



# ▶ MBPD RETIREE NEWS ◀

January 2008

*Unity is strength for a better retirement*

**www.mbpdretirees.com**

## Holiday Party

On December 7, 2008 the annual retiree's holiday party was held at Hollybrook Golf and Country Club. The party was a huge success with 53 people attending. In attendance were Chief Carlos Noriega who advised that he will be entering the DROP as of January 1, 2009. Also attending was Bobby Jenkins who will be stepping down as FOP President as of January 24, 2009 and officially retiring from the police department.

## Membership cards

Those members that pay their dues utilizing the pension deduction system will be receiving their 2009 Retirees Membership Card in the January newsletter. Those that pay by check please send the \$25.00 to Charlie Seraydar at 5701 SW 134th Ave, Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330. The checks should be made out to the Miami Beach Police Retirees Association. If you would like to change to having the money taken out of your paycheck, email me at Vin455@myacc.net and I will mail you a deduction form.

A big thank you to my daughter, Ashley for helping me with the membership cards.

Also if you have turned the magic number of 80 years old please notify me as your dues will then be free.

Those members who already have the luxury of free dues will be getting their membership cards in the February newsletter.

## Vinny's Breakfast

On December 12, 2008, a breakfast was held at the 84 Diner with 19 people attending. Attending were Charlie Seraydar, Al Skolnick, Al Boza and his wife, Mimi; Priscilla Grandage, Jack Tighe, Jim Burnette, Lisa Newland, Paul Lupien, Billy Rosenstein, Rocco DeLeo, Mike Bauer, Vinny Aprile, Don Freeman and his son, Matt; Billy O'Neill, Jeanne Graham and her friend, Jackie; active officer Pat Quinlan and retired firefighter Tom Columbano. Tommy advised that because of our breakfast, it got him to start a breakfast with his fellow retired firefighters meeting every couple of months. When Jack Tighe was writing for the newsletter named the breakfast "Vinny's Breakfast". The breakfast was not started by me, but by Dave McLaren while we were still active ("on the job"). Three or four of us would meet every few weeks on our days off (as we worked different shifts). After Dave moved to Tennessee I took over and as they say the rest is history.



## January birthdays

Bill Arwood, Jim Casey, James Corbett, Bill Davis, Pat Evans, Ron Forester, Artie Ganz, Brian Gardner, Mark Hallman, Robert Jenkins, Phil Klefeker, Tommy Lederman, Nelson Long, Nick Lluy, Harold Mangels, Jerry Millican, Ed Santiago, Gary Schiaffo, Alan Skolnick, Patricia Schneider, Cathy Tighe, David Tracey, Thelma Jasser, John VanVranken, Buford Whitaker, and Tevey Woolfe.



Also due to an oversight, the December Birthdays were left out of the last newsletter so here there are:

## December birthdays

Derby Brennan, Chris Dee, Scotty Forsythe, Mel Garvey, Lou Fata, Irwin Goodman, Robert Hanlon, Tony Holt, Jason Psaltides, Joan Donnelly-Ochoa, Richie Pelosi, Ted Schempp, Steve Stuart, Lewis Sugar, William Teasdale, John H. Tighe, Gene Toreky, Carl Ward, and Robert Williams.

## Chief's visit

Chief Noreiga and his family and a Major Cordino, a division commander and his family, visited Maggie valley. A total of 16 people came in several cars. They rented a cabin up on Sheepback Mountain that was pretty high up and overlooked all of Maggie valley. The first night we went to visit him and everyone, even our GPS could not find the place and had us driving around in circles, finally got a hold of him on his wife's cell phone, due to his having no signal and he came down to find us and took us up to the cabin. This was some cabin, it was so big everyone of the 16 had their own bed. We enjoyed the company, watched football games and shot the breeze about old times, etc. Next time we went to visit we followed him up since he was in town, all the women in the party chipped in and cooked and we had a great meal. While there they went skiing, etc. and checked out Waynesville and Asheville, Pigeon Forge, etc. Carlos father and mom were along, they rented a car in south Carolina and Drove to Maggie, after taking a train to South Carolina. His mom and dad are doing good and look great. As you older timers can remember, Carlos' father owned the auto parts store on 14th and Alton across from the firestone store. They stopped by the house to say goodbye today Sunday the 28th and headed back home. Was a nice visit and they enjoyed themselves and we enjoyed seeing them. --- Gene and Cathy



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"I'll be home for Christmas"

"I'll be home for Christmas". That's what Buck said minutes before he went into the operating room. It had been "touch and go" for a week, not knowing what was going to transpire, but he finally came home on the last day of November. Then, one week after coming home, we had to call 9-1-1. Buck went back to the hospital for another week during which two and a half liters of fluid were drained from his lungs.

After all this, I finally have some wonderful news! Buck is home and just this second he took our precious (but spoiled rotten) little Fox Terrier "Harley" for a short walk. Life is better now and we hope that Buck continues to mend. It seems the medications he is taking are really helping him.

So I just wanted to say, on behalf of myself and Buck what a glorious holiday we are celebrating! Buck said, "We have no complaints. Life is good, and we have been given another chance and more days together. What a Blessing".

Having sent out Christmas cards for the past 52 years, I am sorry that this is the first year I have not done so. I'm sure you'll understand that I was just so consumed with staying hospitals that I have not had the time.

In closing, we both want to wish all of our friends and family a wonderful holiday and a safe New Years. We truly love you all. --- Buck and Fran Griscom

*(Note: We don't know what was wrong with Buck, but it really doesn't matter. What matters is that he is now recovering. Let's continue to pray for his speedy recovery).*

Happy Friggin' EVERYTHING!



## Sam's Corner - "A Collection of disorganized thoughts"

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I hope to provide you with 12 months of entertaining, thought provoking columns. I have four months of columns under my belt and hopefully I'm getting better at this. I look forward to being nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for this column as time goes on. Perhaps by July.



Recently, my travels took me to Missouri. I tagged along with recently retired Officer Dennis White (see his bio in this month's newsletter) and his wife Alice. They purchased a beautiful piece of land near a town called Warsaw in an area called the "Lakes of the Ozarks". Dennis and Alice hope to settle there and build a home in a few years. It was a great road trip and took us through Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and of course Florida. I really wanted to stop and visit some folks along the way, but due to time constraints, we were unable to. We did however meet with Scott Morgan in South Carolina and were able to spend some quality time with him.

During the last leg of our trip, we popped into a souvenir shop in Missouri to buy some items and it suddenly occurred to me that I hadn't been to a souvenir shop in years. I was looking at some stuff to buy that I thought had been made by local craftsmen. Ha! Turned the item over and guess where it was made? China! I can't begin to tell you how much this angered and disappointed me. Yes, I know that a lot of the stuff that we buy today is made in China and that's not what bothers me.

What gets me is that stuff that should be made by locals here, like artsy-craftsy stuff, isn't. You can't tell me that a paperweight or piece of art that says "Missouri" or "Florida" with a "Made in China" label has the same meaning to us. It sort of cheapens the item, makes it less desirable. Yeah, I know, it's just a souvenir. But think of it this way. How about if

*SAM'S CORNER, continued on page 4...*

### Congratulations

On December 27th, 2008  
Fred and Maddy Wooldridge celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.



### Stories wanted

We are looking for retirees to send in funny stories or embarrassing moments while you were on the job or in your personal life (something you or your kids may have done). A summary of a trip that you had gone on or anything of interest to the members please write it up and email it to Vinny Aprile at Vin455@myacc.net or Samuel Gam at sam0444@yahoo.com and we will put them in the newsletter. If you need to you can change the names to protect the guilty or we can print it anonymously.

**We have great news . . .** Wally is out of the hospital and has completed his transplant. He still has a couple of weeks of clinic visits and then we can head home to North Florida. We are thankful to God, Family and Friends. Thank you for all the calls, cards and emails. God Bless and we pray for all to have a Healthy and Happy New Year!! --- Love, Barbara and Wally

## THANKS!

**Dean Adler contributes website design and maintenance services for [www.mbpdretirees.com](http://www.mbpdretirees.com) (see Dean's ad on page 7 of this newsletter) from Cops and Firefighters in Business (CFB) as well as his mortgage business in Weston, Florida. Dean also donates the graphic design and printing services for this newsletter.**

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some tourist in China picked up a really special looking piece of art in a store in China, turned it over, and it said “Made in Hialeah”. How do you think they’d feel? Come to think of it, maybe stuff made in China ain’t so bad after all!

Charlie Seraydar forwarded me an e-mail he received from Gene “the Phantom” Toreky that I’d like to share with you. While on vacation, visiting his kids in Hollywood and Naples he purchased a full sized slot machine at a mall in Coconut Creek for his wife Cathy. According to Gene, the machine weighs 85 lbs. I thought they weighed more. Of course, the purpose of buying it was to keep her from visiting Casinos. May I suggest that this will not work, since someone has to fill the machine up with money, and guess who that will be? You Gene!! Gene and Cathy also spent Thanksgiving weekend with Jim and Terry Casey in Lake Placid. They had a great time, a great dinner, and headed back to North Carolina with slot machine in tow.

Although they retired long before I did, I still remember Jim Casey and Gene Toreky. These guys may not remember me, but I can tell you that they were always super nice to me. As a young cop on the Beach, I recall them being “larger than life” cops. I’m glad to say I had the privilege of working with them. Glad to hear they are doing well!

And, speaking of Charlie Seraydar, I would like to share with my readers something that Charlie did to me several years ago when we worked the “Middle Zone” together. We were both sent to an alarm on Pinetree Drive (or thereabouts) after a bad rainstorm. As we walked around to the back of the house, Charlie reached up and yanked on a tree branch, shaking the water off the leaves. Of course, I was behind Charlie and got soaked. He looked back at me and proceeded to crack up.

We played practical jokes on each other almost daily. This was one of the things that made the job fun. I recall one time retired Sgt. Steve Stuart “slim jimming” the paddy wagon and sprinkling talcum powder on the seat belts. I was training a rookie at the time, so I was trying to get him to do the right thing and always wear his seat belt. When we got out of the wagon, I had a white stripe going from my right shoulder to my left side and he had one going from his left shoulder to his right side. We looked like school crossing guards.

Steve explained that he didn’t want to “get” me. He really wanted the rookie, but he didn’t know who would be driving, so unfortunately, he had to “get” us both. Do you know how hard it is to get talcum powder off of polyester?

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again. If you have any funny stories or anecdotes, please e-mail them to me, Vinny, Charlie or whoever. If it gets back to me, I’ll be glad to put them in the column. I was going to do part 2 of my motorcycle story, but it’ll have to wait till next month. Also, I would like to know from Gene Toreky why he calls himself “the Phantom”. I’m sure my readers would like to know as well, so if we can hear from Gene, or perhaps someone else who knows, it would be much appreciated.

Enjoy the New Year and see you in February!

## **You probably will think this is soooo true...**

For those of you contemplating retirement, I would like to share my retirement experiences with you, which I hope will be helpful.

Fifteen years ago my wife and I moved into a retirement development on Florida’s Southeast coast. We are living in the Delray/Boca/Boynton Golf, Spa, Bath and Tennis Club on Lake Fake-a-hachee. There are 3000 lakes in Florida; only three are real. Most lake names end in hachee something.

Our biggest retirement concern was time management. What were we going to do all day? Let me assure you, passing the time is not a problem. Your days will be eaten up by simple, daily activities. Just getting out of your car takes 15



*SOOOO TRUE, continued on page 5...*



*SOOOO TRUE, continued from page 4...*

minutes. Trying to find where you parked takes 20 minutes. It takes 1/2 hour on the check-out line in Wal-Mart and 1 hour to return the item the next day.

Let me take you through a typical day. We get up at 5:00 AM, have a quick breakfast and join the early morning Walk and Talk Club. There are about 30 of us and rain or shine we walk around the streets, all talking at once. Every development has some late risers who stay in bed until 6 AM. After a nimble walk avoiding irate drivers out to make us road kill, we go back home, shower and change for the next activity.

My wife goes directly to the pool for her under-water Pilate's class, followed by gasping for breath and CPR. I put on my 'Ask me about my Grandchildren' T-shirt, my plaid mid-calf shorts, my black socks and sandals and go to the club house lobby for a nice nap.

Before you know it, it's time for lunch. We go to Costco to partake of the many tasty samples dispensed by ladies in white hair nets. All free! After a filling lunch, if we don't have any doctor appointments, we might go to the flea market to see if any new white belts have come in or to buy a Rolex watch for \$2.00.

We're usually back home by 2 PM to get ready for dinner. People start lining up for the early bird about 3 PM, but we get there by 3:45 because we're late eaters. The dinners are very popular because of the large portions they serve. You can take home enough food for the next day's lunch and dinner, including extra bread, crackers, packets of mustard, relish, ketchup and Sweet-and-Low along with mints.

At 5:30 we're home ready to watch the 6 o'clock news. By 6:30 we're fast asleep. Then we get up and make 5 or 6 trips to the bathroom during the night and it's time to get up and start a new day all over again.

Doctor-related activities eat up most of your retirement time. I enjoy reading old magazines in sub zero temperatures in the waiting room, so I don't mind. Calling for test results also help the days fly by. It takes at least half an hour just getting through the doctor's phone menu. Then there's the hold time until you're connected to the right party. Sometimes they forget you're holding, and the whole office goes off to lunch.

Should you find you still have time on your hands, volunteering provides a rewarding opportunity to help the less fortunate. Florida has the largest concentration of seniors fewer than five feet and they need our help. I myself am a volunteer for 'The Vertically Challenged Over 80.' I coach their basketball team, The Arthritic Avengers. The hoop is only 4 1/2 feet from the floor. You should see the look of confidence on their faces when they make a slam dunk.

Food shopping is a problem for short seniors or 'bottom feeders' as we call them because they can't reach the items on the upper shelves. There are many foods they've never tasted. After shopping, most seniors can't remember where they parked their cars and wander the parking lot for hours while their food defrosts.

Lastly, it's important to choose a development with an impressive name. Italian names are very popular in Florida. They convey world traveler, uppity sophistication and wealth. Where would you rather live... Murray's Condos or the Lakes of Venice? There's no difference. They're both owned by Murray who happens to be a cheap bastard.

I hope this material has been of help to you future retirees. If I can be of any further assistance, please look me up when you're in Florida. I live in The Leaning Condos of Pisa in Boynton Beach.

## **Stories wanted**

We are looking for retirees to send in funny stories or embarrassing moments while you were on the job or in your personal life (something you or your kids may have done). A summary of a trip that you had gone on or anything of interest to the members please write it up and email it to Vinny Aprile at [Vin455@myacc.net](mailto:Vin455@myacc.net) or Samuel Gam at [sam0444@yahoo.com](mailto:sam0444@yahoo.com) and we will put them in the newsletter. If you need to you can change the names to protect the guilty or we can print it anonymously.

## Pictures from 2008 Holiday Party...

Additional pictures can be viewed online at:  
<http://community.webshots.com/user/rockdog2007>





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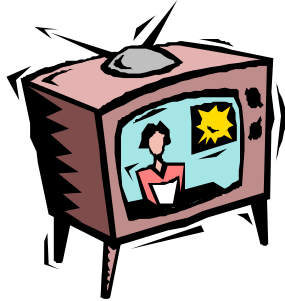


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