

# MBPD RETIREE NEWS

## JULY 2011 ISSUE



### Independence Day

Monday, July 4th

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*"Unity is strength for a better retirement"*

### Sam's Corner, "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Hello again my readers. June went by fast, *really* fast. It seems like yesterday that I sat down to write Sam's Corner for the June newsletter and now I'm here again writing July's column. It is hot and steamy here in south Florida, and the rainy season is finally here after a drought of sorts.

The price of gas is starting to come down again, finally. After reaching almost four dollars for regular and over four dollars for premium and diesel, we are ready for some relief. It would be nice if it dropped down to just under two bucks a gallon like it did a few years ago when it spiked to well over four, but I just don't see that happening.

A few weeks ago, I was paying an average of \$3.69 a gallon in my area, which is Sunrise, Florida. One weekday morning, I drove down to the upper Florida Keys to eat

at one of my favorite getaways, "Alabama Jacks." As I reached the end of the Turnpike and arrived in Florida City, I was shocked to discover the gas stations selling gas at about \$3.54 for regular. What the heck is up with that??? Why am I paying fourteen cents more a gallon in Sunrise? The same was true on the "Overseas Highway", where the prices at the gas stations on US1 in Key Largo were hovering at about \$3.55 a gallon for regular.

I tried to analyze this occurrence and turned my friend, "the Internet" for guidance. I did get some insight into this which I will now share with you. Ready? None of it makes sense to me! They say that price fluctuations from one region to another are attributable to taxes, competition, overhead, traffic, prices paid to suppliers, distance from the source, blah, blah, blah...

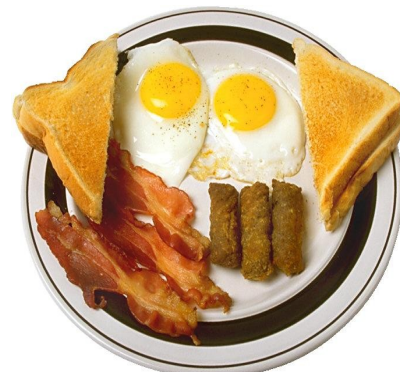
Now in my case, Sunrise is just 15 minutes from Port Everglades, which is where I believe most of the fuel is distributed from in South Florida. The Florida Keys are quite a bit farther than Port Everglades than Sunrise. Doesn't make sense. How about traffic and competition? Is it perhaps because customer traffic is much better in the Keys than it is here and the competition is much more intense? I asked the manager of the Hess Station in North Bay Village how he determines the prices he charges daily for fuel. He said that every day, he has to log in to a secure web site, then he'll take a ride and check out the prices of other local gas stations near the Hess, then he'll determine what the price should be. The Hess station in North Bay Village usually has very good prices.



### Vinny's Breakfast

On June 3, 2011 a breakfast was held at Blue Moon Diner in Cooper City with 20 people attending. Retirees attending were Vinny Aprile, Jack & Amy Tighe, Cathy Tighe, Pete Bitume, Don Freeman, Alan Skolnick, Don Hasley,

Paul Masters, Lisa Newland, Jim Burnette, Bobby Bauer, Ellen Roelofs, Billy Godfrey, Tom Moran, Bobby Jenkins, Scott Lowe, Wally Neumann, Charlie Seraydar and active Officer Pat Quinlan.





## Sam's Corner *Continued from page 1*

Whatever it is, one thing is for sure, we are getting screwed. Everyone knows when the price of gas goes up, everything else goes up. If Publix has to pay fifty cents more per gallon to fill up their delivery trucks, guess who pays the difference? You know the answer. Life ain't easy for many people, and when the price of gas goes up, many folks suffer for it. I'm not sure what the answer is, but I think part of it is reducing our dependence on foreign oil. I'm sure you've heard that line many times; but I like that.

Every time I watch the news and there's a story on OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), they show these ultra-rich oil barons meeting in some palace, talking about how to stick it to us. From time to time, I get e-mails from some of you guys about stuff like this. One of those e-mails provided me with a list of gas stations that sell only USA gas. I tried finding it on-line but I was unable to. Some say that it's BS (Bull----), because the United States cannot produce enough crude oil to keep up with the demand here. I'm not sure if that's true or not; but if it is, we're going to be held hostage by OPEC for a very long time to come.

Have you ever been stuck in an elevator? I got stuck in one about two years ago. It was in an office building and there were four other people in there with me. It was only for a few minutes, but they seemed like the longest four minutes of my life. It was getting hot in there too. We all looked at each other, then came the nervous laughter and feeble attempts at jokes. A couple of them pulled out cell phones and talked about dialing 9-1-1.

I looked down and saw the "emergency" button and pressed it. I female came on and asked me what the problem was. I told her we were stuck in the elevator and gave her the address, which was on the inspection report. She told me

to punch in a series of numbers, but before I could, the elevator started to move, depositing us on the ground floor. Needless to say I took the stairs to the third floor.

Up until that moment, I never really had any fear of elevators. But since then, every time I get into an elevator, I get a bit nervous, especially if it's a small one or in an older building. Does that mean I'm claustrophobic? Let's face it, I'm not up for doing what you see in the movies. Guys gets stuck in an elevator, jumps up, opens the trap door, pulls himself up and climbs the cables to the next floor, freeing himself. That ain't gonna happen with me. I'm the guy who has to wait for a rescue team.

Now before I get into an elevator, I look inside. If something doesn't look right, I'm taking the stairs. I'd rather huff and puff than worry about basically getting trapped in a box inside a building. Another thing that puts me into a small panic are those MRI machines. Every time I have to get one, which fortunately is not too often, I ask for the open MRI's. Even those, depending on what part of the body they're looking at scare me a bit. It's really irrational because they don't hurt. So what's going on here? I guess I must be claustrophobic. Do you get the idea from reading this that I really didn't have anything to write about this month? You are probably right.



Well...The best for last. The results of the Fire and Police Board of Trustees Election are in and here they are. Celia Locke, CEBS, Executive Director of the City Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers in the City of Miami Beach wrote the following:

"In total there were 349 responses from the Active, Retired, and Vested Members of the Pension Fund. Six 6 ballots were unsigned therefore invalid. The

results of the 343 valid Ballots received are as follows: RICHARD CLEMENTS-240, ROBERT C. ELMORE-117, RICHARD GULLAGE-229, ARTHUR W. MARTINEAU-49, JESS METZGAR-82, JIM NOLAN-156, FELIX ORTEGA-75, GEORGE VARON-49. The following members of the Police Department have been selected as Trustees to the City Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers in the City of Miami Beach for the term commencing July 1, 2011: **RICHARD CLEMENTS, RICHARD GULLAGE, JIM NOLAN**".

At the last General Membership meeting of the Miami Beach Police Retiree's Association held at the Blue Moon Café, there was quite a bit of discussion amongst the membership about candidates who were running for the three available Board of Trustee positions. Up until that point, I didn't realize how difficult the job was, and how much training and experience was needed by a Trustee. So I contacted Celia Locke and asked her to send me some information and what exactly a Trustee is responsible for and what type of training is required. She was kind enough to send me so much material, that it would probably fill two full newsletters. So, I'm going to attempt to summarize for you what is required to be a pension trustee and what their responsibilities entail.

It's not simple. Trustees are just that; we elect them because we trust them with the general administration of our multi-million dollar pension plan. The Police and Fire Pension Board consists of three trustees from the active members of the Police Department, Fire Department, and three trustees appointed by the Mayor from the City Administration. The Board engages professionals and consultants for services that are necessary or required to transact the business of the Pension Fund. The Board must interface and maintain relationships with others, to include an Executive Director, Celia Locke, plan participants, retirees and beneficiaries, legal counsel, investment consultants, performance monitors, consulting actuaries, CPA's, custodians, money



*Continued on pg # 4*



## **CURRENT MBPD TODAY News & Events at PD Headquarters**

### **POLICE OLYMPICS**

The 2011 Florida Police & Fire Games were hosted by Treasure Coast Sports (Martin, Indian River & St. Lucie Counties) from June 21 – June 24.

Congratulations to Officer Reginald Horton and Lt. Berrian who received a gold medal in the team bowling category. Officer Wayne Thomas, Detectives Garry Larkin and Alka-reem Azim along with retired Captain Danny Reid, received the silver medal in the team bowling category.

### **Trooper Robert Smith Memorial Award (Most Prestigious Law Enforcement Award):**

Robert Silvagni (Robert also received the "100+ Arrests" Award)

### **Sobriety Checkpoint Award:**

Carlos Noriega

### **RETIREMENT PARTY**

Please join us as we bid double farewell to our remarkable Division Chief William Riley and Captain Greg Butler as their notable tenure of service with the Miami Beach Police Department comes to an end. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Thursday, July 14, 2011 at the Miami Beach Golf Club, 2301 Alton Road, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

\$30.00 per person (includes food and gift), Please R.S.V.P. to Robin Henson at 305-673-7776, ext. 5752

### **M.A.D.D. (MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING) AWARDS**

On Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> the 2011 Annual M.A.D.D. Awards were presented to honor the below recipients for their support of DUI/DRE Enforcement, the use of Sobriety Checkpoints, and DUI Saturation Patrols as a deterrent to DUI crime furthering M.A.D.D.'s cause. It should be noted that of all the awards received by Miami Beach Police Department, the most notable was M.A.D.D.'s top award (Trooper Robert Smith Memorial Award) given to Officer Robert Silvagni.

### **Enforcement Award of Excellence (minimum of 50 Breath Tests):**

Pedro Socarras, Joel Gonzalez, Reginald Horton, Guillermo DelCastillo, Kenne Espada, Martin Dionne, Philip Wirth

### **DRE (DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT) Unit Award of Excellence:**

Limura Barreto-Vo, Martin Dionne, Kevin Millan, Michelle Sayegh, Steven Cosner, Robert Jenkins, Robert Silvagni, Philip Wirth

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals for their efforts to combat driving under the influence and helping to make our roadways safer.

### **MDCACP MAY 2011 OFFICER OF THE MONTH : DETECTIVE LUIS KING**

The MBPD is extremely proud to announce that Detective Luis King has been selected by the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police as their May 2011 Officer of the Month for the integral role he played in the international organized crime case known as the Beach Caviar investigation. This was a joint FBI and MBPD operation which resulted in 17 Federal Indictments for violating Title 18, US Code 1349, Conspiracy. The conspiracy involved attractive Eastern European women luring wealthy men into private nightclubs in Miami Beach and then charging them exorbitant rates for liquor. The resulting fraudulent credit charges were processed by a company owned and operated by their organization. Detective King played a vital undercover role in this investigation posing as a corrupt cop who was employed as a bouncer/doorman to handle any police related issues if their customers refused to pay their bills.

Detective King spent approximately eight months as the organization's "enforcer". He was such a part of this crime family that the operation to arrest the 17 subjects was orchestrated around the premise that it was Detective King's birthday and the group came together to celebrate his birthday. This conveniently placed all the subjects in the same location to safely affect their arrests.

Through Detective King's extraordinary dedication, commitment, and courage, a major Eastern European crime organization was dismantled and leads were obtained to pursue organized crime investigations against Russian groups in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. It is of tremendous significance to note, this is the third consecutive month that this prestigious award has been won by MBPD personnel. This is an amazing and unprecedented feat by the Police Department, especially in light of the fact that they are competing against approximately forty other law enforcement agencies every month for this award.





## Sam's Corner *Continued from page 2*

managers, state and local governing authorities, stockbrokers, and a medical board.

The main functions and major responsibilities of the Board of Trustees is to establish investment policy and procedure, adopt actuarial standards, approve methods for internal reporting and control, and insure overall compliance with appropriate governing conditions. The Board is also required to be aware of things such as "fiduciary status", "prudent person, expert, and investor rules", and "insulation from potential liability."

The training required to become a Certified Public Pension Trustee includes a school put on by the Florida Public Pension Trustees Association. It is a three course program. There is also an annual conference and additional training provided by the professionals and consultants employed by the board in areas such as investments, actuarial, and legal matters. I was told it takes about a year to figure it all out, and get comfortable with it.

At a recent board meeting, Chairman Butler, who is officially now retired was presented with a plaque in recognition

for his dedicated service as Chairman from July, 2009 to June, 2011, and Trustee from September, 2006 to June, 2011 made the following comments:

*"It was an honor to serve on the Board. We have a sacred trust that is not to the FOP or the IAFF or the City. It's to the fund and all the members and their beneficiaries that are going to depend on this pension fund. I take great pride in all the energy and time the Board members put into the fund. Even though at times there are disagreements on different issues, at the end of the day, everyone works it out to do what is best under their fiduciary responsibility to the pension and the members."*

So, to Richard Clements, Richard Gullage, Jim Nolan. Congratulations. You've certainly got your work cut out for you. And to Celia Locke, thanks again for your assistance in helping me put this little presentation together. I am going to send this incredible amount of information I received to Charlie Seraydar to be disseminated to the membership, in case anyone wants to gain further insight into the pension fund and Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to Division Chief Bill Riley, Captain Greg Butler, and Sergeant Dave Porter on their retirements. We wish you the best! Till next month,



**"MBPD Motor Squad, 1960's"**

## News Capsules...

### EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

In December, 2011 elections will be held for all positions on the Executive Board. If anyone would be interested in running please advise Secretary, Joan Ochoa at her email address:

[MSGTSKIRT@COMCAST.NET](mailto:MSGTSKIRT@COMCAST.NET).

### LUNCH IN THE MOUNTAINS

**SUBMITTED BY JERRY MILLICAN**

It's time for the annual "Lunch in the Mountains" event! We're going to the north Georgia mountains this year. It's going to be held at the Lodge at Brasstown Valley Resort, 6321 U S Hwy 76 in Young Harris, GA on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 12 noon.



Young Harris is about two

miles west of Hiawassee GA and is within an hour or less of Highlands & Franklin NC, Clayton and Blairsville GA and a straight shot to Hwy 515 to the Atlanta area. It's only about 4 hours from Cookeville TN and less than 3 hours from Greenville, SC. The website is [www.brasstownvalley.com](http://www.brasstownvalley.com). The resort's room rates are a bit pricey during the summer months but if you want to indulge yourself, it has great amenities. And for the rest of us, reasonable rates are available less than an hour away. We told them to expect 20 to 30 and the resort has given us a dining room that will seat 40 plus so come join us for the afternoon. Let me know if you can make it at my email address:

[mtncabin@hotmail.com](mailto:mtncabin@hotmail.com)



### ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

At a recent General Membership Meeting, A recommendation was made to move the Annual Holiday Dinner back to Broward County this year due to low attendance at the 2010 dinner in Miami Dade County. The Board is considering three locations. Initial reports were provided on those locations by the following members: Vinnie Aprile for Grand Palms, Pat Ryan for the Floridian Ballroom, and Lynda Veski for the West Broward Hall. A final decision will be made in the near future once all the figures are in from the venues for comparison.



Juan Andreu, Terry Bahn, Robert Bauer, Jim Blitch, Jim Burnette, Danny Clemons, Pat Devaney, Nick DiMartino, Mark Eichel, Iva Gabor, Rick Loneragan, Woody Lucius, Don MacKenzie, Dean Mielke, Brian Miller, Vinny Mulshine, Dave Plescow, Ernie Prather, Jaime Rezzonico, Warren Smith, Greg Strong, Elmer Sutton, Lynda Veski, Bob Watson, Jim Whitehead, Billy Williams, Howard Zeifman.



## MBPD Retirees Association General Board Meeting

### **Held At:**

Blue Moon Diner—May 18th at 12:00 Noon.

### **PRESENT:**

VINNIE APRILE, PRESIDENT  
LYNDA VESKI, VICE PRESIDENT  
JOAN DONNELLY-OCHOA, SECRETARY  
CHARLIE SERAYDAR, TREASURER  
JIM BURNETTE, TRUSTEE  
ROBERT JENKINS, TRUSTEE  
LISA NEWLAND, TRUSTEE  
PAT RYAN, TRUSTEE  
BILLY O'NEIL, IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

**PRAYER:** by Carl Ward

### OLD BUSINESS

### **1. FEEDBACK ON WALL OF HONOR CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON**

It was expressed that President Aprile did an outstanding job as emcee. He offered thanks to Lynda Veski for her assistance in writing the bios for the inductees, to Pat Ryan for arranging the luncheon, to Chief Noriega and his staff for their support and participation and to the personnel of the Property Management Unit for all their help in staging the event.

### **2. SHIRTS**

President Aprile advised that the order has been placed with Howard Zeifman

for Miami Beach Police Dept. Retirees logo shirts for those members who previously arranged to purchase them.

### **3. INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

President Aprile advised that members had not yet received their signed copies of the individual contracts for health insurance coverage. FOP President Alex Bello advised that he has begun receiving them from the City's Human Resources Dept and will get them out to members as soon as he signs them.

*The contents of this report were edited for space.*

## Article by Linda Lerra

**RECENTLY LINDA LERRA, WIFE OF RETIRED LT. GEORGE LERRA WROTE AN ARTICLE TO FLORIDA TODAY, A LOCAL NEWSPAPER IN BREVARD COUNTY. WITH LINDA'S PERMISSION, IT IS REPRINTED HERE:**

### **Newcomers praise new beach hometown**

Ten years ago when my husband and I made our first trip up to Cocoa Beach, we fell in love with not only the tranquil environment but the wonderful people who live here.

We purchased a little condo and looked forward to every visit. Last year, one year prior to my husband retiring from 27 years on the Miami Beach Police Department, we pur-

chased a second, larger condo. Our friends in Miami Beach — South Beach in particular, where we moved from — laughed at us.

Why would we want to move from such an interesting, exciting, international city to a laid-back little city like Cocoa Beach?

Anyone who has read about the Memorial Day events on South Beach will understand. The throngs of violent thugs and trashy people that invade the streets that weekend cost the city and taxpayers dearly.

This year, we were able to enjoy a Memorial Day weekend. We spent part of the day on the

beach. We enjoyed the sights of families and groups of people, flying kits, playing Frisbee, building sand castles.

We have been permanent residents of Cocoa Beach for two months now and have not looked back. To our friends back in Miami Beach, laugh all you want. We love this city.

**Linda Lerra  
Cocoa Beach**



**George and Linda Lerra, and George's sister in law Sumiko visiting NASA near their home in Cocoa Beach**





Happy 4th of July!

## Blue Friday Is Coming! By: Tommy Moran

Hundreds of events like this have taken place over this past year, quietly and without any recognition to the individuals and the families of those that made the ultimate sacrifice. Unfortunately, their continued sacrifice although not recognized, is necessary so that we can continue to destroy the country that they died for, from within.

We have already made a mockery of Memorial Day these past few years by changing the theme to "Urban Weekend" and "Hip Hop Weekend", with only a very few even knowing what was being celebrated.

When we are with our families and friends this 4th of July, eating, drinking, laughing, shooting off fireworks and celebrating America, let's try to take a minute to remember those who will never have that opportunity again.

In addition to wearing blue on Fridays, take a few more steps to show your support. Next time you see someone in uniform, go up and shake their hand and say "thank you for your service". Give it a good squeeze and finish it off with a pat on the shoulder. Don't do it quietly, make it obvious.

Maybe you might wake up a couple of idiots who are more concerned with their grande latte frapiola chocolate moca not having enough syrup. When you see someone in uniform ordering something in a restaurant, tell the cashier that his or her money is no good today and pay their check. You will have no idea how good that will make them feel, you feel and everybody around you feel. Who knows what this could lead to!!! Maybe, "common sense" appreciation.

Wouldn't that be special??? Crazy Tommy



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## Katie Maguire Novels

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Gerry Mackey, Author

Read my latest book, **A Cold Logic**, available through the publisher, Lulu.com, as well as through most major booksellers (Barnes & Noble, Amazon, etc.) You might just recognize some of the fictional South Beach Police Officers. Don't forget to check out my first two books, **A Necessary End** and **Seed of Thetis**.

All books available at:  
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