



# Bars & Stripes

Vol. 44 No. 10 Official Publication of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association  October 2009

## NAPO to Congress: Lay off any taxes on our health care

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

*Dear Majority Leader Reid:*

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) represents 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers and over 1,000 police unions and associations from across the United States. I am writing to advise you of our deep concerns regarding the provision in the "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009" that would impose an excise tax on health insurance companies, administrators, and self-insured employers that offer and administer high-cost health plans.

The health care plans of state and local public safety officers are not extravagant "Cadillac" plans that are filled with superfluous medical benefits. They are the good, comprehensive health benefit plans that you, members of Congress and the Administration are working to make accessible to all Americans.

Despite the recognition in the legislation that the health care plans of public safety and other high risk professions are more costly than the average health care plan, NAPO believes that this tax would threaten the stability and security of these plans. The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the excise tax proposed by the "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009" would hit approximately 40 percent of all plans – individual and family plans – in ten years.

As the tax is based on the cost of health care plans regardless of what it covers or why it costs so much, it will not only hit luxury health care plans, but also comprehensive plans and plans that cover predominantly public safety officers, older workers and women.

NAPO is concerned that public safety employees will be forced to pay the excise tax in the form of wage cuts, higher premiums, increased out-of-pocket costs, and lower benefits, all of which go against the purpose of health care reform: making good health care more accessible and affordable to the American people.

Therefore, as you work to finalize the health care reform legislation in the Senate, NAPO urges you to look  
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MEMBERS • AT WORK • DPLSA MEMBERS • AT WORK



**A 23-YEAR DPD veteran, Sgt. Roy Jopes has worked at the Eastern District since 2005. Sgt. Jopes works as the supervisor of timekeeping, keeping records on 250 officers in the entire district. "We have a wonderful supporting cast here," Roy said. "There are excellent people. I truly enjoy working here."**

**A sergeant since 2000, he has worked at the 11th Precinct, the Chief's Staff, Communications, the 4th Precinct, and Force Investigation. "My current assignment is challenging, and not too repetitious," he said. "I look forward to coming to work every day."**



# Downward trend evident for cops' felonious deaths

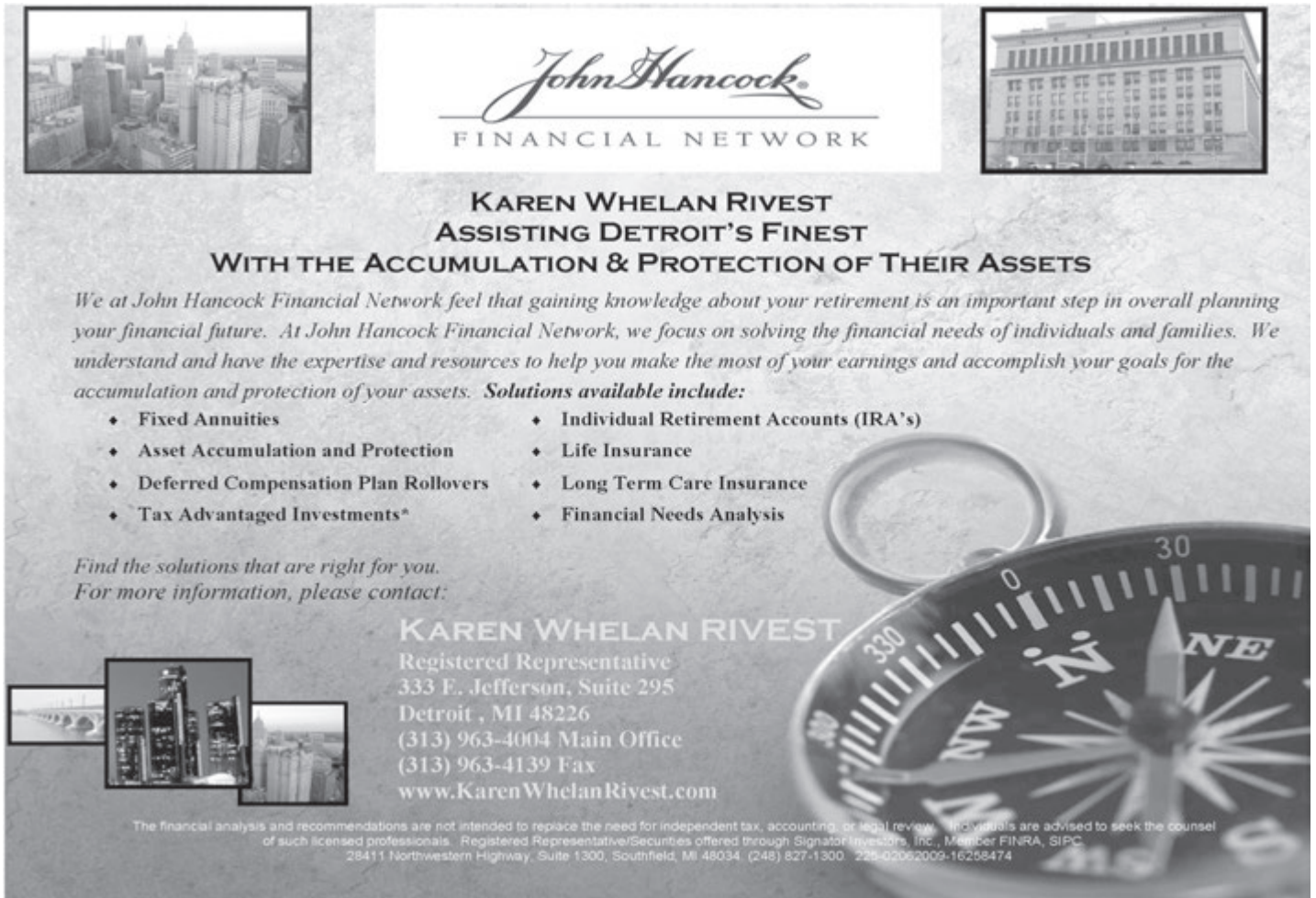
According to information released Oct. 19 by the FBI, 41 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty last year; 68 officers died in accidents while performing their duties; and 58,792 officers were assaulted while on duty. The 2008 edition of Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted provides comprehensive tabular data about these incidents and brief narratives describing the fatal attacks.

The 41 felonious line-of-duty deaths took place during 38 separate incidents. All 38 incidents have been cleared by arrest or exceptional means. The felonious deaths occurred in 19 states. The number of officers feloniously killed in 2008 decreased by 17 compared with the

2007 figure (58 officers). The 5- and 10-year comparisons also showed decreases in the number of felonious deaths, down 16 from the 2004 number (57 officers) and a decrease of 1 from the 1999 total (42 officers).

Officer profiles: Among the officers who were feloniously killed, the average age was 39 years. The victim officers had served in law enforcement for an average of 10 years at the time of the fatal incidents. Thirty-seven of the victim officers were male and four were female. Thirty of the officers were white, nine were black, and one was American Indian/Alaskan Native. Race information was not reported for 1 of the victims.

(Continued on Page 11)



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Junetta Wynn*

Now is the time to rally the wagons and lockstep like never before. Our unionized brothers and sisters who work for the City of Detroit are under attack and it is just a matter of time before the missiles come our way. The wording of standards, fairness, equality and respect for contracts appears to have gotten lost in 2009 among some of the city's leading officials. The state of Michigan and the City of Detroit are not what they once were but the commitment and dedication level of the members of the Detroit Police Department have not changed.

During the year the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants' Association officers along with the board have evaluated the resources, access, and challenges that our association are faced with, along with an analysis on the upcoming needs and expectations in providing quality service to all members.

Therefore, a proposal of a change in the by-laws was made before the board of directors on October 7, 2009 to have active membership dues increased by a point thirty-five (.35) percent of a member's maximum base rate. After lengthy discussion the proposal was passed.

The increase will not take effect until all members have been made whole with regards to forty cent per pay overage deduction in the union dues based on the adjustment from the December 15, 2008 -312 award on May 23, 2009. The over-payment by each member as of this date totals four dollars and eighty cents (\$4.80). Also, the city has been placed on notice for the incorrect deduction errors of Blue Cross Traditional "Plus" LSA Plan dental fee coverage being taken from some member checks.

The correct cost for the dental insurance payment per member should have been twenty- three dollars and thirty-one cents. (\$23.31). The city has assured the

association that all corrections will be made within the next few weeks. The Association will continue to stay on top of the forever-changing issues of this department with the commitment of providing fair and equal treatment to all Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeant members.

**Announcement:**

There will be an open enrollment period for active members to participate in obtaining group term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance with ING, which will, effective on December 1, 2009.

**ENROLLMENT DATES:** October 22, 2009, 9:30am – 10:30am and 4:30pm – 5:30pm at 28 W. Adams 14th Floor Conference Room and November 4, 2009 at 19940 Van Dyke American Serbian Hall from 3:00pm – 5:00pm.

**Note:**

Re: Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association Group Term Life and AD&D Insurance Program

**RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2009 FOR RETIRED MEMBERS**

Dear Insured Retired Member:

It has become necessary to increase the premium contributions for the Retired Member portion of the DPLS&A-sponsored Group Term Life Insurance plan. The insurance company presented options that included either an increase in premium or a reduction of benefits, or a combination of the two, and it was felt to be in the best interest of all to elect the option that results in benefit levels remaining unchanged.

The schedule below informs you of the new premiums that will become effective December 1, 2009. Your current life insurance premium deduction (from your DPLS&A Pension) will occur on your December payment.

**Retired Member Life Insurance**

<b>Retired Member Age</b>	<b>Life Benefit Amount</b>	<b>Monthly Cost w/out Dependents Coverage Effective 12/1/2009</b>	<b>Monthly Cost with Dependents Coverage Effective 12/1/2009</b>
<b>Over age 65</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$ 20.53 (was \$15.21)</b>	<b>\$ 37.01 (was \$27.42)</b>
<b>Over age 65</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$ 25.65 (was \$19.00)</b>	<b>\$ 42.14 (was \$31.21)</b>
<b>Under age 65</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$ 42.00 (was \$31.11)</b>	<b>\$ 58.49 (was \$43.32)</b>
<b>Under age 65</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$ 52.51 (was \$38.89)</b>	<b>\$ 68.99 (was \$51.10)</b>

Rates shown are guaranteed to 12/1/2010. Underwritten by ReliaStar Life Insurance Company, a member of the ING family of companies

Coverage continues as long as you remain a DPLS&A member, you pay your premiums when due, and the group policy remains in force. (Policy form LP00GP)

Note that the benefit levels for Dependent Spouse and Child coverage remain unchanged.

If you have any questions, you may contact the DPLS&A Office or call either of the DPLS&A Agent Representatives: Joe DeSchryver at 586-977-6994 or Jon Kessler at 248-244-6069.



Currently, the ING Insurance Company is offering active members of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association additional coverage of Term Life Insurance and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance. Effective December 1, 2009, the policy coverage will increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000 at no additional cost to active members. ING is currently offering an additional one time open enrollment period that will end on December 1, 2009.

Currently the premium for single coverage is \$11.74 bi-weekly (Code 40700) and the premium for family is \$15.72 bi-weekly (40702). If you are not sure that you have this coverage you can check your payroll check for the listed codes or feel free to call us at the DPLSA Office and we will be happy to check for you. I encourage all to review this information. You can come to the DPLSA Office located at 28 W. Adams, Suite 700, (off of Woodward and Adams) anytime during the open enrollment period and we will be happy to enroll you into this coverage. If you already have the ING / RELIASTAR Insurance coverage, you do not have to do anything.

On December 1, 2009, your coverage will automati-

cally increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000. I encourage all active members to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity!

**DPLSA Awards.**

Reminder, on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at the General Membership Meeting, the DPLSA will recognize up to (7) members for heroism, dedication to duty and outstanding service or outstanding community service. The criteria will be similar to the methodology used for meritorious service awards. Any DPLSA member will be able to submit a request for consideration to the DPLSA Office. All requests must contain a brief synopsis of the incident with supporting documentation. The deadline for all requests is Monday, November 16, 2009, 4:00 P.M. More information will follow. This event will allow the DPLSA to honor the efforts, and acknowledge pride of the hard work put forth by our membership.

**A Personal Note.**

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in doing a good job that we forget where our real strength comes from; our family, friends and co-workers! When we put on our uniform we forget about those who worry and pray for us. Those that sacrifice their peace of mind because of the profession we chose. Our families and friends miss us not being there for the special events, family gatherings, and holidays.

Some members have never been afforded the chance to accompany their own children door-to-door during Halloween due to having to work to keep the community safe. We forget the times that our families celebrated Thanksgiving and/or Christmas later in the day (or kept our food in the oven so we wouldn't miss out) in order for us to be a part of family tradition. We forget that every time there is a breaking news story about a law enforcement officer being hurt their heart skips a beat because they worry about our safety.

Even if the news story doesn't involve us, our family members and friends are reminded of the danger we face on a daily basis. I could go on and on regarding the sacrifices our families and friends experience because of our chosen profession. Take a moment out of your busy day and tell the people who support you behind the scenes, thank you for your support because without our families and friends we couldn't do the job that we do!

**CONDOLENCES.**

On Sunday, October 18, 2009, Mr. Charles Morgan died; Charles is the son of Retired Lt. Eugene Goode, who is the former President of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association. Also on Sunday, October 18, 2009, Mrs. Francenia White, mother of Retired Lt. Shelley Foy, died away after being hit by a car driven by an individual that was under the influence of narcotics.

On Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Mr. Harold Rochon Sr, passed away after suffering from a long bout with

**(Continued on Page 11)**

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### TREASURER'S NET

By Brian Harris

Hello everyone,

Congratulations to all of you who signed up for the life insurance offered through ReliaStar Life Insurance Company. ReliaStar increased the amount of the death benefit payable to the beneficiary(s) of Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association (DPLSA) members who have the coverage. Moreover, they raised the benefit payout at no additional cost to our members. That means no increase in premium. In addition, ReliaStar opened the enrollment process allowing new members to sign up and obtain coverage. How wonderful is that? During these troubling economic times we can use a break like this.

I know none of us expects to cash in on the benefit anytime soon, but, it's comforting to know that our spouses, parent(s), siblings...etc. will not have to bear financial responsibility in the event of our passing. I think often times we fail to take into consideration the financial burden our loved ones encounter in the face of our death.

I equate this failure to our living in the now and not considering the after. Likewise, when you're young and single you don't really think of life insurance as something of importance. In fact, young men and women often consider life insurance as a luxury which they feel they don't need because they are still living with the idea they are immortal. The problem with that line of thinking is that one never knows when something fatal may occur. So, it's best to be prepared so that your spouse and/or other

loved ones are not burdened by the expenses incurred as a result of your death.

As for those active and retired members who already have ReliaStar Life Insurance please take a moment and check the beneficiary named on your policy. The beneficiary is named to receive the proceeds to be paid at the time of your death. A number of years may have passed since you signed up and of course things change as time moves on. You can have more than one beneficiary. You may also name, add or change beneficiaries by written request. Please contact the DPLSA Administrative Office and some one will assist you with verification and/or changes.

Over the past several weeks, I have had conversations with many of you about various subjects that warrant clarification or explanation. Two topics that come up most often are the Drop Plan and Emergency and Pre-Scheduled Overtime procedures for DPLSA Members.

Beginning with the Drop Plan, it appears many of you are of the belief that once a member drops they lose their seniority rights and all other rights afforded them prior to dropping. When I hear things like this the first question I ask is who are you getting this information from? And in almost every instance the response is, "I heard this from someone who heard it from someone else." Go figure right?

Let me explain the objective behind the Drop Plan. The Drop Plan is designed to give a person another means of developing a "nest egg" so to speak. In a traditional DROP Plan such as ours, a member who is eligible to retire but wishes to continue in his or her current position elects to retire and have his or her pension calculated based on earnings and service as of the DROP election date. The member then continues to work during the DROP period and a portion of their pension benefits are deposited into

(Continued on Page 10)

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## HOLDER OF THE MACE

By John Kennedy  
Sergeant at Arms

Hello LSA Members,

Baltimore's police department will become one of the first agencies in the nation to issue every patrol officer a BlackBerry that allows for instant warrant checks, city officials said.

The city has approved using \$5.3 million in federal stimulus money for the police department, including \$3.5 million to buy 2,000 of the BlackBerries, known as "Pocket Cops."

The devices allow officers to run warrants, check vehicle registrations, and pull up criminal histories and suspect photos. Officers who use them can be more efficient and spend more time outside of their cars, the police commissioner said.

On Aug. 18, a federal judge struck down a furlough plan in Prince George's County, Md., holding that the plan violated the U.S. Constitution by unilaterally cutting wages guaranteed through collective bargaining. On July 29, a state judge in Hawaii issued a similar ruling, saying that cutting a furlough violated the state constitution and criticizing officials for ordering unpaid leave without first negotiating with public employee unions.

During these very stressful and economically challenged times, depression and other job related stresses can and often affect a member's performance at work and dealing with family at home. Please, if you need assistance contact the Employee Assistance Program (313) 237-2596 DPD.

Detective Louis Bomka (May 1918) was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man charged with molesting his daughter. The shooting took place on the man's property on Sixth Street. He was a WWI veteran.

Lieutenant Peter McGuigan (October 1920) was shot and killed while questioning a suspicious man near Grand

River and Lothrop. The lieutenant was on his way to work when several boys approached him and told him the man was near their house.

The man produced a gun as Lieutenant McGuigan spoke with him and fired two shots. Lieutenant McGuigan chased the man several blocks but was shot and wounded. He was taken to Providence Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The suspect was arrested a short time later.

Bless you all, Respect Each Other as we Respect Ourselves and "Let's Be Careful Out There."

## Classified Ads

**FOR SALE.** 2 Bedroom duplex, 22202 Moross, across from St. Johns Hospital (Mack and Moross), \$680.00, includes laundry, cable hook up, garage, no pets, credit check. Cindy at 313-885-9789. (10/09)

**HAIRCUTS.** I do men's haircuts in your house for \$20 if you live in or around Howell, Michigan or in my house for \$15. Years ago I cut hair in the Fisher building. I have always remained licenced and have never stopped cutting hair. Retired Sergeant Dennis David, 517 552-1580, 1455 N Alstott Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843. (09/09)

**FOR SALE.** Used computers. I have defragmented the hard drives, etc. From \$50 to \$200. Cash only. From Windows 95 to Windows XP. You pick up. Retired Sergeant Dennis David. 517 552-1580. 1455 N Alstott Drive, Howell, Michiagn 48843. ddennis506@charter.net (09/09)

**FOR SALE.** Chevy 63-64 ss 14-inch wheel cover. \$95, 4 WW tires, P205 75-R15 mounted, balanced. Fits 80s Fury, Diplomat, NY 5th Ave. \$95. Ret. Lt. Art Owczarzak. (586) 725-9498. (7/09)

**FOR SALE.** Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. 2 plots in Section 74. Premium location near front office and Van Dyke Ave. entrance. \$1,000.00 each. e-mail: kew32@webtv.net or call (616) 994-7066, or (408) 868-1680. (4/09)

**FOR SALE.** Two cemetery lots. One in Oakview, Royal Oak, one in White Chapel, Troy. Both lots \$900 each. Call (989) 821-7156. (3/09)

**FOR SALE.** Body Solid home gym. Paid \$1650.00. Asking \$800.00. Call John at 313-575-7590 (1/09)

**FOR SALE:** Deeded Timeshare Maui, Hawaii. One floating week every odd year in a spacious One-Bedroom Ocean View Suite on Ka'anapali Beach. Sleeps 4. One acre pool. One week in paradise! Tradeable worldwide for premium locations and can be rented. Top quality amenities and services. \$13,000. Contact retired Det. Sgt. Gary Boiger (501) 844-3169; email: glboiger@

Classified ads are free to LSA members. If there's something you want to buy or sell, send the information to: Classified Ads, Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association, 28 W. Adams, Suite 700, Detroit, MI 48226

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**RETIRED DETROIT  
POLICE & FIRE  
CLUB OF FLORIDA**

**By Bill Larsen and Bill Schmidt**

The first meeting of this fall was held October 4, 2009 at Brandon, Fla. The next meeting will be Nov. 1, 2009.

This article is usually written by Nancy Schmidt, but she is still in the hospital at MRMC, Kindred Hospital, 5th Floor, Ocala, Florida 34474, recovering from an illness.

Received requests for our membership rosters and they were sent to: Kenneth Hedeem, Al Bensmiller, Jerry Maisano, Robert Evans, Nancy Hay and Geri Henningsen. Rosters can be picked up at our meetings or by mailing a \$1.50 for postage to Nancy or Bill Schmidt, 1220 Corolla Ave., Spring Hill FL 34609-5718. The phone is 1-352-683-7924.

Celebrating October birthdays are Al Bensmiller, James Caulfield, Frank DeMercy, James Farris and Les Williams.

Clearwater Country Club is hosting our annual dinner. The date is Sunday, March 7, 2010. Ticketes will be available at the November meeting. More information will come later.

Dues can be sent to Dolores Larsen, 399 Walnut Court, Palm Harbor FL 34683.

Two thousand police officers were at the funeral of Cpl. Mike Roberts of Tampa PD, who was shot and killed by a bullet that hit him under his bulletproof vest. Our Florida Retirees were proud to be represented at the funeral!

There was a nice crowd at the October meeting. Marvin Kammer spoke about the hospitalization plans available for us retirees and the options available.

Winners of the 50/50 were Bill Schmidt and Ron

McComas; the retiree cap was won by Bill Larsen, and doughnuts were won by Ken Hedeem.

Thanks to Fran Maione for assuming the secretary duties while Nancy is absent.

Rev. Ron Goosen gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Stay safe. See you all next month!



**By Dan Zemaitis**

Congratulations to the Snowbirds officers for 2010. They are: President Moe Gekiere, Vice President Mike Kniaz, Treasurer Dave Ambrose and Secretary Dan Zemaitis. I know you'll continue to do a good job and you're appreciated.

Once again I need to remind everyone that there will be no meetings in January, February and March of 2010. We will resume our meetings on April 11, 2010 and then May 16, because of Mothers Day being May 9. Then we will be back to our regular schedule – the second Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. at BJ's Restaurant.

Our Nov. 8 meeting will have a turkey raffle and on Dec. 13 we will have our Christmas party, buffet, gift exchange and, of course, our meeting. You can just come to the meeting, if you don't want to participate in the rest. October Birthdays: Donna Andrizzi, Bob Haderer, Harry Rudeen, Ed Podczervinski and Sylvia Wells.

October Anniversaries: Vince and Ellie Barnauskas, Tom and Nancy Collins and Moe and Georgette Gekiere. Congratulations to all of the above.

Get Well wishes and prayers go to Harry Rudeen, Karen Haderer and Georgette Gekiere.

I want to thank Joann Cherry for filling in as secretary for the October meeting; she did a great job. I would also like to thank all the people who sent me cars and prayers after my back surgery, which enabled me to go from 5'9" to 5'13" again.

Question of the Month. Why did kamikaze pilots wear helmets? And is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

One more thing. The members voted to do the Mackinac Island trip again, the third weekend in June 2010, because it is a fun outing. If anyone is interested, you can call Jey and me in Florida at 727-397-6226 as we will be there by the time you read this. Stay healthy.

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# Every fold in Old Glory means something

By Sgt. Carol Almeranti

November 11, 2009, is Veterans Day, thank you to all of you for your service to our country!!

## Meaning of A Flag Draped Coffin

All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history. Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD GIVEN' rights and freedoms. I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means ... Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers.



Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776? Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn to in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that They pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too,

has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to, the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'

Have a safe month and if any original thoughts occur send them my way!!!



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The Michigan Neurosurgical Institute, P.C. is an institution dedicated to personal, individualized care of patients with spine and brain conditions. We treat all spine disorders, no matter how simple or complex. We always emphasize nonsurgical treatment as the first option. We also put emphasis on patient education and participation in a care delivery model. Dr. Avery M. Jackson III, Director of the Michigan Neurosurgical Institute P.C., completed a Neurosurgical Complex Spine Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Jackson has extensive training in complex spinal cases, brain and spine tumors, head and spine trauma, vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty and minimally invasive surgery.

# Secretary-Treasurer Brian Harris

Continued from Page 5)

a DROP account. When the member officially retires, s/he receives the monthly pension benefit that was previously calculated plus the balance in the DROP account.

So in a nutshell, when you drop you are not terminating your employment with the Department, you are simply locking in your monthly pension benefit based on the rank you currently hold and the current salary associated with that rank on the date you elected to drop. Moreover, you are still entitled to those benefits previously afforded you prior to dropping (i.e. seniority, promotion eligibility, transfer rights, earning of bank time...etc).

Before I provide you with a brief explanation as to how the Emergency and Pre-Scheduled Overtime process works, let me say that the issues we see today in relation to overtime for DPLSA members are not new. They were occurring long before some of us became DPLSA members.

In fact, in 1984 the DPLSA, under the leadership of former President Ronald Stempien, filed grievance no. 84-018 because of problems they encountered with overtime and its unfairness to members. That grievance was resolved on March 4, 1985 with the development and implementation of what we know today as the "Rules for Filling Supervisor Vacancies."

The Rules for Filling Supervisor Vacancies tell you that the overtime process for DPLSA members begins when the department is faced with a "supervisor shortage." And even then, it is two-fold meaning depending on when the Department learns of the shortage it can be classified as either "emergency overtime" or "pre-scheduled overtime." Classifying it in this manner helps you to determine how the vacancy will be filled.

For example, if the department learns of the shortage with less than two (2) hours notice before the work schedule is to begin, then filling of the vacancy can be accomplished by either shifting members' assignments or by allowing overtime to be worked by a supervisor on the off-ongoing shift.

On the other hand, if the department learns of the shortage with two (2) or more hours notice before the work schedule is to begin then filling of the vacancy should first be attempted by shifting personnel from one assignment to another. If shifting to meet service needs is not possible, then overtime work is required. This is where the shift's overtime roster comes into play.

Each shift should have a roster of all members assigned in seniority order and by rank. When the need to fill a vacancy occurs you offer it to members of the rank of the vacancy first, in the unit of the vacancy, and on the shift of the vacancy.

The questions I get quite often are:

**Q: What if no supervisor from the shift roster wants to work?**

A: If phone contacts do not produce a supervisor on leave willing to work, then the work can be offered to a supervisor selected from seniority order off the precinct-wide seniority list.

**Q: Is there a minimum amount of overtime guaranteed?**

A: No minimum amount of overtime is guaranteed beyond that agreed to on the telephone when the member

is contacted.

NOTE: Now here is an important thing to remember, when a member agrees to work the overtime s/he is to be informed that they must appear for duty no later than the regularly scheduled start of the shift (\*15 minute roll call is optional depending on the circumstances and the member's wishes); moreover, if their services will be needed for less than a full eight (8) hours then s/he shall be notified of that at the time they are contacted.

**Q: Can a member on furlough work overtime opportunities?**

A: Members on furlough are not eligible for overtime opportunities.

NOTE: Another important thing to remember is members on leave days attached to furloughs are not eligible for overtime opportunities either. However, in the case of 8th and 9th holidays or court time, members on such time are eligible for overtime opportunities provided that such days are not used in conjunction with a furlough.

**Q: What about members who are on sick leave? Are they eligible for overtime opportunities?**

A: Being on sick leave does not preclude a member from working overtime if the opportunity presents itself. But, members being carried sick on the preceding day need not be contacted for overtime; unless the member has notified their work location that s/he is ready for duty and will report for their next scheduled tour of duty.

For a more detailed explanation of the Emergency and Pre-Scheduled Overtime Procedures please refer to exhibit II, which can be found on page 75 of the Master Agreement between the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association. Or contact the DPLSA Administrative Office and myself or one of my fellow colleagues will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

In closing, December 16, 2009, we will hold our General Membership meeting. I encourage everyone to attend if you can. This meeting will be very special as it is the holiday season and what better time to get together and engage one another in good spirits and conversation. Until next time, take care!

And as always, I enjoy hearing from everyone. It is a pleasure to receive your calls and respond to your questions. I may not always have the answer up front; however, I will work diligently to obtain it or at the very least point you in the right direction. Please continue to stay in close contact with us.

Thank you.

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## Nevada JACKPOTS



The last Nevada Jackpots meeting was held at Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens Resort on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President John Breed at 9:40 with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our department colleagues.

Considerable discussion was held on the pending change in health care options with the City of Detroit and the pending lawsuit by the RDPFFA. (At the time of this writing, however, we presume all of you have received your checks from the RDPFFA attorney). Still to be determined are the options to be offered to all retirees, along with whatever costs will be attached. It has been stated that the option folder will be sent to all retirees no later than the end of October.

Open enrollment will then take place, and the option you select will take effect on Dec. 1, 2009. When the booklet arrives, look very carefully at each option and weigh it to your personal circumstances before you make a choice. It was suggested that we out-of-staters need to look VERY carefully at the options.

The RDPFFA annual Vegas trip will take place Sept. 21-25 at Planet Hollywood.

Arlene and Sam Cornella volunteered to host our annual Christmas Party in their home at 6 p.m. on Dec. 19, 2009. Our gift swap will entail a \$20 gift per person attending this year. Also there will not be an October card party this year due to other commitments by the membership in attendance.

We have two new members, one of whom was in attendance. He is Bill Crawford, who retired in 1991 from No. 3, and is now living in Henderson. The other new member is David Krumrei, who hangs his hat in Wisconsin. Welcome to the gang, guys.

The next meeting of the Nevada Jackpots will be on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9:30 a.m., same location.

## Vice President Mark Young

**Continued from Page 4)**

Cancer. Mr. Harold Rochon Sr. is the father of Lt. Harold Rochon Jr., who is currently assigned to the Traffic Enforcement Unit. Sergeant Perry Suggs, assigned to the Twelfth Precinct lost his father during the weekend of 17th of October.

Eugene, Shelley, Lieutenant Rochon and Sergeant Suggs, our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to you and your families. Please know that we are here for you! Remember, be kind to each other because you never know what a person is going through, you can be the positive influence in a persons life.

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

*"The true Heroes of today are the Angels of tomorrow."*  
~ Mark Young

## NAPO to Congress: Lay off any taxes on health care

at the adverse consequences the excise tax would have on the health care plans of a significant number of American workers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Government Affairs Director, Andrea Mournighan, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson

Executive Director

National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)

## Downward trend evident for cops' felonious deaths

**Continued from Page 2)**

**Circumstances:** Of the 41 officers feloniously killed, nine of the slain officers were involved in arrest situations; eight were performing traffic stops; seven were investigating suspicious persons/circumstances; seven were involved in tactical situations (e.g., high-risk entry); six were ambushed; two were performing investigative duties; one was handling, transporting, or maintaining custody of a prisoner; and one was answering a disturbance call.

**Weapons:** Offenders used firearms to kill 35 of the 41 victim officers. Of these 35 officers, 25 were slain with handguns, six with rifles, and four with shotguns. Four officers were killed with vehicles that were used as weapons, and two officers died from injuries as a result of a bomb.

**Suspects:** Law enforcement agencies identified 42 alleged assailants in connection with the 41 felonious line-of-duty deaths. Thirty-six of the assailants had prior criminal records, and 11 of the assailants were under judicial supervision at the time of the felonious incidents. Five of the offenders had received a juvenile conviction on a prior criminal charge.

**Accidental Deaths:** Of the 68 law enforcement officers killed in accidents while performing their duties in 2008, the majority of officers accidentally killed (39 officers) were the result of automobile accidents. The number of accidental line-of-duty deaths was down 15 from the 2007 total (83 officers) and 14 less than the 2004 total (82 officers). However, a 10-year comparison showed that 3 more officers were accidentally killed in 2008 than in 1999, when 65 officers died in accidents.

## DPLSA membership meeting set for December 16

*The next DPLSA General Membership Meeting will take place Wednesday, December 16 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.*



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