

NEW YORK CITY



# 1899 Lieutenants Benevolent Association

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November 3, 2016

Dear Lieutenant:

The October Delegate and General Membership meeting was held on Wednesday, October 26th, 2016, at Antun's in Queens Village. LBA President Lou Turco chaired the meeting and the following topics were discussed:

**CLARIFICATION REGARDING "CONSENT TO SEARCH" FORM:** On Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, I sent an e-mail to the membership in regard with Operations Order 50: "Consent to Search Guidelines for Uniformed Members of the Service Assigned to the Detective Bureau and Other Investigatory Commands/Units" (Click here to view the original E-mail). Some media outlets published articles containing heavy usage of literary license and injecting assumptions into the content of this e-mail; inferring that I was telling our members not to fill out the form when required. In order to clarify the intent of my message contained in the e-mail, and to eliminate any misunderstandings potentially associated with my e-mail, I reminded our members at the meeting that our Association is comprised of dedicated and professional men and women who know that they must prepare a "Consent to Search" form as directed by the guidelines of the Department. However, our members must be aware that the preparation of this form will not shield them from baseless allegations lodged with the Civilian Complaint Review Board where a complainant claims they were forced/coerced to sign the form thus resulting in our members receiving a substantiated CCRB.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS, HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TRANSFER PERIOD:** We have been advised by the New York City, Office of Labor Relations, Health Benefits Section that the 2016 Open Enrollment Period for New York City Employees will be as follows:

The Annual Health Insurance Coverage Transfer Period for **Retirees** will be from November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Health Insurance Coverage Transfer Period for **Active Members** will be from October 11<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>.

For Active Members, the Department routinely published an Operations Orders for the exact dates covering the Annual Transfer Period. The Operations Order should also include information on the Health Care Plans available, the costs, Procedures for Health Plan Changes, information for Retiring Members of the Service, Change of Dependents Submitted During the Transfer Period, and information related to Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

During Annual Health Insurance Coverage Transfer Period, Active and Retired members of the service may transfer from their present health plan into another City health plan, add or drop optional rider coverage, and add or drop a dependent.

To download a Health Benefits Application please click on this link, <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/olr/downloads/pdf/health/health-benefits-application.pdf>. The page link also includes additional information in regard to filling out and forwarding the form.

Active and Retired Members can visit the following link to view the current monthly rates for each available insurance carrier, <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/summaryofplans/health-ratechart.page>

Please be aware that for most health insurance plans, i.e. GHI, the member does not need to purchase prescription drug coverage since it is provided by the Superior Officers Council Health and Welfare. However, Retired members enrolling in HIP must purchase, in most situations, the HIP Optional Rider for their prescription drug coverage since it is not provided by the SOC under this particular health insurance plan. If you are unsure as to whether or not you need to purchase the prescription drug coverage please confer with the SOC at 212-964-7500 (Option# 1).

**MEMBERS WITH “HIP” CONTEMPLATING RETIREMENT:** Lieutenants currently enrolled in “HIP” and planning to retire in the immediate future may wish to transfer into a different health insurance carrier, prior to retiring, during the Annual Health Benefits Transfer Period. We are encountering more and more of our Lieutenants currently enrolled in the Health Insurance Plan of New York (HIP) discovering that upon retiring they will be responsible to pay \$386.12 a month for the Prescription Drug Rider Cut Out (Family Coverage). This equates to \$4,633.44 a year for a non-Medicare covered family to retain the Prescription Drug Rider. In the past many of our members retained HIP upon retiring in order to preserve prescription coverage for their children. However, since January 1, 2009, retiree’s children are covered for prescriptions through the SOC Health & Welfare Fund. The SOC Optional Prescription Drug Rider costs, per year: 1 child = \$144 / 2 children = \$216 / 3 or more children = \$ 288. We do not endorse nor recommend any one health carrier over the other as each member’s needs and the needs of their families are unique. However, we believe it is our responsibility to make our members aware of costs associated with their health carrier choice.

**LBA COMMAND MEET AND GREETES:** As many of you may be aware, Steve Birbiglia, John Beattie and I have visited, and continue to visit, numerous commands to speak with our fellow Lieutenants on issues impacting them. We enjoy these opportunities to meet with our fellow members and to have the opportunity to bring them up to date on what is going on with the LBA and to hear from them what is going on in the different commands. I’d like to ask you to contact the LBA (212-964-7500 Option# 2) when you become aware of any venue where a significant contingent of Lieutenants will be attending, i.e. training, borough meetings, etc. We would like to take the opportunity at such venues to speak with a large group of our members. All I ask is that you contact the LBA (212-964-7500 Option# 2) with the date and the time of the meeting (please give enough advance notice of the meeting as possible), if the audience is composed of mixed ranks please arrange for a separate location where we can speak candidly, and let us know how many Lieutenants will be at the meeting so that we can provide lunch for them.

**2017 PERSONALIZED LBA CARDS:** Attached to this e-mail is an order form to submit requests for 2017 Personalized LBA cards. Each dues paying LBA member will continue to receive 5 generic 2017 LBA cards in late November / early December at no cost. The personalized 2017 LBA cards cost \$1.00 per card; all proceeds from the sale of the personalized cards goes to benefit the LBA’s Charitable and Scholarship Fund. **We anticipate filling and forwarding Card orders in mid-November.** Order forms and samples of the cards are also posted on the “Home Page” of the LBA website, [www.NYPD-LBA.org](http://www.NYPD-LBA.org). The form includes all the information necessary to process your orders. If you have any questions in regards to this matter please contact Sal DelRosario at the LBA, 212-964-7500 (Option# 2).

**FEE ASSOCIATED WITH MAILING GENERIC LBA CARDS:** The LBA is the only union that does not charge members for generic (non-personalized) courtesy (LBA) Cards. However, due to the rise in postage fees over the years, we will now be charging one dollar (\$1.00) per card for all mail request for additional LBA Cards; members in good standing will continue to receive five (5) generic

LBA cards free of charge with the annual mailing. Members can receive additional generic LBA cards at no cost by seeing their LBA Board member or Delegate, and/or by coming to the LBA office to pick up the additional cards.

**TICKETS TO EVENTS AT LINCOLN CENTER:** As many of you may have recently seen, we have sent out several e-mails announcing free tickets to attend different events at Lincoln Center. The LBA has partnered with Lincoln Center in the “House Cop” program; Lincoln Center has agreed to offer complimentary tickets to LBA Members to attend ongoing events. Please monitor your e-mails for future announcements/offers pertaining to these free events at Lincoln Center.

**COMMAND DISCIPLINE TRACKING:** In November of 2014, the LBA commenced a tracking system to record all Command Disciplines issued against our members. This tracking system has been implemented so that we have the independent ability to record and maintain what member(s) are receiving discipline, for what reasons, to monitor for potential targeted or systematic discipline, and to ascertain if our members are receiving undeserved or exaggerated penalties. This being said, we urge our members to contact the LBA directly when they receive a Command Discipline and to follow up with a notification when the Command Discipline is adjudicated. This program will only prove beneficial to our members if they all cooperate and keep the LBA informed. Call the LBA office at 212-964-7500 (Option# 2).

**THANK YOU TO GUEST SPEAKERS AT MEETING:** I would like to thank Lieutenant Mike Romano and the nurses from the Medical Division for attending our meeting and providing free flu shots to our Active Members. I would also like to thank Sergeant Coleen Price, from the Employee Assistance Unit, for speaking with our members and informing them of the counseling services available to them and to those they work with and supervise.

**UPCOMING LBA MEETINGS:**

Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1000 hours, Hudson Council K of C

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1200 hours, El Caribe (LBA Holiday Luncheon)

**NEXT MEETING:** Join us on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1000 hours, at the Hudson Council Knights of Columbus (49-18 Queens Blvd, Flushing). I hope to see you there.

Lou Turco  
President

Dennis Gannon  
Recording Secretary