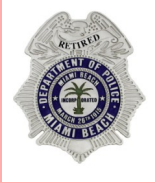


Miam Beach Police
Department



MBPD Retiree News

"Unity Is Strength For A Better Retirement"

April 2010 Issue

Spotlight on Celia B. Locke...

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Retiring from the Miami Beach Police Department is not easy. Not only is it a tedious process in the sense that there is paperwork that needs to be filled out, equipment that needs to be returned, people that need to be consulted with, and property that needs to be cleaned out, thrown out, or brought home; there is also an emotional aspect that goes along with it. Unless you really

hated working there, and I knew a few (shame on them), there is some measure of sadness that goes along with it.

One of the steps in the retirement process if you're a police officer or firefighter is, of course, meeting with Celia B. Locke, CEBS (Certified Employee Benefit Specialist).

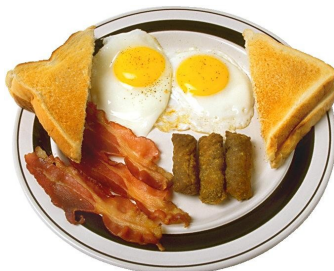
Celia is the Executive Director of the *Pension Fund for Fire-*

fighters and Police Officers in the City of Miami Beach. Whew! That's a long one to have to recite at Christmas parties!

Celia is the person who 'crunches the numbers' and basically tells you what your salary will be pretty much for the rest of your life, unless of course you decide to get another job later on. Celia and her staff of two full time employees, Myriame and Deb-

orah, are extremely busy all year round assisting new hires, retirees, those who are thinking of retiring, those who are ready to go in the 'DROP' plan, those who are ready to leave, and even those who are contemplating service connected disability retirements. As you can see, it's a never ending process.

Cont'd pg2



Vinny's Breakfast...

On March 5th, 2010, a breakfast was held at Lester's Diner in Sunrise with 27 people attending. Attending were Carl Ward, Glenn Hodges, Wally Neumann, Fred Walder, Jack Mackie, Sam Gam, Ed Bason, Alan Skolnick, Billy Rosenstein, Joan Ochoa, Jim Burnette, Lisa Newland, Gary Schiaffo, Jack Tighe and wife, Amy, John & Cathy Tighe, Tom Moran, Ken Dudenhofer, Bob Bauer, Lynda Veski, Jason Psaltides, Ed Santiago, Mike

Bauer, Vinny Aprile, Charlie Seraydar, and retired Miami Beach Firefighter, Tom Columbano.



Also stopping by was Lynda's daughter Courtney, who is a Pembroke Pines Police Officer. Courtney just bought her first house thanks to Joanie (real estate) and Dean Adler (mortgage lender). Good Luck on the new house Courtney!



Spotlight on Celia B. Locke

Cont'd. from pg1



I take my responsibilities very seriously as it relates to the Board of Trustees, the participants, and beneficiaries of the plan. I try to run the office with the highest standard of integrity and ethics knowing how important each pension is to each member



When it was my time to start the process, I made several trips to the Pension Office to consult with Celia and her staff. I noticed immediately that it was not like City Hall, which can be a cold, inhospitable place. The Pension office has always been a friendly, comfortable place to visit. The employees, extremely knowledgeable and professional are there for us. Sitting down with Celia is always a relaxing experience. I can close my eyes and daydream for awhile while thinking of seabirds, sailboats, and shrimp scampi.

You see, when I consulted with Celia, I only understood about 4% of what she told me. Every so often, I would hear her soft voice say "do you understand?" or "in other words, the formula I used to do this and that", and I would open my eyes, and nod my head, pretending I understood

everything; which I clearly did not. Occasionally I would force myself to try to understand exactly what she was saying. After all, this is my life! My future! After about the fourth time trying to explain to me why my monthly pension will be calculated based on this, that, or the other...I would once again find myself walking along a moonlit pathway on a quiet hill near a lake somewhere around the middle of Tennessee in Springtime. I would snap out of it after hearing "did you understand that lieutenant?" I would mumble "yes". But it was all a lie Celia; I had not a clue what you were telling me. Yes, I am a mathematical moron.

The wonderful thing about Celia however, was that I really *didn't* have to understand what she was saying. She took care of business, regardless of my ignorance of the rules, procedures, and numerical calculations. She protected *me* from *me*. I was not disappointed. Celia Locke and her staff

are true professionals who take their jobs seriously. Is this a surprise? Celia wrote that "as a Fiduciary, I take my responsibilities very seriously as it relates to the Board of Trustees, the participants, and beneficiaries of the plan. I try to run the office with the highest standard of integrity and ethics knowing how important each pension is to each member."

When I contacted her for information to complete her biography, Celia was more than gracious, open and forthcoming with me. Although she was busy (as always), she took the time to tell me a little about herself, her education, and her career of choice.

Celia Locke, CEBS, has an Associate in Arts degree in Business from Miami Dade College. She received a Bachelor in Professional Studies from Barry University in Miami. The CEBS (Certified Employee Benefit Specialist) designation came from the Wharton School of Business

Cont'd pg 3

Spotlight on Celia B. Locke

Cont'd from pg 2

(based in Pennsylvania) and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. This certification required the completion of a ten course curriculum covering the entire spectrum of employee benefits! In addition, Celia has taken additional courses relating to accounting, retirement plans, social security, investments, and other areas relating to employee benefits.

Celia's professional work experience over the years is rich with key positions in accounting, tax and pension work; all the way from New York City, to Miami, and to Miami Beach. One of those key positions was as a Senior Pension Administrator with Pension Master of Florida. Celia and her staff of

three were responsible for all phases of administration for all clients located in Dade County; approximately 300 pensions and profit

sharing plans jointly administered; a substantial knowledge of federal guidelines, restrictions, and the various tax laws which governed qualified plans.

Celia's love for her chosen profession is clearly evident. In a recent e-mail to me, she expressed the following sentiments: "Since September 1984, I have been working for the Board of Trustees of the Fire and Police Pension Plan. I am a very lucky person to be working in a job that I truly enjoy and get a great deal of satisfaction from. My position is extremely interesting, challenging, and very diversified. When I started my

employment with the Board, my previous positions were a tremendous help in tackling this job. Since I had obtained a great deal of experience relating to pensions in the private sector, I thought that it would be interesting to deal with the public sector as it related to pensions. Encompassing an understanding of pensions in the public sector would round out my total understanding of my chosen profession. It has been, and continues to be my pleasure to work with the active and retired members of the Fire and Police Department for whom I have so much respect for the service they perform.

I think I speak for all of us when I say that it is a pleasure to work with Celia. Whether she knows it or not, her work is equally if not more important to *us*; and we are certainly thankful that she is *our* pension fund Executive Director. On a personal note, Celia wanted me to express to everyone that she has the highest respect for firefighters, police officers, and military personnel. According to her-

"I do the pension, but *you* do the work on the streets, keeping us safe."

Just so ya know! In September 1984, the market value of the pension fund was \$55,108,860.00. As of December 2010, it is projected to be at \$524,016,000.00. (Shhh, don't tell Obama!) Celia has been married to her husband George for 23 years and wanted us to know that "he still puts up with me!" Thank you Celia, for everything you do!



News Capsules



Lenny Alamo
1980's



Ellen Knight
1970's



CECILIA BROWNLOW

As you know, Cecilia Brownlow, the wife of Mahi Oriental Guide Joseph H. Brownlow passed away on March 15th. (Many received previous e-mails). A Celebration of Life will be held for Cecilia on Sunday, April 11th, 2010 from 10 am until 3 pm. There will be a champagne toast at 1 pm. The gathering will take place at the picnic shelter of Robbins Park in Davie. The park is located at 4005 South Hiatus Road. West side of Hiatus, just north of Orange Drive. When entering from Hiatus Road, drive all the way through to the west side of the park, this is where the shelter is located. The dress will be casual/picnic attire. The family prefers no donations at this time.

If you would like to send a card: Joseph Brownlow, 5301 SW 145 Ave, Southwest Ranches, Florida, 33330.

Submitted by: John W. Borsa, Jr. Recorder/Business Manager.
Mahi Shriners.



Happy Birthday April!

Mike Bauer

James Harkins

Tom Hunker

Dick Izzo

Steve Jones

Mickey Kabakoff

Jose Martinez

Pete Matthews

Dan Pinder

Billy Rosenstein

Floris Sax





Sam's Corner...

"A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Throughout history, newspapers all over the world have had a reputation for being tough on police officers and other public officials. After all, it is high profile work and many mistakes are made. Unfortunately, as in most professions, there are the 'bad apples'. This is understandable. It really is! Bad publicity is juicy, it sells papers; and really, isn't it all about the money?!

I'm not *that* old. I do recall a time when Miami had two major newspapers, *The Miami Herald*, which has always had a reputation as being overly critical of the police, and *The Miami News*, which, as I recall had a somewhat softer approach. The Miami News folded, leaving The Herald as pretty much the only game in town. Several years later, another rag came onto the scene. A free paper called *The Miami New Times*. I actually liked it. Besides the fact that it was free, which is always a plus, they always featured main articles that went after folks that we all agreed really needed to be exposed, without rehashing old stories.

Now, The New Times Miami appears to be a serious 'rag' (yeah right!) In fact, it's a racy paper, with something for everyone. The advertising section contains

pages and pages of ads for events and services such as "Anniversary Fetish Weekend", "Dixie Adult Megaplex, 20 viewing booths", "Tri-County Executive Models, no bait & switch, Incalls/Outcalls", and a number of so-called "legal" pain management clinics. So it shouldn't surprise anyone that they printed an article totally trashing the Miami Beach Police Department and many hard working officers.

One of those they mentioned was Sgt. Hyok Chong, a close friend and one of the hardest working cops I know pulled in almost \$178,000.00 last year. Some made more. Some cops were screw ups and some made serious mistakes. At least one of the cases mentioned I had personal knowledge of although I was not involved. I won't mention which one it was, but I can tell you that the allegations, which were investigated carefully and comprehensively, were total garbage. But that doesn't matter to The New Times. What does matter is that the allegations were brought forth. That's all they need. It looks *bad*, and that's good enough for them.

Let's talk a little about my friend Hyok Chong. If he

made 178 K last year, it obviously wasn't enough. A hard working, dedicated police officer with a young family, Hyok has a fantastic work ethic; so much so that at times I was afraid he was going to make himself sick. Hyok came to this country from South Korea in 1988. Barely able to speak English, Hyok worked as a janitor for a year. In 1989, he began selling t-shirts at various flea markets in Miami and Fort Lauderdale, such as the 'Thunderbird' flea market.

In 1994, Hyok got a job with his cousin, selling wholesale women's clothing in the Wynwood section of Miami. It was there that he befriended a Miami Police Officer assigned to the Wynwood area NET (Neighborhood Enhancement Team). He found the officer's job, (mainly bike patrol) to be fascinating, and vowed to fulfill his new dream of becoming an American police officer. In 1997 he began applying to various departments such as the City of Miami, Miami-Dade, and Miami Beach. His dream was realized shortly thereafter when he was hired by the Miami Beach Police Department.

Chong struggled with his limited command of the English language in the po-

lice academy, but got help from fellow recruit Jose Careaga. Jose took Hyok under his wing and helped him pass. Hyok graduated and passed his field training program. Shortly thereafter, he was assigned to my squad in the North District. As Chong's supervisor, I developed a great deal of respect for him. He was mild mannered and respectful. Always willing to learn new things, he never stopped asking questions. Though very thin, he rarely had trouble on the street. Perhaps people thought he was some sort of martial arts expert, but in reality he was not.

Hyok is sort of a strict vegetarian. He does eat fish, but basically he sticks to Korean food, shunning American cuisine. One night, I walked in on him while he was having dinner at the 'NESS' (North End Sub-Station). He had little Tupware containers arranged in front of him; each containing small morsels of unknown vegetables. I asked him what he was eating, and his reply was "traditional Korean dinner, my wife make for me". I tried a piece. Some kind of

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Sam's Corner...

"A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Cont'd. from pg5

pickled squash, radish, spinach thing. I told him I loved it, but it actually tasted like weeds dipped in cat urine. (Lord I hope he doesn't read this!) I immediately ordered him to go to McDonalds and eat two Quarter Pounders with cheese, that he was way too skinny and we needed to put some meat on his bones. He respectfully declined. I dropped the issue immediately.

As time went on, Chong decided he wanted to be a sergeant. With hard work and a little help from me and others, coaching him several nights to help him pass the assessment center portion of the test; Chong got promoted to Sergeant of Police in 2006. I was extremely proud of him as you might imagine. He was already a traffic homicide investigator and learned how to use the Department's new "total station", a GPS measuring and mapping device for traffic crashes and crime scenes.

Mastering this device made him invaluable. He was called out often for crime scenes. As a supervisor in the RDA (Redevelopment Authority) special district, he was eligible for tons of overtime, much of it mandatory.

Being assigned to South Beach made him available to work every special event and crisis that came up. Coupled with off duty jobs that were difficult to fill, he ended up working countless hours. Often times he would



sleep in his car. His hours were (and continue to be) so extensive and unpredictable, that he had to set up a separate bedroom in his home so when he came home, he wouldn't wake

up his family.

Hyok, and many officers like him live comfortably, as they are certainly entitled to. They certainly don't live like kings. They're not driving around at four and five in the morning in Bentleys and Mercedes, drunk out of their minds, picking up God knows what! They are answering calls, putting their lives on the line, and putting up with a lot of garbage... And they are getting paid what they're supposed to be getting paid.

When I was sworn in as a Miami Beach Police Officer in 1981, my pay was roughly 19k and change. I supplemented my income with court, and a few hard

to get off duty jobs such as Southern Bell, FPL, or Church and Tower. That was it! My off duty rate was about 10 or 12 bucks an hour. By the time I left in 2008, I was making six figures and then some, without even trying. Was it my fault? No! That was my rate, negotiated for by the FOP and agreed to by the City. Who's to say I didn't deserve it. Oh yes, some cop-hating writer at The Miami New Times who firmly believes that cops should only make no more than 30 thousand a year. Perhaps less.

Nowadays, a rookie Beach cop can pull in close to 100k a year if not more. Put a new officer on mid-nights on South Beach, with plentiful arrests, plentiful mandatory court, plentiful special events, plentiful mandatory overtime and you've got a well paid but overworked cop with very little free time to enjoy all that money. Throw in a family and sleep deprivation and you've got the average Miami Beach cop in 2010. I don't recall reading anything in New Times about sports figures and other celebrities who pull in millions of dollars a year and drive around South Beach making fools of

themselves and causing havoc, only to criticize the police because they were "profiled and targeted". Please, enough!

The bottom line. Yeah, cops nowadays, not only in Miami Beach, but in all of South Florida make good money. So what! At the outset, it may seem excessive, even to retiree's from years past. But you know what? That's the way it is. That is what was negotiated, and that's what cities and citizens agreed to. If some snot-nosed writer at some rag



doesn't agree, screw them! I guarantee you; they aren't stealing

from the public. They are working the hours, and unfortunately, in many cases it's actually hurting many of them. I've seen fellow officers end up in the hospital with pneumonia from overwork because they did not allow themselves to get sick, until their bodies simply gave up. I didn't see anything written about that! Well, I just did!

If you happen to read the New Times article, take it with a grain of sand. It's not what it seems to be. Stay well, see you next month.

News Capsules

LETTER FROM JOHN JONE'S WIFE

The association received a letter from Ethyl Jones, wife of retiree John Jones, who recently passed away. She thanked the association for their support and the flower arrangement at the funeral. Unfortunately, I was unable to reproduce the letter here but it read in part- "The love and support John and I received from your police department has been overwhelming and truly appreciated. Thanks again and God Bless each and every one of you".



BORDER PATROL AGENT KEVIN LOSEY



Charlie Losey, retired Crime Scene Tech and proud dad e-mailed a story about his son, Kevin who is a Border Patrol agent assigned to Laredo, Texas. Kevin was involved in a traffic (immigration) stop on a green pickup truck. Upon approaching the vehicle, agents observed numerous cellophane wrapped bundles in the rear cab of the truck, with a strong odor of marijuana in the air. The driver was arrested and numerous bundles of marijuana that weighed 256 pounds with a street value of \$205,000 were seized. The driver, vehicle and marijuana were turned over to the DEA. Good job to Kevin and your group. Stay safe and keep up the good work!



DEATH OF RETIREE MAL GARVEY



Bill Davis wanted us to know that retiree Mal Garvey passed away on Monday, March 29th, 2010. Our condolences go out to his family. Funeral arrangements are currently pending.

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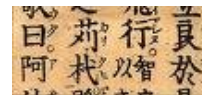
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*When rookie South Beach
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agreed to work undercover, the
exceptionally tall and attrac-
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