



Chevrons

Chicago Police Sergeants' Association Newsletter

April 2013 Volume 54 Number 2



Police Benevolent &
Protective Association

Unit 156A

Chicago Sergeants



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President's Message

By James Ade President

In February, we presented a tentative collective bargaining agreement and proposed pension legislation to the membership for their vote. The contract addressed the issues that were brought to us by the membership through the surveys, emails, and phone calls that were received. The legislation proposal addressed our membership's concern over the deteriorating condition of our pension fund. We believed that it was our duty to present the proposal to our members and give them an opportunity to weigh in on a plan to assure our pension as well as secure a fair contract. And weigh in they did. We held eight informational meetings to discuss the proposals, and 1,020 ballots were returned. The totals were 134 in favor, and 876 against. Ten ballots were either spoiled or postmarked late. The count was certified by Burt Odelson, a highly respected attorney whose expertise is elections, labor, and civic matters.

Thanks to Frank Iglinski, Al Stinites, Kathy Clepp, Liz Nolan, Jeff Planey, Greg Whitmore, Davina Ward, Alex Soto, Bob Mihajlov, John Ward, and Don Januszyk (retired) who did all the work processing the ballots.

Moving forward to advance the arbitration process for the collective bargaining agreement, we had one preliminary meeting with the city so far. In the near future, we will meet again to discuss arbitration points and select an arbitrator.

As the legislative session in Springfield continues, pension reform bills are being proposed and discussed. These pension bills mostly affect the state employees and downstate teachers. So far, no bills that



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

would have an effect on our pensions have been brought to the senate or the house for a vote. I speak with Sean Smoot, who is our Labor Committee director in Springfield, very frequently. We will see what comes from this legislative session for city pensions and will inform everyone if action needs to be taken such as contacting legislators, rallying at the capitol, etc.

The corned beef and cabbage dinner was a huge success. We had over 200 attendees and honored the more than eighty sergeants that retired in 2012. St. Ignatius College Prep again proved to be a perfect venue for the dinner. I would like to thank Rabbi Moshe Wolf and Father Dan Brandt for their attendance and kind words.

A special thanks goes out to Don Januszyk for his organization of the dinner and all that he does for the Association. Don informed me back in January that he will be leaving the Board of Directors as one of our retiree liaisons. Don has done a great deal of work over many years of involvement in the Association. He organized the golf outings, retiree dinners, Home Run Inn meetings, and many other activities related to retired sergeants. I considered him my mentor when I was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to 002 almost fifteen years ago. He exemplified what it means to be a member of this Board by helping other sergeants. Thank you, Don.

The department posted notice of the merit promotion process for Sergeants and Lieutenants recently. This usually means new promotions are imminent. We were not informed as to how many will be made of either rank, or when those promotions will take place. We look forward to having additional sergeants and to the promotion of some of our members.

Congratulations to the Chicago Police Enforcers who kicked off their season on April 6. They travelled to Cleveland and posted the 26-7 victory over the Warriors. Good luck the rest of the season.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 1800 hours at 1616 W. Pershing Road. Until then, stay safe, take care of your people, and ensure that the job gets done.

Retiree Dinner*By Don Januszyk, Retired*

This is a short recap on the February Dinner. There were 138 retirees present and 70 active Sergeants. There were a total of 81 Sergeants who retired in 2012 and 46 of them were present to be recognized. Thanks to Sgt. Paul Bilotta who ran around and ensured that there were enough refreshments for all those present, and yes there was plenty of corned beef for all. See all next year and stay safe out there.

PENSION NEWS**VISIT OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, AND TWITTER ACCOUNT**

In an effort to keep you, the members, updated and to share information we have created a website, a Facebook page, and a Twitter account dedicated to our pension and keeping it safe.

Please visit the sites for updates and share the information with your friends and family. We are asking that you "Like" the Facebook page and refer to it often.

www.firstresponderpensionfacts.com

Vice-Presidents Report

By Paul Bilotta Vice-

The Association refinanced the loan on the building that we own on Pershing Road. This building was financed through the Chicago Police Federal Credit Union and was refinanced through the same entity. The refinancing allowed us to drop two percentage points off the cost of our loan. Additionally we paid down over half of the loan with the money that was recovered from the Pallohusky theft. Continuing with our current payment schedule will allow us to have the building completely paid for , free and clear, within the next sixty-six months.

Grievances have been getting cleared at a very rapid pace. As of this writing there are thirteen grievances that are awaiting an arbitrator's decision. Once that decision is rendered those grievances will be considered settled and the files will be closed. There are seven open grievances that are in various stages of the grievance process. The grievance process has been working fairly well for our members. Many times we are able to adjudicate a problem before it ever reaches the grievance process. Once a member notifies us of a pending problem we have in the past been able to come to a decision that is satisfactory to the member before the situation turns into a grievance. That said – if you are having a problem in which you think there has been a contractual violation, please contact us and there is a possibility that we can get it resolved before it becomes a formal complaint.

The PBPA will be having their annual convention in Chicago this October. The convention dates are October 4, 5, and 6. This convention will be held at The Renaissance Hotel O'Hare. Since this is an election year for the PBPA, there are many police officers and their guests expected from around the state. As of this time exact numbers are not known. There will be a need for volunteers to assist with day to day events and activities on October 4 and 5. Anyone that may be interested in assisting should contact me at 773-376-7272. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Each meeting, we usually see the same faces. It would be great to see a new face or two at every meeting. If your schedule permits try to attend at least one meeting this year. Our next meeting is scheduled for 16 May 2013. There are six meetings each year and they are held on the third Thursday of every other month. Meeting times alternate between 1200 and 1800. Try to come out. Stay informed. Meet some fellow Sergeants. See you on 16 May.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 16th at 1800 Hours - 1616 W. Pershing Road

DISTRICT / FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

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

**Scott Slavin 145
002**

Robert Goode III 003

Milan Vujic 004

Kris Rigan 005

006

007

Al Cain 008

009

Jerry Negrete 010

Adam Zelitzky 011

Mark Juska 012

Tom Linnane 014

Jim Raffae 015

Bill O'Reilly 050

Michelle Rubino 017

Gene Richmond 018

Angelo Hitiris 019

020

Tim Szarzinski 022

Dawn Jackson 024

Mike Tantilla 025

Saadia Carter 142

Homan Square

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, as we are not always notified in a timely manner of their passing.

Name (Age)	Status	Passed Away
Sgt. Robert Parks (78)	Retired	24 Jan 2013
Sgt. Gerald C. "Taz" Ptaszkowski (62)	Retired	28 Jan 2013
Sgt. Michael Spagnola (50)	Active (011)	10 Feb 2013
Sgt. George Jurgensen (92)	Retired	11 Feb 2013
Sgt. Michael D. Kenny (64)	Retired (Wi)	23 Feb 2013
Sgt. Ross D. Marsala (62)	Active (012/376)	20 Mar 2013
Sgt. Maurice L. Sykes (75)	Retired	22 Mar 2013
Sgt. Robert J. Lane (88)	Retired	26 Mar 2013
Sgt. Kenneth R. Kula (81)	Retired	27 Mar 2013

Member News

By Mike Lazzaro Director

Tribute to Don Januszyk

March of 2013 was the last month that retired Sgt. Don Januszyk was on the CPSA Board. Don just turned 70 (he looks a lot younger), and its time to slow down. Don is very well organized, is the go-to guy, and he gets things done quickly and efficiently. He's leaving the board after 14 years, the last ten years as a retiree representative. He did boatloads of work, especially with the golf committee and the corned beef & cabbage dinner. Don is also on the Board of the Retired Chicago Police Association. As a side note, the South side retiree breakfast is also planned by him (every 2nd Wednesday of the month).

Don will still be available to assist us on occasion. Thank you for everything Don. As Albert Einstein said, "There is no greater satisfaction for a just and well-meaning person than the knowledge that he has devoted his best energies to the service of the good cause."

Get Involved

Why don't more Sergeants get involved with the CPSA? In the last election, of the 15 Offices on the board, there were no candidates that ran opposed for any board position. There are a lot of talented Sergeants that could help the CPSA. Who will replace our Treasurer, John Stahl (who is leaving the board later this year)? Also, Don Januszyk is gone—we might need 2 or 3 people just to replace him!

The past president of the United Steelworkers Union, David McDonald, sums up union apathy: "Although I have no way of knowing with any precision, I would guess that about one-fifth of the workers were pro-union, about five percent were strongly anti-union and the remaining three-fourths really didn't give much of a damn one way or the other."

Pension Report*By Brian Wright Pension Board Representative*

I received an e-mail from a fellow Sergeant with a link to an article regarding gambling in the State of Illinois and its connection to pension funding. John Kindt, a professor emeritus of business and legal policy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, wrote the article in Crain's Chicago Business on March 28, 2013. The article can be viewed in its entirety at:

www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20130328/OPINION/130329782/illinois-pensions-and-education-are-losing-to-gambling

The main point of the article is that gambling revenue can be an excellent and continuous source of revenue for the State of Illinois and more specifically their underfunded pension liability. Professor Kindt cites the United States International Gambling Report in determining that "during the last 22 years Illinois could have collected \$10 billion to \$53 billion from gambling interests, a sum that probably would make pensions solvent today. States that rejected Illinois' gambling model 20 years ago have little gambling today and solid pensions, and even budget surpluses." So, by rejecting gambling as a viable source of revenue for the last two decades, the politicians in this State have dug us what seems to be an insurmountable hole. Professor Kindt goes on to state that the most recent gambling expansion bill, SB 1739, "would give away another \$5 billion to \$10 billion in potential tax revenue to gambling owners". Professor Kindt values Illinois casino licenses at a fair market value of \$500 million to \$1 billion each. The above bill would only charge \$100,000.00 for each issued license. During the early 1990s, the initial 10 Illinois casino licenses worth a total fair market value of at least \$5 billion were legally given for \$25,000 each to political insiders, including one who is in prison as part of the Rod Blagojevich scandals." The point Professor Kindt is making is that the revenue is there if our political leaders knew how to properly maximize the value of the gambling licenses issued by the State. It seems to me that the value, whether known or not, is not the main focus of the political leaders. Their main focus is what political capital can be gained in return for those licenses.

Most states that allow gambling get most or all of the actual gambling revenue. The article states: "The tax on Canadian casinos traditionally has been 100 percent, with the casino companies receiving only management fees. The 2009 Illinois Video Gaming Act authorizing another 45,000 to 75,000 video gambling machines in neighborhoods has local governments receiving 5 percent, the state 25 percent and owner-operators 70 percent of revenue."

Our legislature is trying to pass a gambling bill that gives the citizens of this State the raw end of the deal. The gambling licenses are not a right of the applicants but are a privilege that the State allows. The Illinois Legislature, and us as taxpayers by extension, look like fools when the few license holders rake in the bags of money while the State budget is in the red every year and the pension liabilities continue to climb.

Professor Kindt summed the situation up perfectly: "Mr. Quinn repeatedly has stated that the Legislature must address more than \$90 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and a depleted state budget before considering gambling expansion. However, experts say the current policy on "existing gambling facilities" should simply be "pay up or get out." New gambling proposals only misdirect more funds away from pensions and education."

We all know that gambling will occur in this country. The longer we hold out on

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Retiree Report*By Don Januszyk Retiree Liaison*

This will be my last article as I'm re-retiring and leaving my position in the Sergeant's Association, which was Southside Retiree Liaison. I've been on the Board since June 1999 as the Area 2 Rep, and after retiring in January of 2003, I was appointed to the Liaison position. Prior to that I was a district rep.

I made Sergeant in 1977, no clout and on my own, and attended meetings whenever I could, going around the 3 watches. Meetings were north and south then and the Association was mostly fraternal. A lot changed when John Thulis was president (no drinking before meetings made a difference), and then Bruce Engstrom and the Board negotiated our first contact.

I was always impressed with the Board members, in that everyone was allowed to voice their opinions and concerns with little or no dissent. The Board has been criticized by general members, but when the time for elections arrived, few if any stood up to initiate a runoff. An organization is only as good as the members who support it.

I've chaired the Golf Outing for several years, and wanted to thank all those who have and continue to support the event. All the monies raised go straight into the Death Benefit Fund for active Sergeants. Some disgruntled Sergeants make negative comments relative to supporting the event, but they are only hurting the families of Sergeants.

I spent a total of over 26 years in the 2nd district (16 as a Sgt.), 3 years in 10, and 4 years in Youth AKA Special Victims. I was trained by the investigators and I thank them for that. Youth/SVU was usually looked down on, but they handled some sick cases, and there was many a time that the Homicide guys would request our assistance because they could not handle the case involving a child death.

I've handled more police shootings than I liked too. There was the fire strike, the Cook County Corrections Officers strike, but I've never got stuck in any of the riots (not complaining). But there was always the 1st watch on New Year's Eve in 002.

I had time for family, Scouts, Catholic School Board, and Parish Council. Things were not always easy, but the reason I share this with you is that there was still time for the Sergeants Association. The Sergeants Association is there for you the active and the retired.

In the very near future there are several important issues which will be decided on, such as pension and health care for the retirees. Hopefully, the Retired Chicago Police Association (RCPA) will be on the front lines regarding health care. The important thing is for all our members active and retired to stay pro active, call their elected officials, vote, and not sit on their ass.

I'll miss this position but that doesn't mean I'll be sitting on my ass. Take care, be safe, and this job could still be fun.

Pension Report*...continued from page 5*

its expansion and the more we just hand out licenses for peanuts the worse our situation will become. We are surrounded by states that have legalized gambling and if our citizens and tourists do not find the gambling here they will go across the border to get it. Chicago is a world class city and brings in millions of visitors every year. The Illinois General Assembly should take advantage of those facts by creating and passing a gambling bill that gives the State the bulk of the revenue while providing entertainment and business opportunities for its citizens.



2013
CPSA / PBPA Unit 156A
51st Annual Golf Outing



The 51st Annual Chicago Police Sergeants' Association Golf Outing will be held on Monday, August 12, 2013, at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, Illinois. The cost of the outing will remain the same as last year, \$100 for each golfer, and will include a gift bag, 18 holes of golf, a cart, beverages on the course, lunch on the 9th hole, and a buffet dinner with additional beverages. We will also hold the drawing for cash prizes (winner need not be present). This year we will be selling dinner tickets for the non-golfers for \$50, which includes dinner with beer, wine, and soda. Please call to reserve your ticket.

In addition to the cash prize drawing, there will be a bucket raffle at the event, which in the past has included such prizes as LCD TVs, I-Pods, GPS navigation devices, roundtrip airfare, travel certificates, etc. Join your Association for our only fundraising event of the year that supports our death benefit fund. If you cannot attend you can still support your Association by participating in our raffle.

Raffle tickets to support our death benefit fund will be sent out soon. The death benefit fund, available to active members, provides a check in the amount of \$3000 to the sergeant's named beneficiary to help the member's family at the time of their loss.

We have already started taking reservations. Send in the reservation form below, naming your foursome, along with a check payable to CPSA, 1616 W. Pershing Road, Chicago, IL 60609. Details are posted on our Web site at www.chicagosergeants.org. Registration forms are also available on our site.

Mark Andersen
 Golf Outing Chairman
mandersen@chicagosergeants.org

2013 Golf Reservation Form

Golfer #1 (print) _____ Golfer #2 (print) _____

Golfer #3 (print) _____ Golfer #4 (print) _____

Contact Person

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

(Tickets available at check in on the day of the event)

Per Golfer \$100.00 / Foursome \$400.00

Make check out to **CPSA** and return To:

Chicago Police Sergeant Association

1616 W. Pershing Rd.

Chicago, IL 60609

Chaplains Report

By Father Dan Brandt

The month before last, a dick from Area North was able to identify a Jane Doe who was found floating in Lake Michigan. Through some excellent detective work, the 33-year-old mentally-ill victim was identified. Her out-of-state family was notified, and they arranged to have the young woman's cremated remains sent to them. Our detective asked me to bless the remains before her final journey home. This was a first for me, and I was honored to participate in a simple prayer service, which brought some solace to her family and closure to the dicks on the job. The compassion of the CPD members involved was inspiring. This was a privileged moment indeed...and the presence of God was certainly felt!

Whether you recognize it or not, God is present in **your** day-to-day encounters—especially among the least of God's children. These are the people spoken of in the Scriptures...those whom we are called to serve and protect. Keep this in mind, please, while exercising your God-ordained duty on the streets. While my fellow chaplains and I see you out there from time to time, please also know that you are constantly in our prayers.

Following up on the Police Suicide Awareness and Prevention Seminar we hosted in January, the Department has decided to bring back Police Chief Kent Williams from Bartlett, Illinois, to repeat his presentation to our exempt staff in the coming months at headquarters. While bosses will make up most of the audience, we can probably (hopefully!) squeeze in a few other guests...so if you have the desire to participate, please let me know. This is a timely topic to address that needs to be taken VERY seriously, especially in light of the sad fact that nationwide, more than twice as many PO's take their own lives as are killed by aggressors.

A benefit will be held on Friday, 26 APR, at Bourbon Street for Casa Catalina—a Catholic Charities-sponsored food pantry and social service center located at 45th and Ashland (in 009). Retired PO Al Bedia is involved in raising funds and awareness for this very worthwhile cause. For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and more information, please contact Al at 773/617-8207.

Finally, please note that while the usual time for our second- and fourth-Sunday police Mass at Mercy Home is 11:00 a.m., on Mothers' Day (12 MAY), it will be held at 10:00 a.m. This is our usual practice on holidays, so folks can prepare their homes and meals.

God bless you in your most noble work,

Fr. Dan Brandt, CPD Chaplain

312/738-7588 (office) | 773/550-2369 (cell/text)

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

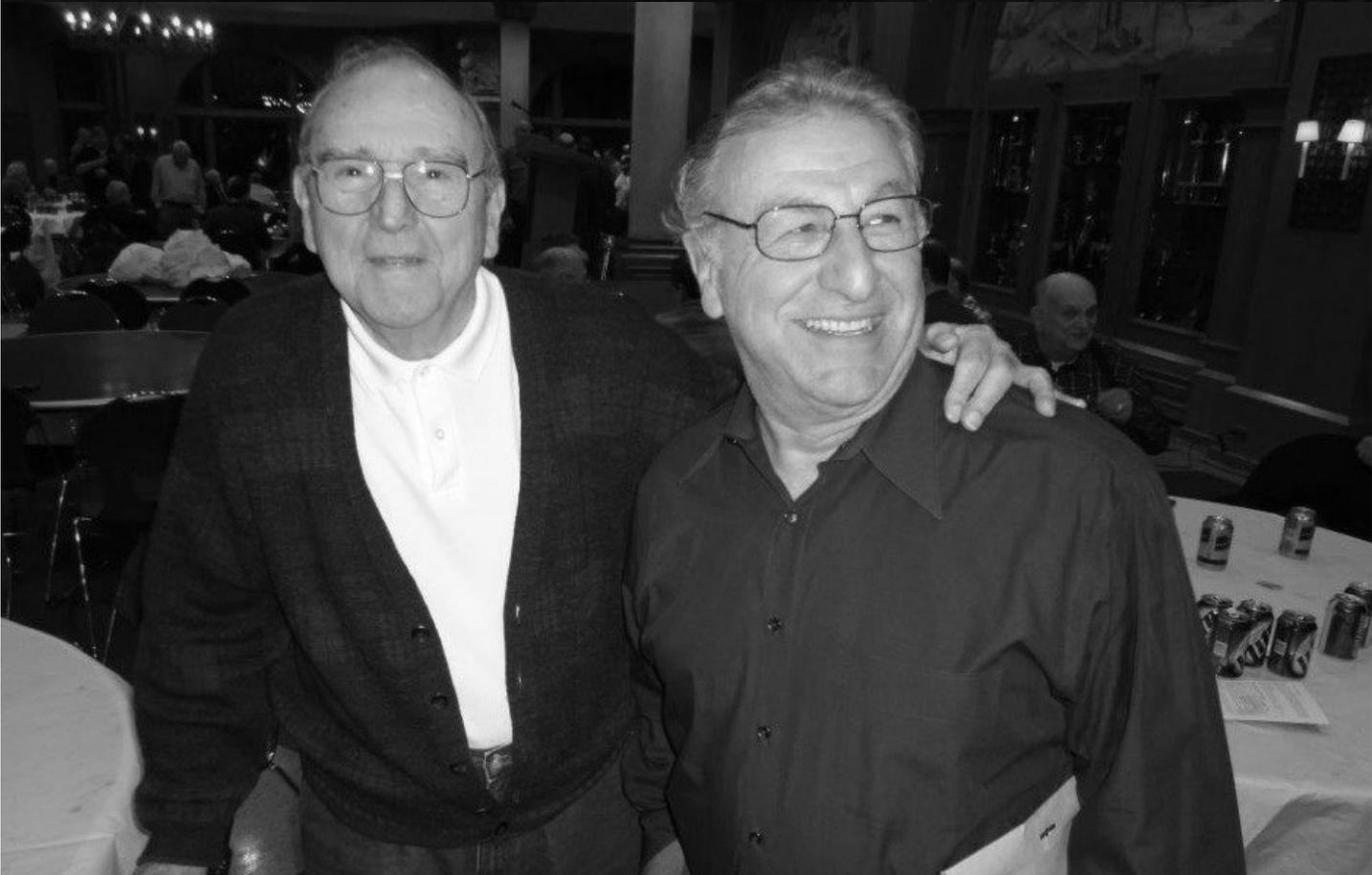
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST BY VISITING THE ABOVE WEBSITE.

Membership Report

By Paul Bilotta Vice-President

As of this writing there are 1109 members in the 9171 pay code. The budgeted strength for our pay code is 1190 which leaves us 81 sergeants short at this time. There was a request for meritorious Sergeants some time ago which usually promises a future promotional class. There has been no further discussion regarding a promotional class or the number of new Sergeants that will be promoted.

Retiree Dinner Pictures



Retiree Dinner Photos (continued)



Food for Thought

By Rabbi Moshe Wolf Chaplain

You may ask yourself "so what does the future bring?". We have all made mistakes in the past. We all have "ifs" in our lives. But let us remember the famous saying, "You can't turn the clock back and make a new beginning, but we can all start today and make a better ending". It reminds me of the short story **"Burnt Toast, Deal or Deal Breaker?"**....

When I was a teenager, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner, every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made one of those meals after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, hash browns, and extremely burned toast in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his toast, smile at my mom, and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that toast and eat every bite! When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the toast. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burnt toast."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy goodnight and I asked him if he really liked his toast burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Son, your Mother put in a hard day at work today and she was really tired. And besides, a little burnt toast never hurt anyone!".....end of story.

Let us remember, life is full of imperfect things . . . and imperfect people. There are many of us that are not the best at keeping a home in order or the best cooks, or the best at reconciling our checkbooks. What we can teach ourselves is to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences as we are. That is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship at home and at work.

That's our prayer for us today; that we will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of our lives and lay them at the feet of G-D. Because in the end, He's the only One who will be able to give us a livelihood or a relationship where "burnt toast" isn't a deal-breaker!

Don't put the key to your happiness in someone else's pocket but into your own, and don't take yourself too seriously. Don't let a day go by without laughter, it's balm for the heart and soul.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. The work you do is Holy and noble and for that we are most grateful.

If we can ever be of assistance or should you wish company for a ride along, or have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-230-7872 or e-mail:moshewolf@hotmail.com

Chevrons Additions

If you have any items of interest that you would like to see added to the Chevrons publication, please submit them to Sgt. Gerry Majerczyk at gmajerczyk@chicagosergeants.org. Your submissions will be considered by the Chevrons Committee depending upon space and content.

Chicago Police Sergeants' Association

Police Benevolent & Protective Association, Unit 156A

1616 West Pershing Road

Chicago, Illinois 60609

PRSR STD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 328

CHICAGO, IL

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/PB&PA Unit 156A, 1616 W. Pershing Rd., Chicago, IL 60609**

Chevrons

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Chicago Police Sergeants' Association

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