



# Bars & Stripes

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Official Publication of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association

Fall 2011



Sgt. Mattie Lewis works along Woodward during the annual Detroit Labor Day Parade.

## Detroit's finest help keep President, paraders safe

The men and women of the Detroit Police Department had a busy day on Labor Day, Sept 5. First they kept watch over the dual worker marches along Woodward and Michigan avenues in the morning. Then, in the afternoon, they assisted the Secret Service and state and county officers in the effort to protect President Obama and those who attended his speech. Kudos all around for keeping the city safe.



Sgt. Jevon Johnson, left and Lt. Liesao Lewis work the corner of Jefferson and Rivard as attendees of President Obama's Labor Day speech head home.

## Michigan Senate Bill 7 passes...

*'This is just another attack on workers, collective bargaining rights, and the middle class'*

LANSING – Michigan Senate Bill 7 was adopted by both the state House and the Senate Aug. 24, and was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on Sept. 24.

The bill, requiring local governments and school districts to spend no more than a certain amount on their employees' health insurance, is a combination of both a hard cap on benefits paid and an 80/20 plan.

Under a hard cap, SB 7 would require public employers to pay no more than \$5,500 (single), \$11,000 (individual and spouse) and \$15,000 (family coverage). A public employer could elect the 80/20 split with employees for health care costs.

Lobbying with Republican lawmakers who pushed this bill didn't work. "In summation," said an analysis by the Police Officers Association of Michigan, "this is the worst case scenario come true; 80-20 and a cap." A POAM write-up of the expected costs to individuals said "this is meant to spell out the doom and gloom that has been perpetrated unto you." The Michigan Education Association, whose members are also negatively impacted by the legislation, said the following:

"Throughout the debate on SB 7, Democrats charged Republicans with micromanaging local governments – what they criticize the federal government for doing – and destroying the freedom of local control. Republicans, however, patted themselves on the back for having lowered the cost of health care to taxpayers and balancing the budget so more money can be sent to local communities."

Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) was the only Republican to oppose the bill.

"The real losers in the debate," the MEA said,  
**(Continued on Page 8)**



# State sees uptick in drug-related crashes

The Michigan State Police reported that the 2010 state Drunk Driving Audit shows declines in alcohol-related crashes, fatalities and arrests, but notes increases in crashes, deaths and injuries involving drugs.

Overall, deaths resulting from alcohol and/or drug-related crashes increased slightly from 351 in 2009 to 357 in 2010, while injuries decreased from 6,271 to 6,175. However, alcohol-involved traffic deaths decreased from 299 to 283 while drug-involved fatalities went up 29 percent, from 119 in 2009 to 153 in 2010. Part of this increase is due to increased testing to detect drug-impaired driving.

"Law enforcement officers are continually finding drugged drivers behind the wheel during traffic stops,"

said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the Michigan State Police (MSP). "To help address this growing issue, officers have been receiving advanced training to assist them in identifying and arresting these impaired drivers in an effort to make our roadways safer."


The Drunk Driving Audit is an annual report issued by the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center and is a collaborative effort between the MSP and the Michigan Department of State.

"Education remains critical in preventing people from driving under the influence," said Secretary of State Ruth Johnson. "While the drinking and driving data are encouraging, we must continue educating people about the dangers of driving under the influence and especially drugged-driving. By working with law enforcement and other safety advocates, we can make Michigan roads even safer."

In 2010, 41,883 alcohol and drug-related driving arrests were made. Male drivers were three times as likely as female drivers to be arrested for impaired driving, with 31,021 men arrested compared to 10,862 women. There were 41,887 persons convicted of operating under the influence of liquor or other impaired driving offenses. Some of these convictions include arrests made in prior years.


The 2010 Drunk Driving Audit is available at [www.michigan.gov/msp](http://www.michigan.gov/msp). Click on Publications, Forms & Statistics, then select Statistical Information and then choose Drunk Driving Audit.


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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Junetta Wynn

During the month of July and August representatives of this Association made several attempts in getting the legislative bodies around Lansing and Washington D.C. to change their direction of thinking along the lines of their anti-campaign against public employees.

It should be noted that the Association officers have been questioned about using the media for purposes of notifying the citizens of Michigan of our actual working benefits and conditions.

The Association and the Police Labor Council are working together in preparing a media notification/article to cover areas across the state of Michigan within the next several weeks.

Here's a glance at the good, bad and ugly: 312 - 312 reforms is on its way to the Governor's desk with three major changes:

- (1). 312 extends to authorities
- (2). Ability to Pay is primary consideration and
- (3). Timelines for completion of the 312 processes.

The biggest and most contentious area for the employee is the cost-sharing on health care. The House passed a substitute version of SB 7 that gives an option of 80/20 or the hard cap with benefit levels at \$5500 for

individual, \$11,000 for a couple, \$12,500 for an individual with children and \$15,000 for family coverage.

The Senate adjourned without taking up this legislation but is expected to vote on this when they come into session for one day in July on July 13. At one point, the House Republicans wanted to remove health care from collective bargaining but were rebuffed by the Senate. The Senate also prevailed in restoring the local option opt-out for cities and counties, but not schools.

One issue that was not resolved was pension tax – SB 409 was put up for a vote and was taken off the board before the vote was recorded. Members we must continue to contact Lansing and Washington with reminders of their effects to voters.

Members: A review of the ACT 312 contract issues have been questioned since April 15, 2011. This association met with the City of Detroit labor officials and representatives at the table. All tentative agreements, recommendations and strikes were done in accordance to the MERC rule procedures in conducting ACT 312's. Any changes in our medical contract area granted within this Act 312-certification will be announced by city officials  
**(Continued on Page 14)**

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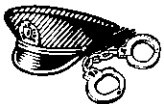
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## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Mark Young

**Defined Benefit Plan versus Defined Contribution Plan.** Within hours of the agreement that allows new hires to receive a "Defined Contribution Plan" instead of a "Defined Benefit Plan" the stock market suffered sharp declines due to politics over the debt ceiling (ability for the government to borrow money) and a short time later because Standard and Poor's reduced the United States Government Bond rating from AAA to AA+.

The debt ceiling battle between the Republicans and Democrats, bond rating reduction along with the instability in the European markets will have a major impact on those who participate in a "Defined Contribution Plan" also known as "401K". The men and women of the Detroit Police Department go to work and during their tour of duty face many uncertainties and not knowing if they will make off duty roll-call; their futures along with their families' futures should be stable and not face the uncertainty of possibly living in poverty!

Pensions are a part of an individual's benefit package and that package is balanced out, meaning that wages, medical, sick leave, vacations and other benefits are based on one's occupation. Many of us may not realize it now but the most important benefit you have is your pension. The reason is because while you work, your income fluctuates based on raises, working overtime, holidays and other contractual rights. But when you retire that benefit is consistent and with the years of escalator earned gives you a gradual increase yearly in your pension earnings.

Also the goal is for an individual's pension to far exceed the years of service that an individual was in employment so that the member will be able to sustain a decent quality of life for themselves and their family!

No one has to remind us that serving as a member of the Detroit Police Department is a dangerous occupation and I and like many of you have been injured and lost friends and colleagues. With every occupation there are occupational hazards that carry over into retirement such as minor and major injuries that members suffer from during their tour of duty. Many times these illnesses and injuries manifest themselves later after a member retires, leaving the member to cope with the injury or illness alone.

The members that were injured deserved pensions and the families of the members who never made it home deserve a pension as well! All members of the Detroit Police Department who serve with honor and distinguished service deserve a pension as well and not have to be concerned about the stock market, Moody's or Standard and Pooors'!

**Condolences.** On behalf of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Colleen, Mitchell, Brett, friends and co-workers of Sergeant Michael Martel, assigned to the Homicide Section, who passed away Sunday, July 17, 2011, after suffering from injuries he received from a motorcycle accident. Michael, also known as "Bull," was an outstanding law enforcement officer who helped many and was a friend to many, Mike will truly be missed!

The DPLSA also sends its condolences, sympathy and prayers to Officer Marcia DeNeal Wimbush, the DeNeal family and friends and Co-Workers of the Twelfth Precinct after the passing of Investigator Gerry Wayne DeNeal, who was assigned to the Twelfth Precinct Investigative Operations Unit. Gerry passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. Gerry was an outstanding law enforcement officer and Investigator and was a distinguished member of the DPLSA. Gerry also affectionately known as "GD" will be missed!

On Tuesday, August 9, 2011, the DPLSA was sadly notified of the passing of (Retired) Sergeant Larry Gocher. Sergeant Gocher's last assignment was the Eighth Precinct Patrol. Our condolences and prayers are sent to all who knew him. Larry was an outstanding supervisor and law enforcement officer along with being a great husband, father, co-worker and friend! I had the awesome pleasure of working for Sergeant Gocher and after he retired the honor of calling him a friend, he shall be deeply missed!

The DPLSA would like to offer our condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of Officer Theron White. Officer White passed away on Monday, August 22, 2011. Our prayers are with you all during this very difficult period and we are here for you!

**Thank You.** Lastly, our department has recently lost some of the most outstanding law enforcement officers on the planet due to a recent large number of retirements. On behalf of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association thank you! Because on the average day you have experienced more than most people will in a lifetime. You left big shoes to fill and you all are going to be missed!

I personally believe that the true men and women of the Detroit Police Department who retire become apart of a great Alumni of gifted, talented and special individuals and one day I hope to be a member of this great group! Also thank you to the men and women who bring it everyday, your efforts have not gone un-noticed or unappreciated! Please check us out on Facebook (Group) at Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association.

As always if you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions please forward them to us @youngm604@detroitmi.gov.

*"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."*



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## TREASURER'S NET

By Brian Harris

**DISCLAIMER:** The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions or position of the Association.

Hello everyone,

What many of us had hoped would fall by the wayside has become a disturbing reality. I'm speaking of the new Health Care Reform law Public ACT 152 of 2011, formerly referred to as "Senate Bill 7." On Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, Gov. Rick Snyder signed the legislation, which limits the amount public employers may pay for government employee medical benefits.

In a Sept. 27, 2011 announcement, Gov. Snyder's press secretary, Sara Wurfel, quoted the Governor as follows, "These changes result in a fair and equitable approach that brings public employee benefits more in line with the private sector. Getting these currently unsustainable costs under control now helps ensure Michigan's long-term future and allows us to all move forward together."

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, a public employer such as a city, county or township will be limited from paying more than \$5,500 for health benefits annually for a single employee, \$11,000 for an employee plus spouse or \$15,000 for family coverage.

Alternatively, a public employer may split the cost of medical coverage with its employees, who will have to pay a proportion of their health insurance costs. If this occurs, the public employer may pay no more than 80 percent of the annual cost of medical benefits. The employee, on the other hand, would pay 20 percent or more of the annual costs.

**Synopsis of the Law:** Under this new law, a public employer that offers or contributes to a medical benefit plan for its employees or elected public officials will be prohibited from paying more of the annual costs or illustrative rate (and any payments for reimbursement of co-pays, deductibles, or payments into health savings accounts or similar accounts used for health care costs) than a total of \$5,500 times the number of employees with single person coverage, \$11,000 times the number of employees with individual and spouse coverage, plus \$15,000 times the number of employees with family coverage.

A public employer could allocate its payment for medical benefit plan costs among its employees and elected officials as it saw fit. The law will require the state treasurer, by October of each year, to adjust the maximum payment amounts annually based on the change in the medical care component of the United States consumer price index for the most recent 12-month period for which data were available.

**80/20 Option:** Rather than comply with the hard cap requirements mentioned above, a public employer can opt instead to comply with a requirement that it pay no more than 80 percent of the total annual costs of all the medical benefit plans it offers or contributes to for its employees.

For state employees, the designated official can opt

for this alternative; for other public employees, a majority vote of the employer's governing body would be required. Under this option, a public employer would be prohibited from paying more than 80 percent of the total annual costs of the medical benefit plan it offers, and employees and elected officials would be required to pay 20 percent or more of the annual costs.

The law authorizes a public employer to allocate the employee share of medical benefit plan costs among its employees as it sees fit. However, elected public officials would have to pay 20 percent or more of the total annual costs of the plan in which they participated.

For the purposes of this option, "total annual costs" includes the premium or illustrative rate of the medical benefit plan and all employer payments for reimbursement of co-pays, deductibles, and payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts used for health care. However, the term does not include beneficiary paid co-payments, co-insurance, deductibles, other out-of-pocket expenses, other service related fees that are assessed to the coverage beneficiary, or beneficiary payments into health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, or similar accounts used for health care.

**Collective Bargaining:** The requirements of the law will not apply to employees covered under current collective bargaining agreements which are inconsistent with provisions of the bill until the collective bargaining agreements expire. Requirements of the law will apply to any extension or renewal of collective bargaining agreements. A collective bargaining agreement or other contract executed on or after Sept. 15, 2011, could not include terms inconsistent with the hard cap or 80/20 provisions in this bill.

**Deduction from Compensation:** A public employer will be authorized to deduct the covered employee's or elected official's portion of the costs of a medical benefit plan from the employee's or elected official's annual compensation. A public employer will be authorized to condition eligibility for the medical benefit plan on the employee's or elected official's authorization to the employer to make the deduction.

**Local Unit Opt-Out:** A local unit of government can exempt itself from the requirements of the bill for the next succeeding year by a two-thirds vote of its governing body. Another two-thirds vote would be required of the governing body to extend an exemption to a new year. An exemption would not be effective for a city with a mayor who is both the chief executive and chief administrator unless the mayor also approves the exemption. An exemption would not be effective for a county with a county executive who is both the chief executive and chief administrator unless the county administrator also approves the exemption.

**Penalty for Non-Compliance:** If a public employer failed to comply with the requirements of the law, the

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**HOLDER OF THE MACE**

*By John Kennedy  
Sergeant at Arms*

Hello LSA Members,

It has become very alarming with the increase of violence many officers are being placed into situations off duty that may require them to take police action in the defense of themselves or others and get injured. The Department, after revising the police manual, now gives an officer the option of carrying a weapon off-duty. This "option" is designed to remove or reduce any liability for the Department, while causing a member to re-think off duty action.

The Department has taken the posture that if an officer is forced to defend themselves off duty, which causes them to get injured, that they are considered a "victim" as opposed to thwarting a crime, i.e. carjacking or robbery and deems the injury non compensable.

This Association intends on fighting for its members, who are involved in situations where they are forced to take action and are injured. To suggest that a member should "second guess" saving their life or someone else's is crazy. Recently, the news media and politicians have attacked public safety on everything from wages to retirement benefits.

Even some of our own, who have now crossed over to politics, have begun their assault on us as well. They have failed to realize that they too benefit from a pension check that the unions had negotiated. Resentment and anger fuels this fire, and it is misguided towards the hard working men and women of this department, along with the ones before us, who now try to enjoy the fruits of their labor. I hope that the former union members decides to remember where they came from, before they pursue higher aspirations, they might make me run against them. My father once said, "The toes you step on today, are connected to the feet you'll have to kiss tomorrow."

Members who are considering the Deferred Retirement

Option Plan (DROP) and request that they be paid their lump sum payouts (all banked time) should note that at the time of the election to collect your banked time, the Department will take everything in your banks at the time of your request. So, if you have a furlough at the time of the election, be advised that you will be paid out for it. Don't DROP, request your lump sum and then take the furlough. This will cause you to be A-No PAY because your banks will be cleared based upon what you have.

Recent changes to PERA here in Michigan, indicate that retroactive pay may not be awarded in future contracts between unions and municipalities.

On June 29, 2011, the Senate Reform Committee will hold a hearing regarding Senate Bill 7 also known as the "Hard Cap Bill." This Bill pertains to Health Care costs to be incurred by public employees such as us. You may have heard discussions surrounding an "80%-20%" cost sharing. This Bill is specific to that. However, it is not a capped "80%-20%." The bill states in part, "...a public employer... shall pay no more than 80% of the total annual cost of all of the medical benefit plans it offers..."

But, you, the employee, could be subject to paying, "20% or more" of the annual cost of the plan. NO decision was made on the bill and the House has been on break for the summer.

The DPOA has a new tentative agreement, scheduled to be voted upon by its membership, which allows them to keep a vast majority of their current benefits, but will eliminate the current pension plan option for new hires, reduction in the multiplier and the elimination of the escalator. The contract, once ratified was to expire on June 30, 2012.

In New Jersey, Governor Chris Christie signed legislation that will make 500,000 state and local government employees pay more for their health and pension benefits while saving New Jersey taxpayers of over \$120 billion over the next 30 years, and an additional \$3.1 billion over the next 10 years from health benefits change.

Chicago, Illinois police officers have won the right to a 24-hour cooling-off period from the time they shoot someone to the time they must speak to an independent investigator. The Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) last year insisted on speaking to officers within two

**(Continued on Page 7)**

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# Sgt. at Arms

## John F. Kennedy

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hours of a police-involved shooting, which sparked a fight with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

An arbitrator has ruled that officers must be given a minimum of 24 hours before IPRA can question them about a shooting. The arbitrator also ruled the interviews must take place between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. That gives an officer a "proper sleep cycle," the FOP said in a statement. The interviews usually take more than half an hour.

Police-involved shootings have climbed 50 percent from 36 in 2006 to 54 in 2010, according to the FOP. There were 11 of them in the first three months of this year.

Officers are often traumatized after such a shooting and need time to collect their thoughts, FOP spokesman Pat Camden said. An officer's recall of events can be shaky right after a shooting, he said.

Nearly 200 Rhode Island State Troopers are due to receive pay raises. The Chafee Administration has reached an agreement with the Rhode Island State Troopers Association to provide 183 troopers with two 3 percent raises. The raises are retroactive to April. The settlement that was reached June 17 and ratified by the troopers' union on June 23.

In Menlo Park, California, early morning street patrols will remain lighter than a month ago under terms of a new deal the city struck with its police union to save about \$340,000 a year. The Menlo Park Police Officers Association ratified a tentative two-year contract that calls for 28 officers to work about 100 fewer hours each year and contribute more to their retirement plans. The agreement was scheduled to be approved by the city council on July 26.

The police officers' previous contract, which expired on June 30, was too "burdensome" because of the economic recession, according to a city staff report. Menlo Park police officers earned an average of about \$131,000 in salary, overtime and other compensation in the 2010-11 fiscal years, according to city records.

On June 24th, the Association had its first annual golf outing at Black Heath Golf Course. It was a great turnout for the outing and everyone had a good time, despite the early inclement weather. Thank you to all the participants, sponsors and members who helped in making this event work.

On January 16, 1974, Sergeant Leonard Todd and Police Officer Edward Pakula were shot and killed after responding to a call of a barricaded gunman. As soon as they arrived at the gunman's home they were met with a hail of bullets from an M-1 rifle. Two other officers were seriously wounded before the suspect was talked into giving himself up. The suspect had been under psychiatric care for several months, and was found with over 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

On March 8, 1983, Sergeant Michael Bossuyt was shot and killed while on duty. The suspect was sentenced to life at hard labor. Sergeant Bossuyt had been with the agency for 12 years. He was survived by his wife, son, daughter, father, and three sisters.

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*'This is just another attack on workers, collective bargaining rights, and the middle class'*

(Continued from Page 1)

"continue to be the employees who just got a greater burden of health care costs shifted onto their backs. Despite the rhetoric, this bill does nothing to contain health care costs or create jobs. This is just another attack on workers, collective bargaining rights, and the middle class."

According to a state legislative analysis, implementation is for health plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2012. Current contracts are not affected. An unsettled contract must be settled, ratified and signed by Sept. 15 to be exempt from the new law.

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## **DPLSA membership meeting set for Dec. 21, 2011**

*The next DPLSA General Membership Meeting will take place Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Rd. in Warren.*

*Doors open at 4 p.m., the meeting starts at 5 p.m. and dinner is served at 6 p.m.*





# Secretary-Treasurer

## Brian Harris

(Continued from Page 5)

public employer would have to permit the state treasurer to reduce each Economic Vitality Incentive Program payment (for cities, villages, and townships) by 10 percent, and the Department of Education would assess the public employer a penalty equal to 10 percent of each payment of any funds for which the public employer qualified under the State School Aid Act, during the period of non-compliance.

\*The aforementioned information was referenced from the House Fiscal Agency, Legislative Analysis concerning Senate Bill 7 – Capping/Limiting Employer Contributions to Employee Medical benefit Plans

I see no fairness in this law whatsoever. All it does is ensure that the greater burden of health care costs is shifted onto the backs of the employees. Despite the rhetoric, the law does nothing to contain health care costs or create jobs. It is just another attack on workers and collective bargaining rights.

One important thing to remember is the requirements of the law do not apply to employees covered under current Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) that are inconsistent with provisions of the law until the CBA expires. However, requirements of the law will apply to any extension or renewal of CBA's and a CBA or other contract executed on or after Sept. 15, 2011, cannot include terms inconsistent with the hard cap or 80/20 provisions in the law.

Our Lobbyists, Karoub Associates and the Michigan Association of Police Organizations (MAPO) of whom the Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association is a member, worked assiduously at combating this legislation. However, their diligent efforts were unsuccessful. The most recent action taken prior to the passing of the bill by both chambers came in the form of a memorandum that was proffered to the Michigan Legislature.

Following is a transcription of the communication: The Michigan Association of Police Organizations (MAPO), the state's largest organization of certified law enforcement personnel, wishes to provide further comment regarding Senate Bill 7 now before the Michigan Legislature.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, Michigan finds itself with 3,100 fewer police officers than the state had on that fateful day. As the number of officers has decreased, the demands placed on law enforcement have increased. Michigan's police officers have not been immune to the financial pressures on government and have responded with personal and financial sacrifice.

At times in this debate over public employee compensation, the rhetoric used has been inflammatory, insulting and flat out wrong. Whether it is contributing 20% to their health care costs or paying for their own bulletproof body armor, Michigan's police officers are today involved in the "shared sacrifice" being talked about as essential to Michigan's turnaround.

MAPO's membership wishes to share thoughts on three issues of concern as the legislation moves forward:

1. **INEQUITY** – Under the House and Senate ver-

sions, the rookie patrol officer and the Chief of Police are asked to contribute the same amount despite the potential \$100,000 difference in their salaries. It appears to the police officer on the street that "Ability to Pay" was only the primary consideration in 312 and nowhere else.

2. **SUBSIDY OF OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYEES** – It is widely recognized that police officers utilize fewer health care services and cost less than other public employees. Despite the stated intent of controlling health care costs, you are penalizing the healthiest of public employees. Police officers conservatively cost their employers 10% less than other employees when it comes to health care. Under both the House and Senate versions, police officers will be contributing more toward their health care than any other public employee.

3. **SELF-INSURED** – The police officers who work for units of government that are self-insured will be disproportionately harmed more than any other public employee. There is no mechanism to reconcile the true-cost accounting with the mythical "illustrative" rate. A police officer that goes an entire year without using any health care services and incurs no cost to his employer still will be required to pay 20% of the "illustrative" rate or any amount above the hard cap.

Also, health insurance purchasers routinely receive rebates from the insurance companies related to prescription drugs and other utilization activity. There is no requirement that the employer share that rebate revenue.

There needs to be language related to the self-insured plans that requires a true-cost accounting of both utilization as it relates to the "illustrative" rate and of any health insurance-related revenue that may be returned to the employer.

Each and every day, MAPO members sacrifice to do a demanding job keeping our communities safe. It is disappointing and discouraging to our police officers when that sacrifice is not recognized and they are asked to bear a disproportionate amount of the "shared sacrifice."

There will be police officers trying to raise families in the State of Michigan who will be working for poverty-level wages if this legislation becomes law.

So, once again, the Grand Old Party moves forward and continue to prevail. Since gaining majority control in both the House and Senate they have aggressively pushed the envelope and won major reforms. Frightening enough, it does not appear that their strategic reform tactics will cease anytime soon.

On a more pleasurable note, the Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association would like to invite you to join us for our annual:

### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 21, 2011, 5:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center located at 26601 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091.**

With the Christmas Holiday season upon us this will be a festive occasion for all to enjoy. Good food, spirits and the opportunity to interact with co-workers, friends and family. So please, come out and spend the evening with us.

As always, I will do my best to ensure you are kept abreast of important matters that affect the well-being of you and your families.

Thank you and God bless you!

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**RETIRED DETROIT  
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CLUB OF FLORIDA**

**By Nancy Schmidt**

The April 3rd "Taste of Detroit" Coney Island Party was Great. I have heard only good feedback so far. Hope everyone enjoyed it. We had 41 in attendance including new members David and Susan Sylvester of Lake Placid. We honored Bill Schmidt and Beverly Kuhn with birthday wishes. Congratulations to Harry and Camille Ramsay who celebrated their 46th Anniversary.

Many thanks to Dolores Larsen, Maija Goosen and Linda Shanks for their help also thanks to Ken Hedeon for his generous donation.

Election of Officers took place with the results being,

President - Bill Schmidt

Vice President - Don McDonald

Treasurer - Dolores Larsen

Recording and Corresponding Secretary - Nancy Schmidt

Sgt.-at-Arms- Jim Bateson

Chaplain- Ron Goosen

Activity Chairman- Bill Larsen.

If you noticed we have a new V.P due to Harry Ramsay declining this year. We'll miss you up front Harry but hope to see you at future meetings. Welcome goes out to Don McDonald.

On June 9th we heard that Harry had a four-way heart bypass. We are keeping you in our thoughts Harry and hope by the time this goes to press you will be home and recouping. We would also like to send some get-well wishes to Fran Maione and Lorraine Bateson.

The 50/50 was won by Mary Stanbury and Jim Caufield. The Retiree Hat was won by George Stanbury after it was declined by Marv Kammer and Frank DeMercy because they had won already. George kindly offered it to Bev Kuhn, which she gladly accepted. I guess that tells us no hats for a while. The Detroit Coffee Cake, donated by Carol Dornan, was won by Evelyn Brehm. I spoke with Tom and Sharon Sowell of Oklahoma, they pass along a Hi to all and hope to join us at one of the meetings next year.

At this time, on behalf of the club I want to thank all you guys that come early and help set up the hall and then put it all away, also to Bill and Dolores Larsen, Maija Goosen, Jim Bateson, Fran Maione, Bill and Fran Peplinski, Don McDonald, Marv Kammer, Bev Kuhn and anyone else that I may have missed. A big thanks for all you do to help keep the meetings running so smooth. I would also like to thank Paul Mitchell of the RDPFFA for all his help these past few years. Enjoy your retirement Paul. Also a thank you to Dona Norlock of the Tuebor and Marty of the Bars and Stripes for their help and advice.

On a real sad note we have lost a few of our long-time members. Tony Klimbal of Spring Hill passed away in April. No services were planned at this time. We also lost Joan Wooley in March. There was a Memorial Luncheon held at the Bon Appetit Resturant in Dunedin Fl. Given by Joan's niece, Pat Waterston along with her Husband Bob and their family, from Seattle, Wash. There were 10

of our club members present.

Stories were told and a lot of pictures of Joan were passed around. It was a very nice send-off and everyone agreed that she would have loved it. Not a member but a dear friend of many, Dolores Kotowitz of Nevada, the wife of the late Chester Kotowitz also died in April. We want to send condolences to all of their families.

If I may, I'd like to say a few words about the trip back to Michigan for our Grandson's Graduation. It was great seeing Family and retired friends from the DPD. We saw Al and Gloria Schulte of Farmington Hills, Bob and Audrey Baumgart and Dolores Gianotto from Clinton Twp. Also George and Mary Stanbury of Washington. Mi.

We met in Frankenmuth with Herman and Inabeth Bratfish of Roscommon along with Walter Rakicki from Belaire. What a great time we had. At the Graduation party was Jack and Toni Wrobel our daughter in law's Parents, Bob and Pat Allagrinna our daughter in laws Aunt and Uncle. While Bill was pumping gas a Tom D. Hedblom noticed the sticker on our car and that started a conversation, he was also retired from the DPD. Small world.

Don't forget the meetings will resume Oct 2, at Brandon Recreation Center, doors open 11:30 AM for Social hour. Please join us. The following meetings will be, Oct 2, Nov 6th, Dec 4th, Jan 8th, Feb 5th, Mar 4th will be our Annual Dinner at the Clearwater Country Club. You can get all the info from Dolores or Bill Larsen at 727-786-3429. The last meeting will be Apr 1st. (No Fooling).

Don't forget that it's time for dues again and can be sent to Dolores Larsen 399 Walnut Ct. Palm Harbor, Florida 34683, phone 1-727-786-3429.

You can reach me at 1-352-683-7924 or njschmidt@gate.net.

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# DPLSA golf outing

Congratulations to winners in the first annual DPLSA Golf Outing held this summer. 1st Annual Golf Outing. Thanks to all who participated and made the event a tremendous success!



First Place team - Schneider, Peltier, Fisher & Weiler



Second Place team - Taylor, Jameson, Wood, & Saulsby



Women's Closest to Pin Winner - Avis Taylor



Men's Closest to Pin Winner - Dave Mable



Women's Longest Drive Winner - Angie Fleming



Men's Longest Drive Winner - Darrell Saulsby

# Biden briefs FOP leaders on COPS jobs plan

National President of the Fraternal Order of Police Chuck Canterbury joined Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on a Sept. 8 conference call with other law enforcement leaders to brief them on elements of the Administration's jobs plan which were laid out by President Barack Obama in a speech to a joint session of Congress that evening.

Biden said that the Administration will call on Congress to make \$4 billion available for the hiring program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). He noted that there were approximately 30,000 unfilled law enforcement positions nationwide and more than 10,000 officers who have been laid off in just the past year.

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided the COPS program \$1 billion dollars, yet the office received nearly \$8 billion in requests. In the most recent fiscal year, the COPS office received only \$300 million and received more than \$5 billion in funding requests.

"These requests demonstrate a legitimate need in law enforcement," said Vice President Biden. "We do not need to apologize. This funding is needed."

Biden also singled out the FOP specifically, thanking them for its past support and describing the group as a "great friend." He exhorted members to stand with him in the battles to come and said the funding will be more flexible than previous hiring programs and allow federal monies to be used to hire, rehire or retain law enforcement officers.

Canterbury said, "We will be there for you and for the COPS program, just as we have been since 1994."

The Vice President also mentioned the Administration's efforts to develop and pass legislation to allocate the

"D Block" of spectrum directly to public safety and use \$10 billion from the sale of other spectrum to fund the build out of a nationwide broadband network for public safety. The sale of other spectrum is anticipated to raise more than \$28 billion in revenue, which many will insist be diverted for other purposes. Biden vowed to fight to make sure that \$10 billion went to fund the public safety network.

"As you know, Mr. Vice President, the FOP immediately endorsed your approach once you pledged that the network build out would be funded by revenues from the auction," Canterbury said on the call. "It was your efforts that brought us aboard and we fully support this shared goal."

Biden closed the call by remarking, "If there is any definition of a middle-class American, it's a cop." He said the Administration's plan is designed for middle class Americans and to help them keep their homes and to keep or find a job.

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# President Junetta Wynn

(Continued from Page 3)

with proper notification to all members. Medical changes within the Act 312 award do not take place until after the city's official insurance open enrollment period.

A meeting was held with ING mangers pertaining to the portfolio review and annualized renewal rate for 2011-2012 drop plan. Indications are that the drop funds held by ING under contract #060285 will receive a renewal

rate of 3.55% with an expense charge offset of 1.15 percent, equaling a renewal rate of 2.40 percent. The association has requested that the ING representatives analyze the fund again with an attempt to reduce member's rates to ING as well as provide an upcoming meeting for all participates according to the contact and review accounts, questions and projected investment measures. The meeting date and accounting information will be send to each participate via U.S. mail by I.N.G.

Note: The challenge of this Association is not now whether it is Strong, but will all the members Stand.

## Drop in crime creates a mystery: why?

WASHINGTON –U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced a 13 percent drop in the rate of violent crime, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced Sept. 15. Violent crime includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault.

And the rate of property crime, which includes burglary, motor vehicle theft and household theft, also declined by six percent during the year. The drop in violent crime, from about 17 per 1,000 residents in 2009 to 15 per 1,000 in 2010, was three times the average annual rate of decline experienced over the last nine years.

Why the drop? It's a bit of a mystery. The expectation had been that crime would increase in our weak economy. The reality is that "we're surprised to find how much it declines," Professor Alfred Blumstein of Carnegie Mellon

University's Heinz School told MSNBC.com.

Michigan saw about a 5.5 percent drop in property crimes and about a 2.7 percent drop in violent crimes over 2009. And our state has the 12th highest crime rate per 100,000 residents nationwide.

The U.S. property victimization rate dropped from 127 per 1,000 households in 2009 to 120 per 1,000 in 2010, which was about two times the average annual rate of decline from 2001 to 2009. During the 10-year period from 2001 to 2010, the overall violent crime rate decreased by 40 percent and the property victimization rate fell by 28 percent.

These declines in violent and property victimizations continued a larger trend: In 2010, violent and property victimization rates fell to their lowest levels since the early 1990s.

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