



Police
Benevolent &
Protective
Association
Unit 156a



Chevrons

news from the

CHICAGO POLICE SERGEANTS' ASSOCIATION

President's Message

By John Pallohusky


After a long winter, spring has finally arrived and summer is just around the corner. Most of us begin to focus on planning family events, vacations, social outings or just enjoying some good summertime weather. For all of us, as police officers the month of May has an added special meaning. Whether or not you are able to attend any of the events, it is important for each one of us to take a moment out of our busy lives to remember and reflect upon the sacrifices all these officers have made and how they are no longer here for their families. We as police officers are part of the extended police family and need to show our support for the family members and loved ones that these officers have left behind... "We Will Never Forget Them".

The Chicago Police Department Annual St. Jude's March is Sunday, May 3, 2009. This year the names of three Chicago Police Officers will be added to the Wall at the National Police Memorial in Washington D.C. and at the Illinois Police Memorial in Springfield. Officers Richard M. Francis, Nathaniel Taylor Jr. and Detective Joseph M. Airhart Jr. will be recognized and honored for the sacrifice they made for the people of Chicago.

These memorials serve not only as a grim reminder of the dangers police officers face daily in their commitment to serving the public, but also as a means of support for the families, friends and fellow police officers, that these sacrifices were not made in vain. For anyone who has ever participated in these dedication services or visited these memorials, it is a very moving and solemn experience. If you have not had the opportunity or the honor of attending, you are truly missing out. I encourage all those that are able to attend, to do so at least once in your career.

As always, Stay Safe!

John Pallohusky

John Pallohusky, President
Chicago Police Sergeants' Association 

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The Social Security Issue

By Retired Sgt. Don Januszyk

In the last issue of the Chevrons there was information on the social security issue which was in error. The senator involved had retired, his phone and email information were disconnected, and HR-82 no longer deals with social security. I apologize and here is the correct and latest information. The below listed bills will restore the social security benefits that we lost, and it will also affect the benefits of the surviving spouses.

There are now two bills that deal with the Social Security Fairness Act. One is in the Senate and the other is in the House. In the U.S. House is H.R.-235 which is sponsored by Rep. Howard L. Berman of California (202-225-4695) and it has 233 co-sponsors. On the 7th of January 2009 it was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee which is chaired by Rep. Charles B. Rangel of New York (202-225-4365). It was then referred to the sub-committee on Social Security which is chaired by Rep. John Tanner (202-225-4714). Additional action is pending.

In the U. S. Senate there is S.B.-484 which is sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California (202-224-3841) and has 19 co-sponsors. On the 25th of February 2009 it was referred to the Committee on Finance which is chaired by Sen. Max Baucus of Montana (202-224-4515) Again, additional action is pending.

I would strongly suggest calling and/or writing to each of these elected officials as well as to the elected officials in the state that you reside in. I have listed the addresses of the above officials below. The two senators

for Illinois are Sen. Roland Burris (202-224-2854) and Sen. Richard Durbin (202-224-2152). There are too many Illinois Representatives to list.


If you would like to email this article to your friends and other law enforcement officers contact me at www.dj156@ameritech.net and I will email you the article for your distribution.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Max Baucus
U.S. Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510


Rep. Howard Berman
2221 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. John Tanner
1226 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Charles Rangel
2354 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515 

Next General Meeting

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday, 21 May 2009 starting promptly at 1900 hours. It will be held at our office at 1616 W. Pershing Road and refreshments will be available.

NOTE ALSO: The Pension Meeting is the Fourth Thursday of each month. 

March Winners

March Meeting Raffle Winners

Sgt. Shawn Joyce (018)

Sgt. Ralph Wilson (004)

Sgt. Mary Boyle (020)

Sgt. Gerry Majerczyk (010)

Sgt. Tom O'Donnell (Ret.) 

Proposed Post Retirement Medical Savings Plan

By John Pallohusky

By now all active members should have received their ballot via the U.S. mail at their residence. If you are an active sergeant and have NOT received your ballot, please contact the C.P.S.A. Office at 773-376-7272. Ballots must be returned by 05 May 2009.

The City of Chicago has proposed a **VEBA (Voluntary Employee Benefit Association) Plan** for all Active Sergeants, henceforth, referred to as the "Plan". The purpose of this Plan is to provide members an opportunity to pre-fund the costs of their health care during retirement. This proposed Plan is exactly the same plan that was presented to the Captain's and Lieutenant's for their consideration and subsequently rejected by the membership of both Associations.


In order for this Plan to be implemented it will require the approval of the active membership. Each active sergeant currently has the opportunity to vote to either approve or reject the Plan. **THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE AND YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT.** This Plan will either be approved or rejected based on the majority of votes cast from the ballots that are returned. This Plan, if approved will make it mandatory that all active sergeants participate. **IF APPROVED, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OPT OUT OF THIS PLAN.** This Plan has financial requirements and each active sergeant needs to evaluate how it will affect them and their families.

Below are some key points of this proposed Plan. Please refer to the documents which have been posted on our Web site for more detailed information.

- The City's Benefits Committee has selected Nationwide Retirement Solutions as the vendor to provide recordkeeping, investment, claim payment and related services to the VEBA.
- The City will not be making an employer contribution at this time.
- The proposed Plan is entirely funded by the employee.
- Contributions go in on a tax-free basis and are disbursed for qualifying expenditures on a tax-free basis.
- If the Plan is accepted, participation is mandatory. In other words, everyone is required to be in the plan year after year.

The proposed Plan has three major components.

1. A mandatory payroll deduction equal to 1.5% of the employee's annual base salary will be deducted on a pre-tax basis each pay period.
2. Beginning 01 January 2010 each employee will contribute an amount equal to the value of the first forty (40) hours of accumulated non-FLSA compensatory time that the employee earned during the prior calendar year at the employee's hourly rate at the end of the prior calendar year. Additional restrictions apply.
3. The hourly equivalent of ten percent (10%) of the employee's accumulated non-FLSA compensatory time as of 31 December 2008 shall be frozen and moved into the VEBA account in two equal amounts. This is a one time provision at the time the Plan is implemented. Additional restrictions apply.
4. Upon the member's termination of employment or retirement, the member may use his/her account assets to pay for qualified health care expenses incurred by the member or his/her dependents. If a member dies without legal dependents, the assets in the account will be treated as investment earnings that shall be allocated to the accounts of all other participants in a non-discriminatory manner. You cannot designate a beneficiary under the Plan. The City will provide all members with the option of purchasing additional group term life insurance separate from the Plan on an employee-pay-all basis. This term life insurance will be provided through Prudential Life Insurance Company.

Once again, please take the time to evaluate this proposed Plan and how it will impact your financial future. **IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE VOTE AND RETURN YOUR BALLOT TO THE C.P.S.A. OFFICE BY 05 MAY 09.** Ballots will be counted at the C.P.S.A. Office on Wednesday 06 May 09 at 1100hrs. Any active member wishing to attend when the ballots are counted is encouraged to do so. 

Pension Report

By Sgt. Mike Lazzaro, Sergeant's Pension Representative

SWORN PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

The 1st Pre-Retirement seminar was held March 12th. Usually 120 to 200 people attend the 1st seminar of the year, but only 80 attended this year. It also has been announced that the next 3 seminars will be moved to the Multi-purpose room at HQ. The three remaining seminars are on May 14th (Thursday), July 28th (Tuesday) and Oct 27th (Tuesday). Sign up for the seminar on the Intranet. If there are any questions, contact Human Resources at 745-5343 or Pax 0350.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

Every active sworn member contributes 9% of their salary to the Pension Fund. The contributions are placed in an account for their future annuity. This is the breakdown of the 9%; 7% goes for the annuity, 1-1/2% is for the surviving spouse annuity (the spouse receives 50% of the member's annuity, and 1/2% is for the automatic increase (you must be 55 yrs of age and retired for one year). The last time this contribution was increased (from 8-1/2% to 9%) was in 1976. The City contributes from the property taxes (tax multiplier). Basically the city must contribute \$2.00 for each \$1.00 a sworn member contributes. The last time this contribution was increased (from 1.97 to 2.00) was in 1982.

RETIREMENTS AS OF 01 APRIL 2009

Once again the amount of retirees was below the historical average of 400. For the year 2008, 340 sworn members retired, compared to 336 in 2007, and 328 in 2006. The total as of 01 April 2009 is 87. Here is the break down by rank:

Police Officers - 63

Sergeants - 11

Lieutenants - 8

Captains - 3

Exempts - 2

2009 INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

Bad news, the global economic plunge continued through January and February, prompting another double digit decline in the equity markets, and allowing 2009 to claim the record from 2008 as having the worst start ever to a new year. What is an optimist? "One who believes things are so bad they're bound to get better." Finally some good news! The Fund's investments had significant improvement in March. Fixed income (Bonds), U.S. and International stocks were in positive territory. While some of our bond managers are still lagging, relative performance has been steadily improving since the miserable 4th quarter of 2008. Specifically, U.S. stocks the main driver of performance in March, up 8.4%. As of early April, the markets are still rallying. In 2009, the Fund will conduct searches to hire investment managers in the following alternate investments: Global Macro, currencies, and commodities. ⚡

Contract Negotiation Update

By Sgt. John Pallohusky

Contract negotiations continue, but have become more tedious as we continue to demand a decent wage package. We fully understand the current economic conditions the City is challenged with, but our members deserve a fair wage increase that reflects the cost of living in the City of Chicago. It is simply not fair for the City to continually compare public sector employees with private sector employees.

Discussions continue over reducing the age for retiree medical insurance from the current age of 60 to age 55. The City's current proposal has too many restrictions to be considered as presented.

We also continue to press the City for increased bid positions. ⚡

Retirement Dinner 2008

Ret. Sgt. Don Januszyk



Retired Sgt. and past C.P.S.A. Board Member Ed Brennan with C.P.S.A. President John Pallohusky

This year's Corned Beef Dinner was held on the north side at the Hanging Gardens Banquet Hall. There were approximately 138 people who attended the dinner. During the year 2008 there were 54 Sergeants who retired. Seventeen Sergeants were able to attend the dinner and be recognized. The dinner will be on the south side next year, on Thursday the 18th of February 2010, so mark your calendars. ⚡



C.P.S.A. Vice President Bob Kirchner and Retired Sgt. Frank Honeywood



Retired Sgt. and past C.P.S.A. Board Member George Whiteside with C.P.S.A. President John Pallohusky



Retired Sgt. Dave Oravetz



Retired Sgts. Grayceann Paoletti & Nataleen Coleman



Retired Sgt. Al Piantkowski



Retired Sgts. Tom O'Donnell, Vince Tondryk and Sgt. Tom West

Retiree Report

By Retired Sgt. Don Januszyk

The economy is affecting the retirement stats. In January, the most popular month, there were only two Sergeants that retired, and in February there were three. I would like to remind the Sergeants that retire this year, 2009 that they will be recognized in February of 2010.

The Chicago Police Pension Board meets on the last Thursday of the month and it is open to the public. I was at the meeting in January, and there were two retirees who attend the March meeting. I encourage both the actives and the retirees to take the time to attend at least one of these meetings. It's your pension and you see and hear the issues first hand.

Here is some legislative action that warrants your concern. There is Illinois HB-687 sponsored by Rep. Kenneth Dunkin (312-266-0340) which will require gun owners to carry a \$1 million dollar liability policy. The bill is moving along in the House and Rep. Ed Acevedo (773-843-1500, a Chicago Police Officer) is in favor of the bill.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Bobby Rush (773-224-6500) has introduced H.R.-45 which makes extensive changes in our federal gun laws and regulations. There are no co-sponsors to the bill and as of the 9th of February 2009 it is in committee. I would recommend contacting your appropriate elected official and voice your concerns.

Illinois Rep. Mark Beaubien, a Republican from Wauconda (847-487-5252), is pushing a plan to tax our pension. Currently the plan is getting support across the state; however no bill has yet been introduced. Again you need to make that call. Our friends who live out of state have friends and family in Illinois who they can contact. You can find information on Illinois bills by going to www.ilga.gov.

I erred in the last issue on the Social Security Act. Please check the corrected article in this issue. I was partly right, but the Senator retired prior to the issue being printed.

In the January issue of the FOP News Letter, they state that the City has yet to inform anyone as to who

has been impaneled to the "Retiree Health Benefits Commission". This committee will be responsible for looking into making changes to the design of the "Korshak Decision" which expires in June 2013. This will affect the medical benefits of both active and retired officers.

Lastly, when you pay a bill in a store or especially a restaurant always check to make sure it's your card that you got back. Those of us who have Medicare cards, that number on the card is your social security number, keep that card at home unless you need it at a doctor's office. If you'd like to email me or the other board members you can go to the retiree link or the executive board link on our web site. Take care and stay safe. 🏠

Stop Those Credit Card Applications

By Ret. Sgt. Don Januszyk

You may get at least one credit card application through the US mail each day, and they are a total pain. **HERE'S HOW TO STOP THEM.** There is an 800 number to call but I tried it, and its close to useless. Use your computer, find a friend who has one, or go to the public library and use there's. This information goes to the four major credit card agencies.

The web address is as follows: www.optoutpre-screen.com. When you get to the website, click onto the 5 year opt out, or you can click onto the permanent opt out. Fill out all the required information including your SS number. At the end there is a security code on the left side. Copy it exactly into the rectangle box, and then submit your information. It takes about three months for the stop to go into effect.

Tired of telemarketers on your house phone or cell phone go to www.donotcall.gov and submit your information. It works. 🏠

Retiree Roll

Congratulations to all of our retirees. These sergeants have provided the City of Chicago with many years of service. We wish a long, healthy and prosperous retirement to all!!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Star</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Retirement</u>
Sgt. Donald Rose	2544	001	53	26	31 Aug 2008
Sgt. George S. Gottlieb	798	011	60	39	31 Dec 2008
Sgt. William A. Lange	1780	127/124	56	28	15 Jan 2009
Sgt. Veronica Blackwood	2392	192	57	26	15 Jan 2009
Sgt. Mark E. Mizula	1138	020	55	28	05 Feb 2009

In Memoriam

The following Sergeants have passed away and will be missed. We extend our condolences to their families and friends. Please contact our office if you hear of any of our brothers or sisters passing on, we are not always notified in a timely manner.

<u>Name (Age)</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Passed Away</u>	<u>Name (Age)</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Passed Away</u>
Reckweg, John	Retired-Az.	18 March 2008	McGovern, Joseph	Retired	17 Jan 2009
White, Charles M.	Retired	15 Jan 2009	Boyd, Emmett A. (69)	Retired	11 Feb 2009
Breen, William J. B. (79)	Retired	16 Jan 2009			

Retired Sergeant Back From Iraq

By Ret. Sgt. Don Januszyk, Election Chairman

Welcome Home Ron! Retired Sergeant Ron Palmer just recently returned from Iraq, after spending a little more than a year there. Below are pictures Ron sent us of his team and some of the people he worked with. 🏠



Take A Moment To Notice

Compliments of your Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf • 773-463-4780 • moshewolf@hotmail.com

The question was asked, what is the best antidote to coping with difficult times? We all find ourselves trying to cope with life's challenges, trials and tribulations. Where does one muster the strength to go on in difficult times? It reminded me of the following parable . . . Take a Moment To Notice . . . As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear.

When you ran around the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point, you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead. I watched patiently all day long. With all your activities, I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.

I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that was why you didn't bow your head. You glanced, three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. That's okay. There is still more time left, and I hope that you will talk to me yet.

You went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV. I don't know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes on there and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it not thinking about anything, just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal, but again you didn't talk to me.

Bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family, you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you. . . I've got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to

teach you how to be patient with others as well.

I love you so much that I wait every day for a nod, prayer or thought, or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation.

Well, you are getting up once again. Once again I will wait, with nothing but love for you. Hoping that today you will give me some time. Have a nice day! . . . Your friend . . . G-d. . . End of parable.

So when you find yourself with a heavy heart, take a moment to say a prayer, take a moment and notice that G-d is listening. May G-d bless and keep you safe, today and always Amen.

P.S. The name of G-d. Please note: I do not spell out the name of G-d out of respect. Spelling out THE NAME and then throwing it in the trash, would be a desecration of THE NAME, so I put in the dash. This is a religious custom I follow, and please don't be offended. Thanks for understanding. If you would like to discuss it further, please don't hesitate to drop me a line or give me a call. 🙏

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the newly promoted lieutenants!

Rodney D. Blissett	David L. Case
Randall L. Darlin	Brendan D. Deenihan
Raymond M. Doherty	Phyllis A. Gill
Dale R. Kingsley	Gregory G. Klichowski
Phillip Liebas Sr.	Paul C. Mack
Mark C. Marianovich	Marc K. Moore
Maria C. Pena	John C. Ryan
Paula C. Schmeer	John E. Serafini
Jacquelin M. Sesso	Steven A. Sesso
Michael J. Stiscak	Carlos E. Velez 🙏

2009 Annual Golf Outing & Death Benefit Fund Raiser

This year's Golf Outing is on **Monday the 10th of August** at the Silver Lake Country Club, located at 14700 S. 82nd Ave. in Orland Park. Silver Lake Country Club has treated our organization very well, and we have had many compliments, even from our north side supporters. The current fee is only **\$95.00 per golfer**, which includes doughnuts, goody bags, golf, a cart, and beverages on the course, snack at the 9th hole, dinner with free beer, wine and soda, door prizes, raffle and a great time. It's a shotgun start at 0900 hours.



Remember all profits from golf and the raffle go directly to the Sgt's Death Benefit Fund for Active Duty Sergeants. ⚡

2009 Golf Reservation Form (Please Print)

Golfer #1 _____

Golfer #2 _____

Golfer #3 _____

Golfer #4 _____

Contact Person Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Total \$380.00. Make check out to CPSA

Return To: Chicago Police Sergeants' Association, 1616 W. Pershing Rd., Chicago, IL 60609

"Pay, Quit, or Die"

Ret. Sgt. Don Januszyk

Pay, Quit, or Die is a book on the Chicago mob, written by Retired Chicago Sgt. Don Herion. Don was assigned to OCD and also worked with the Cook County Sheriff's office. After 46 years Don retired. Don's book tells the story behind the mob, names people, and gives you an insight into the dark world of organized crime. His book is available in local book stores or on Amazon.com. ⚡

Interesting Websites

www.chicagocrime.org

www.chicagohoodz.com

www.chicagomobs.org

www.earth.google.com

www.FamilyWatchDog.us

www.chicagocopwatch.org

Chicago Riots 1967:

www.justin.tv:80/clip/a849b00bc3cd103b



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:
CPSA/P.B.&P.A. Unit 156a, 1616 W. Pershing Rd., Chicago, IL 60609**

Chevrons

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