlomas	1199	620	60	32	15 July 2015
Sgt. Steven F. Wilson	2379	055	55	32	15 July 2015
Sgt. Ronald A. Willis	2636	161	52	21	15 July 2015
Sgt. Keith Walthall	1298	543	57	30	15 July 2015
Sgt. Thomas P. Sheehan	1220	701	55	29	15 July 2015
Sgt. Henry M. Harris	2602	543	52	29	15 July 2015
Sgt. Paul Gregoire	870	007	55	29	15 July 2015
Sgt. Dennis Connelly	998	019	63	28	30 July 2015
Sgt. John Rak, Jr.	2098	376	55	30	15 August 2015
Sgt. Jane N. Raddatz	1813	051	56	30	15 August 2015
Sgt. Anita Medina	1830	004	56	26	15 August 2015
Sgt. Mark A. Higgs	1914	121	49	28	15 August 2015
Sgt. Robert J. Belczak	1088	001	51	27	15 August 2015
Sgt. Joseph C. Avila	1681	051	62	30	15 August 2015
Sgt. Kirkland Crossley	1036	002	55	23	31 August 2015
Sgt. Centeria Moore-Powell	2583	022	60	29	13 September 2015
Sgt. Phyllis Muzupappa	1952	121	55	29	15 September 2015
Sgt. Phyore D. Montgomery	2481	015	50	25	15 September 2015
Sgt. Belynda F. Johnson	1741	610	57	25	15 September 2015
Sgt. Charles Gray	814	003	52	22	15 September 2015
Sgt. Linda M. Fogarty	1060	177	55	29	13 October 2015
Sgt. George Owen, Jr.	945	003	55	29	15 October 2015

Retiree Gatherings:

1st District Retiree Brunch is on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m., at the Southern Belles Restaurant, 6737 S. Archer Avenue (just East of Roberts Road), in Bridgeview.

8th District Retiree Luncheon (8 Balls) is generally on the last Wednesday of the month at Noon, at the Les Brothers Restaurant, 8705 S. Ridgeland, Oak Lawn. Contact Dorothy Piscitelli at 733-972-0139 for any last minute changes.

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization (OPLEO) meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 Ravina, Orland Park. Contact Don Ade at 708-408-9308 for any last minute changes.

South Side Retirees meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Jedi Garden Restaurant 9266 S. Cicero Avenue

North Side Retirees meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. Lone Tree Manor 7710 N. Milwaukee Avenue For Info Call: John Zilinski at 773-259-1087

Chicago Police Sergeants Association Golf Outing

The golf outing was held on August 10 at Silver Lakes Country Club. The weather, dinner, and camaraderie were all great. The golf...eh! More than 200 attendees all had a great time and the Association raised over \$12,000 for the Active Sergeant Death Benefit Fund. Thanks to all who supported this year's outing.



Chicago Police Sergeants' Association

Police Benevolent & Protective Association, Unit 156A

1616 West Pershing Road

Chicago, Illinois 60609

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CHICAGO, IL

Turkey Raffle Meeting Thursday, November 19th at 1200 Hours CPSPA 1616 W. Pershing Road

Have you moved, changed units, or changed your star number? Make sure we know!

Name _____ Star # _____ Unit _____

I have moved. My current address information is as follows

Old Address _____ Zip Code _____

New Address _____ Apt./Unit _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (new) _____

I have changed Units. My current unit is as follows

Old Unit _____ New Unit _____ Day Off Group _____

I have a new star number. My current star number is as follows

Old Star Number _____ New Star Number _____

Member's Signature: _____ Date: _____

**You may mail this form via Police Mail to: Unit 545 or U.S. Mail to:
CPSPA/PB&PA Unit 156A, 1616 W. Pershing Rd., Chicago, IL 60609**

Chevrons

The Official Publication of the
Chicago Police Sergeants' Association

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