

NEW YORK CITY



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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lieutenants Benevolent Association

233 Broadway, New York, NY 10279

Suite 1801 Telephone: (212) 964-7500

Fax: (212) 964-4240

January 29, 2016

Dear Lieutenant:

The January Delegate and General Membership meeting was held on Wednesday, January 27th, 2016 at Antun's in Queens Village. LBA President Lou Turco chaired the meeting and the following topics were discussed:

MOMENT OF SILENCE: I initiated the meeting by asking the attendees to observe a moment of silence in regard with remembering Melisa and Mellie Stasko. Sometime between December 22nd and December 24th, Melisa and Mellie were inexplicably slain by Michael Stasko; their husband and father. Michael took his own life. As many of the membership know, Michael and Melisa were the owners and operators of Audemars M&M watches; the company that produced and sold custom watches for the LBA and numerous other law enforcement unions/agencies. Over the years we developed a close and familial association with Michael, Melisa and Mellie. Many of us watched Mellie grow from a toddler to a young lady over the years; her eighth birthday was December 22nd. I asked that the membership keep Melisa and Mellie in their thoughts and prayers.

CONTRACT: I, along with 1st Vice President, Steve Birbiglia, and 2nd Vice President, John Beattie, continue to meet and negotiate with the NYC Office of Labor Relations in regard to securing additional benefits for our members in relation to our most recently ratified contract. As you are all aware, the continued discussions with the City to achieve some enhanced benefits attached to our ratified contract from February, 2015, is developing into a prolonged process. I, along with the Board, will not capitulate to the City in an attempt to expedite this process. Our main goal is to achieve additional benefits that enhance the working conditions of all our members. The next meeting with the City to continue these negotiations is scheduled to be held in late February. We will let the membership know of the additional benefits we negotiate from the City once we come to a more concrete agreement on these issues.

FRIEDRICHS vs. CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION: On Monday, January 11th, the United States Supreme Court began hearing arguments in regard with *Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association*. A group of California Teachers, backed by the libertarian Center for Individual Rights, sued the California Teachers Association, arguing that public-employee unions are inherently political and that being compelled to pay union dues violates the Teachers' First Amendment rights. The outcome of this

judicial case poses a potential threat to the strength of public-sector unions nationwide. What's at stake is the principle of "fair share" — that all who benefit from union representation should share fairly in the costs of that work. In New York State, the law says that if you choose not to be a union member, you must still pay your "fair share" for the union's work that benefits you — for example, the higher salaries and benefits that unions negotiate, better working conditions, health and retirement benefits and so on. In *Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association*, some individuals have gone to court insisting they should be able to be "free riders." They want to share in the benefits of a unionized work place without contributing their fair share —or any share at all — but they want to still be entitled to union representation and to all the benefits and contract protections the union negotiates. The loss of revenues attached to those opting out of paying their 'fair share' along with providing benefits to those who opt to be 'free riders' would be fiscally calamitous to unions across the nation.

Twenty-two states, including New York, as well as various labor unions and the de Blasio administration filed amicus briefs in November urging the court to uphold the 1977 *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* decision that set the precedent for the fair-share fees. The American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO and New York City Municipal Labor Committee (of which the Lieutenants Benevolent Association and 96 other city public sector unions are members) have also filed friend-of-the-court briefs defending the fees, and lawyers for the California State Attorney General and the Obama Administration argued on behalf of maintaining existing conditions.

Four of the nine Supreme Court Justices seem to see the necessity and rational of the ideology of upholding the 'fair share' standard; Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. However, Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia and Chief Justice John Roberts appear, from early arguments, to be siding with the plaintiff's side of the issue.

The outcome of the litigation is tenuous. It could range from the creation of 'free riders', to partial participation in the concept of the 'fair share' standard, or the complete upholding of the 1977 *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* decision that set the precedent for the fair-share fees. A decision from the Supreme Court on this case is anticipated to come as early as this June.

UPCOMING LBA MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, March 23rd, the Villa Barone Manor, 1200 Hours:

At this meeting we will be honoring our "Leaders of the Finest" Award recipients. Suitably, as we acknowledge some of the current heroes amongst our ranks we will also be honoring several of our retired Lieutenants who served in the Armed Forces in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. We anticipate 53 retired Lieutenants / Vietnam War veterans, representing every branch of the military, to be at this event. The Police Commissioner and several high ranking members of the military will be at the event to acknowledge the service of these members. We hope many of our members will be able to attend this special event to recognize our current and former heroes.

Wednesday, April 20th, at Antun's of Queens Village, 1800 Hours:

At this meeting we have again invited Jim Becker, founder and CEO of CostofLearning.com, along with Hunter Shelburne, High School Territory Manager for The Princeton Review, to come and speak with or members in regard to providing them with key information on College Exam test preparation and financial planning for paying college tuition. These two gentlemen provide empirical information for members who are beginning to explore the realities associated with sending a child to college or for a

member who is contemplating to continue their own education. We held a similar meeting in November of 2014, in conjunction with the CEA, where over 400 members of the two Unions attended.

Wednesday, May 25th, at Antun's of Queens Village, 1000 Hours:

At this meeting the LBA has made arrangements to have HeartScan Services perform non-invasive thyroid and carotid ultrasound scans and blood pressure checks at no cost to 75 of our members. The LBA has provided the services of HeartScan to our members in the past which resulted in two of our members receiving early detection of thyroid issues. If you are interested in receiving this non-invasive scan at no cost, please contact the LBA office, at 212-964-7500 (Option# 2), to register. Due to time limitations we are only able to have 75 of our members receive this service. Therefore, only the first 75 members to contact the LBA office and register will be able to receive the scans.

LBA FIELD MEETINGS: Over the past several years, LBA 1st Vice President, Steve Birbiglia, and I have visited numerous commands throughout the City to hold open discussions with our members. Steve and I, along with LBA 2nd Vice President John Beattie, will continue to visit commands so that we can have informal conversations with our members to hear their concerns and ideas about the Job and any issues impacting on the membership. If you know of any venues where there will be a significant number of Lieutenants attending, please notify the LBA Office so that we may take advantage of this opportunity to speak with our members.

2016 PERSONALIZED LBA CARDS: We have received several phone calls from members inquiring if they are still able to order 2016 Personalized LBA Cards. The LBA has the ability to create these cards all year long. We have attached an Order Form to this e-mail if you wish to order these cards. The personalized 2016 LBA cards cost \$1.00 per card. Order forms and samples of the cards are also posted on the "Home Page" of the LBA website, www.NYPD-LBA.org. The form includes all the information necessary to process your orders. If you have any questions in regard with this matter please contact Sal DelRosario at the LBA, 212-964-7500 (Option# 2).

NEXT MEETING: Join us on Wednesday, February, 24th, 2016, 1000 hours, at Antun's in Queens Village, 96-43 Springfield Boulevard, Queens. I Hope to see you at the meeting.

Lou Turco
President

Dennis Gannon
Recording Secretary