



February 2010 ISSUE

MBPD RETIREE NEWS

"Unity is Strength For A Better Retirement"

MBPD
Retirees

February 2010
Issue

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♥♥♥ Sam's Corner - "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts" ♥♥♥

Every month, I get a phone call from each of my 284,301 readers. Dedicated Miami Beach Police Retiree's and their families thanking me for my hard work and dedication to this newsletter. Do you know what it's like answering 284,301 calls, most of which usually come within the first few days after they receive their newsletters? Do you know what my phone bill is? Do you realize what a "nut job" I really am?

Actually, January was a busy month and (since I'm the editor), I must voluntarily cut this column down in order to fit in some really important stuff. I don't mind doing this since I realized several years ago that I really am not the

center of the universe and there are other things retirees would like to know about other than my disorganized thoughts, which, as I get older are becoming more and more prevalent, as evidenced in paragraph one of this column.

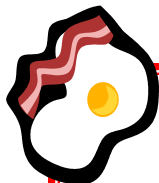
As you know, the city is really trying to do a "number" on our active duty brothers and sisters by not only denying raises (which may be understandable), but by drastically cutting back on hard earned benefits. These are benefits that many of our retirees who were active in the FOP worked extremely hard for. As we all know, once you give up something, you hardly ever get it back. So they're fighting the "big" fight once

again. The fact that the economy is really bad is not lost upon us. Asking for more money is probably a bad move right now, and the FOP realizes that. That's why they are *not* asking for a raise this year.

This is the first time that I know that the FOP has not asked for more money the first year. But the city is not only proposing to deny raises in year one and two, they are trying to eliminate benefits that have taken years to obtain. Then they are adding in insignificant "non-monetary" process.



Cont'd on pg 6



♥♥♥ Vinny's Breakfast ♥♥♥

This month, Jack Tighe comes out of retirement to write about "Vinny's Breakfast".

The breakfast was held in January at a new location, Lester's Diner. We switched from 84 Diner for the time being. The breakfast was well attended by twenty-some odd retirees, some with guests. As usual, most of us relived old days. We also talked about the current negotiations where the City is attempting to remove benefits earned in the past. Attending the January breakfast were: Vinny APRILE, Charlie SERAYDER, AL BOZA and his wife Mimi, Billy ROSENSTEIN, Bobby JENKINS, Lisa NEWLAND, JIM BURNETTE, Alan SKOLNICK and his son, Ken DUDENHOEFER, Howard ZEIFMAN, Mike BAUER, Robert BAUER, Jason PSALTIDES, Jack MACKIE, Kevin GRAHAM, Sam GAM, Don FREEMAN & his son Matt, Carlos DEVARONA, Joan OCHOA, John & Cathy TIGHE, John H. TIGHE with his wife AMYANN, and last but not least, active Officer Pat Quinlan.

The FOP Banquet and Awards Dinner ♥♥♥ By: Bill O'Neil

FOP President Alex Bello invited all retired MBPD officers to attend the annual FOP Banquet and awards dinner held at Jungle Island in Miami. Jungle Island is a first class establishment located on Watson Island. For those of you that haven't been out that way in some time you wouldn't recognize the place. The Parrot Jungle built a huge complex on Watson Island with multiple banquet rooms in addition to the adjoining parrot and animal display. While we were enjoying the hors-d-oeuvres and open bar, there were young ladies dressed in jungle gear mingling with live animals. One had a baby Kangaroo, another had a Lemur and a third had a Hawk, at least I think it was a Hawk; a very nice touch that added a lot to the occasion. It was at this point that I saw Dick Tobin come in. No, he was not accompanied by the Jungle Girls, but he did say that he has a new girlfriend. No one has heard from Dick in quite some time and I asked where he's been. He confided in me that he stays in a convalescent home, but when he heard about the free dinner he got a car and drove right over. He did however leave so quickly that he forgot his hairpiece. Just as I was coming to grips with the likes of Tobin, Jack Tighe came over with Derby Brennan. I think all these guys started on the job right after the Civil War, but it was wonderful to see them again.

After a few drinks and eating dozens of hors-d-oeuvres, I think the only other retirees that ate more than me were Jim and Lisa Burnett. Al Boza and Charlie Seraydar came in at a close second. I saw Jack

Mackie hiding in a corner with a whole plate of Conch fritters with Jimmy Mahle trying to grab one off his plate. Joan Donnelly Ochoa and Tom Letterman were fighting over the last shrimp,



Jack & Amy Tighe & Dick Tobin

but Tom being the gentleman that he is snatched it and ran. Joan was scouring the empty plates looking for any morsel when Paul Lupien walked by with a handful of chicken on a stick. The situation got ugly for a moment and Paul had to give up one of his chicken delights. I also noticed Pat Ryan sitting quietly and smiling. He was watching his lovely bride Barbara filling her enormous handbag with everything she could get her hands on. Sort of reminded me of the old days at Wolfies. Bobby Bauer was beside himself as there was nothing left, but as he is always prepared, he brought along a Snickers Bar. The only one who was thankful for the food running out was Bobby Jenkins, who just happens to be on a diet.

Now it's time for dinner and we entered the Banquet Room. Two separate buffet stations were set up along with two bars. Like I said before, a first class operation. I must admit to some embarrassment as I witnessed Dick Tobin pushing people out of the way to be first in line, but I guess that wasn't as bad as

Jack Tighe butting in line with his walker. The Buffet had carving stations serving Prime Rib with all the trimmings. One of the first ones back at our table was Charlie Seraydar. He came back with a plate full of prime rib and nothing else. He must have gone back through that line a dozen times, coming back with plate after plate of prime rib. After dinner they had a dessert table set up with a great selection of goodies. After we all gorged ourselves it was time for the Awards to be presented.

After the opening remarks, FOP President Alex Bello introduced all the candidates for Officer of the Year. A rather unique video presentation of each officer describing what he had done to be nominated was shown. The videos were quite impressive compared to the old reading of a whole report. I think the City is in very capable hands with all these young officers and we were very proud to be a part of it. On behalf of all the retirees, I would again like to thank Alex Bello and the members of the FOP for inviting us.

"Jack & Maria Mackey"



"FOP Executive Board"

♥♥♥ In The News!



♥ General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held in Casper, Wyoming. Just kidding! It will be on Thursday, February 11th, 2010, from Noon until 2 P.M. The location will be Romeu's Cuban Restaurant, 6800 Dykes Road, Southwest Ranches (just west of I-75 & Sheridan Street). Cost will be a very reasonable \$10.00 per person which includes lunch, drink, tax & tip. I decided not to include the menu, but trust me, it looks great. Cuban food....Rice, beans, steak, chicken, pork, seafood, and lots of other good stuff! Join us if you can!

♥♥ Rick Lonergan's Retirement Party

On January 13th, 2009, a retirement party was held for Sgt. Rick Lonergan at Monty's South Beach. Approximately 65 people attended. Retirees attending were Joe McCormack, Vinny Aprile, Joan Ochoa, Lisa Newland, Jim Burnette, Bobby Jenkins, Howard Zeifman, Lynda Veski, Tommy Lederman, Mark DeFusco and Pearl Riley.



Chief Carlos Noriega presented Rick with a plaque to commemorate the 28 years(1982-2009) he served. ING (Bicycle) racing presented Rick with a collage of all the racing events that Rick helped them with and participated in. We wish Rick good luck on his retirement, which may be a short one as he has applied for a civilian position with the Beach.

♥ Wall of Honor Ceremony



The Wall of Honor ceremony will be held at Police Headquarters on Friday, March 26th, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. Lunch will be served immediately following the ceremony in the Community Room of the Police station. There will also be a Q & A session in the training room on the changes in health and dental insurance. Anyone needing to update their ID cards will be able to do so that day. Anyone attending should RSVP by email to Charlie Seraydar (seraydarn@bellsouth.net) or by phone to Lynda Veski at 786-367-7744. The Parking Department will be available on 11th Street as they will be bagging the meters for us.



♥♥ Dues Notice ♥♥

Members who pay their dues by check should submit their check made out to the Miami Beach Police Retirees Association. The checks should be mailed to Charlie Seraydar, 5701 SW 134th Ave, Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330. Also, regarding membership cards, it is the decision of the Board that dues cards will not be given out yearly any longer. The card you currently have will be permanent. . If you really really feel the need to have a 2010 membership card or if your current card has been lost or damaged it will be replaced. Contact Secretary Joan D. Ochoa at email: mbsgtskirt@comcast.net



♥♥♥ Emergency FOP Meeting!

On Wednesday, January 27th, FOP President Alex Bello requested that retirees who could assist them meet on the north side of Miami Beach City Hall for a rally at 5:00 PM. The City Commission decided it was not enough that the FOP was *not* asking for raises the first year of the contract. They want to cut current officers pay, bring back a two-tier pay scale and raise pension dues from 10 to 12 percent. President Aprile drove to the rally with Charlie Seraydar, and upon arriving at the parking lot there were approximately 255 current and 20 retired officers present. The FOP had an emergency meeting and decided that all voluntary overtime and off duty would be suspended beginning January 28 with no end date. This would include the Jewelry show, NFL Pro Bowl Weekend, Super Bowl Weekend and also may include the Boat Show. The FOP has a website that you can log onto that will provide up to date information on contract negotiations. It is: <http://www.mbfop.wordpress.com/>



Facebook Fan Page ♥



We now have a "fan page" on FACEBOOK. It is called Miami Beach Police Retirees Association, for anyone with a Facebook account that would like to keep up to date on events. Was this Jack Tighe's idea?



♥♥♥ Notice of Benefit Changes ♥♥♥



Master Sergeant Gary Kluger, the man in charge of the FOP Health Trust Board of Trustees has indicated that he's received numerous phone calls from members who are puzzled about the higher prices for prescriptions and such. We are including his letter in this month's newsletter.

The price of medical coverage continues to multiply everywhere in the United States and its expected to continue to be around 8 to 12% per year. The FOP Health Trust has been subjected to these inflationary pressures in both medical care and prescription costs. The medical expenses have increased from \$3.7 million in 2006 to over \$5 million in 2009. The prescription expenses have doubled since 2006 from \$556,000 to over \$1.1 million in 2009.

Because of this trend, our Consultant has recommended making minimum necessary changes in order to insure that the Health Trust remains viable for FOP members to receive quality care. The Trustees have adopted certain of those recommended changes to our coverage effective January 1, 2010.

These changes will keep the Health Trust operating in a strong enough position to continue supplying the vital medical coverage our members and their families will need to meet today's skyrocketing health care costs. After comparing prices of coverage and cost of other health systems to those of the Trust Fund, the Trustees believe we still have the best coverage for the best price.

The biweekly deduction for Single Coverage will increase by \$4.00 (from \$79.92 to \$83.92). The biweekly deduction for Family Coverage will increase by \$9.70 (from \$193.93 to \$203.63).

The co-insurance percentage for out of network expenses after satisfying the deductible will decrease from 70/30 to 55/45.



The physician office services co-payment for in-network expenses will be increase from a \$15 copay to a \$20 copay.

Surgical Service performed in a doctor's office will increase from co-payment of \$25.00 to \$50 per surgical procedure.

For inpatient hospital confinement, the co-payment per day will increase from \$100 per day to \$200 per day (up to 5 days) then payable at 100% per admission.



Major Outpatient Diagnostic services, CT scans, PET scans, MRI and Nuclear medicine, will be subject to a \$50 copay per visit.

For outpatient surgery at a hospital or alternate facility the co-payment will increase from \$100 to \$200 per procedure.

Emergency room services co-payment will increase from \$50 per visit to \$100 per visit. The co-payment of \$50 for Urgent Care centers remains the same.

We are adding an annual deductible of \$150 calendar year, per person for Brand Prescriptions Only. After the deductible the co-payment for brand prescriptions will be \$35 at retail pharmacy and \$70 for mail order pharmacy. The generic prescriptions will remain at a \$5 copay at retail pharmacy and \$10 for mail order pharmacy.



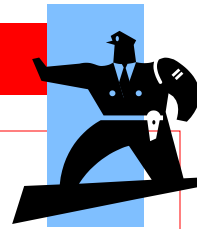
♥ **Dental Insurance Card snafu**

President Aprile wants you to know...If you signed up for the Metlife Dental PPO and received a Metlife Dental HMO Card, be advised that Miami Beach Human Resources is aware these cards were sent out in error. The new cards with the correct information will be sent out sometime in February. Please do not call Human Resources!

Special Report!

♥♥ MBPD Cops are fighting City Hall!

St. Valentine



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today the negotiation's team met with representatives from the City in order to further the pending CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement). There are many issues under negotiation; however, we feel it necessary to make you abreast of the pertinent issues that effect our livelihoods as we stand right now. Unfortunately we entered today's session with hopes of beginning to solidify some pending issues. What transpired could not have been further from the truth. Yesterday I communicated to membership the City's *INITIAL* proposal. The members of the negotiation's team were led to believe that some items would be conceded upon in the interest of making progress. This afternoon the discussion was initiated by the City conceding miniscule non-monetary items. The talks continued and became progressively worse. The below listed items illustrate what was presented to the negotiation's team. The City "Tentatively Agreed" to the following:

Make the time allotted to pick the arbitrator within 15 "Employee Workdays" as opposed to 10 in order to allow a diligent selection process and allow grievance committee members to process grievances during their working hours. *These are the items up for discussion:*

*Wages: 0% year 1, 0% year 2, RE-OPENER year 3. **REJECTED BY FOP**

The FOP countered with: 0% year 1, 3% on 04/01/2011, 4% on 04/01/2012. Effectively delaying the increases and allowing the city a cushion of 18 Months the first year followed by 12 months for the third and final year of the CBA.

*Freeze on Step Increases on year 1 & 2, with a RE-OPENER on year 3. (160 bargaining unit members and any recent and future promotees). **REJECTED BY FOP**

*FOP proposed an accelerated schedule for increase in Longevity Pay to reflect a 2.5% increase during the following employee anniversary dates 7,10,15,17, and 20 years of service. **REJECTED BY CITY**

*City proposed minimum 7 day advanced notice to schedule leave time of any kind excluding SICK. **REJECTED BY FOP**

*City proposed maximum allotted Comp Leave (CL) usage limited to 80 hours in a calendar year. **REJECTED BY FOP**

*Reduction in Court Time compensation from the current minimum of 4 hours to 3 hours. **REJECTED BY FOP**

*Increase in bi-weekly Take-Home Vehicle Fee to \$50.00 for Dade County, \$60.00 for Broward County, \$90.00 and \$150.00 for Palm Beach. **REJECTED BY FOP**

*With regards to promotion the City Manager has the sole discretion to prevent an applicant from taking the promotional exam should "the applicant receive a rating of unsatisfactory in (2) or more evaluation elements (categories) within the last 12 months on their Performance Evaluation; the applicant was issued (2) or more Written Reprimands within the last 24 months; the applicant received any suspensions within the last 24 months. **REJECTED BY FOP**

*Additionally, the following language was proposed "Prior to any qualified employee receiving a promotional appointment, the City **SHALL** conduct a background check to include criminal, credit, and driver license check. **REJECTED BY FOP**

*Elimination of the "FORCED HOLDOVER" provision in the CBA. **REJECTED BY FOP**

FOP proposed Uniform and Clothing Allowance increase of \$100.00 for Uniform and \$120.00 for civilian assignments. **REJECTED BY CITY** THE CITY ALSO OFFERED A "PACKAGE PROPOSAL" IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING WERE AGREED TO. I would include this in the e-mail but it's a "moot point" since the FOP is not prepared to agree with the city on the above proposals.

Congratulations Are In Order!

Bill Godfrey is a grandpa once again

Congratulations to Bill Godfrey. He is the proud grandfather to Callaghan London, 5 pounds, 11 ounces. Callaghan was born on January 30th, 2010 (Memorial Hospital West) to his daughter Charlene and son in law, Lieutenant Charlie London. Mom, Dad, baby, grandpa and grandma (Helen) are all doing fine!

The List is out!

Officer Christi Tanner was kind enough to send us the final results of the latest sergeant's and lieutenant's promotional exam. The top five sergeant's candidates are 1. Luis Sanchez, 2. Jovan Campbell, 3. Marlen Rivero, 4. Michael Veski and 5. Christi Tanner. The top five lieutenants candidates are 1. Bruce Johnson, 2. Shannon Madison, 3. Sam Guerrero, 4. Wayne Jones and 5. Jed Burger. Congratulations on your hard work and perseverance. We will keep our members posted on the promotional ceremonies when they are announced.

Congratulations!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



♥ Happy Birthday February ♥



Charles Appel

Eddie Avila

Bobby Bishop

Peter Bitume

Joe Brownlow

Carlos Devarona

Marshall Garber

Pete Gutierrez

Bill Jones

James Harris

Marc Hochstadt

Lori Figliolia-Harris

Ellen Knight

Bill MacDonald

Pat Ryan

Dick Tobin

Lori Wieder

Jesse Webb

Bernie Winer

♥♥ Sam's Corner... A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts ♥♥

Cont'd. from pg 1

The membership has stayed strong, even voting to boycott all off duty during Super Bowl to send out a clear message. The Honorable (?) Mayor Bower was kind and respectful to her hard-working cops by going on television and saying that she would not be "strong-armed" (where did she learn that word?) and if Beach cops won't work, she'll get outside agencies! Really? She may get some, but I think (since she is not a cop, nor does she like them apparently) she has sadly misjudged the situation. Her honor obviously has underestimated the solidarity that cops display toward each other when one or a group is under attack, either by criminals or city officials. Not a long reach sometimes, if you ask me! Ok, well, you didn't ask me!

I am confident that our retirees, either in person or in spirit will continue to support our active duty brothers and

sisters in their struggle to keep their hard earned benefits so they can continue to take care of themselves and their families. They can count on us!

Many of us complain about stuff all the time. I often

complain about stuff in my monthly column. If it's not one thing, it's another. Traffic, the weather, fast food joints. You name it; but in reality, things for the most part really aren't *that* bad are they? Well, at least I thought *some* things were, until that earthquake in Haiti. Now, Haiti as a country was not doing well before the quake. I could sit here and speculate all day long as to



how things got so bad down there. Some say it's a "curse". I'm not so sure I believe in those things and I'm certainly not qualified to contemplate such possibilities. All I know is that when I watch the news reports on what's happening there in the comfort and safety of my cozy little living room, it really shakes me to the core.

A couple of days after the quake, I made my little donation through the Red Cross Website, wondering what effect, if any it would have. I'm not bragging about this, I'm sure some of you did the same if you were able to. Several days later, I'm hearing about millions of dollars in aid going to Haiti, along with food, medicine, water and everything else. Then I get this disturbing e-mail, which incidentally I truly believe; that the aid is not getting to the people fast enough due to politics

Cont'd on pg 7

and incompetent (or non-existent) leadership. Hmmmm..Makes you wonder how they got that way in the first place.

And..There's news reports of these knuckleheads roaming the streets carrying machetes, terrorizing the public. I say mow them down and get them out of the way. If you're going to have a few hindering recovery for many, then these violent, inconsiderate morons need to be eradicated. Extreme circumstances call for extreme measures. Well, that's just my opinion. Hope I don't sound too "vicious". For a guy with disorganized thoughts, I think these are probably the *most* organized I've had in a long time. I know, I'm getting a little ahead of myself; after all, this *is* just a little retiree's newsletter.



Destruction and devastation in Haiti after the earthquake.

I will have to say one thing, and then I'll jump out of this subject before I say something *really* outrageous; thank God for the rescuers. All those doctors, soldiers, firefighters, and oth-

ers who stepped in to try to help the Haitian people. There were many heartwarming stories of people being saved by folks who just wouldn't give up. They represent the silver lining around an otherwise dark cloud of despair.

Please allow me to switch gears again and talk about something amusing for a change. Only a few of you reading this will know what I'm referring to when I talk about "The Arena". But when you read this story, it will fit in quite well, and you'll understand because I'm sure that throughout the history of the Miami Beach Police, there have been many "arenas", in many different forms.

The "Arena" that I'm referring to was not created by Sgt. Edgardo Avila, it was just perfected, and possibly renamed by him. It was already in place when I first got promoted to sergeant and then transferred to patrol on afternoons. The Arena was based in the "old" lieutenant's office of the station on 11th Street. Eventually, that office was moved to make room for expansion of the sergeant's office. The arena was mobile, and often moved to various venues, usually where Ed Avila was. In fact, Einstein's at 15th Street and Alton Road was the location for the alternate "Arena".

The Arena was very simply a place where no one was safe; where arrows

flew freely, frequently piercing our butts. Eddie was the main culprit and he carried the most elaborate bow. He always had a good supply of arrows. Sam Gam would be sitting at a desk, using a computer. Eddie Avila would walk in the room and say "hey Sam, why don't you do what you do best"? I would look up at him, expecting a compliment. "What's that Eddie"? "NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT YOU DO BEST"! It would take me a second to process, and then I'd crack up. Then he'd crack up. The healthy laughter would of course attract supervisors (and sometimes officers) from around the area to the office. And then the fun would start!

The arrows would fly back and forth. Nobody got hurt; it was just good cop fun. Who says you can't have fun at work? After awhile, we ran out of insults and went back to work. They next day, we were re-loaded and ready for more. I look back on those days with joyfulness as they were some of my best days, along with all the others throughout the years. I hope the employees working there now have maintained some version of "The Arena". Heaven knows they certainly need it! For me, The Arena was a great stress reliever and created memories for me I'll never forget. Let's keep a chin up for our active duty brothers and sisters as they fight the big fight. Until then, see ya next month!

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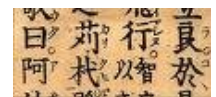
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exceptionally tall and attrac-
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was in store for her. Follow
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gifted heroine as she journeys
along her destiny's path.



A Necessary End:
A Katie Maguire novel

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