



1899 Lieutenants Benevolent Association

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June 5, 2017

Dear Lieutenant:

The March Delegate and General Membership meeting was held on Wednesday, May 31st, 2017, at Antun's in Queens Village. LBA President Lou Turco chaired the meeting and the following topics were discussed:

CONTRACT: On June 5th, as per our contract with the City of New York, our members will receive a 2.5% increase in salary. Historically, an increase in salary would equate to an increase in LBA dues. However, I am happy to inform you that due to cost saving measures employed by the Executive Board, the LBA has not seen the necessity of raising dues for the past 9 years while enhancing benefits offered to our members. On another note, the Lieutenants Benevolent Association has joined a coalition, along with the Detective Endowment Association and Captains Endowment Association, to challenge the City regarding the credit being granted to the PBA members attached to Body Worn Cameras is in fact a subject of bargaining and this credit should also be granted to the members of the LBA, CEA, and DEA. I have attended several meetings in connection with the implementation of the Body Worn Camera (BWC) program and have emphatically informed parties from the Department and the City that the deployment of BWC is in fact a negotiable bargaining topic applicable to the members from the LBA, CEA and DEA. Both entities initially discounted this argument, that the BWC cameras are a negotiable bargaining topic. Due to the coalition's persistence, the City has now acquiesced and has agreed that there is credence to our argument and the issue will be addressed through arbitration.

15 YEAR BILL: On March 24th, 2016, State Assemblyman Peter Abbate introduced Assembly Bill A9659, and on Wednesday, May 10th, 2017, NY State Senator Martin Golden introduced Senate Bill S6059. Both pieces of legislation, in essence, read:

Section 1. Section 14-114 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new subdivision d to read as follows:

d. When a lieutenant shall have served in the rank of lieutenant for a period of fifteen years, he or she shall have the same rights in respect to the police pension fund as a lieutenant detailed to act as lieutenant commander detective squad or lieutenant special assignment.

This is a productive step in our effort to have this well-deserved legislation passed. Another requisite to bring this legislation to reality, the issuance of a Fiscal Note, has already been achieved. However, this legislation is now reliant on our ability to have the New York City Council issue a Home Rule Message and forward this message to Albany. The Home Rule provision allows Albany to pass what are called "special laws" that only affect part of the state, but only pursuant to a request from local officials, typically the local legislative body. The executive body of the LBA, in conjunction with LBA Legislative Director Lou Matarazzo,

intend to steadfastly progress forward with our attempt to secure this legislative benefit. We will keep the membership apprised as the proposed Bill progresses.

CATASTROPHIC LEAVE BANK: As I have mentioned in the past, almost every Lieutenant has agreed to voluntarily donate one (1) hour to the LBA's Catastrophic Leave Bank. This equates to an initial bank consisting of 1,706 hours or 195 days (based on an 8:45 tour). I have appointed LBA Housing Director Larry Hawkins to represent the LBA on a panel to be established, in conjunction with the Department's Office of Labor Relations, in regard with considering who will be eligible to receive the additional time off. We have already had LBA members seeking to utilize this recently gained benefit. In the immediate future, we anticipate a Department Operations Order to be published specifying the procedure of this program. The Department has not yet informed us as to when our members will see the voluntary deduction of the hour time reflected in their paystub.

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.

LBA SCHOLARSHIP: The LBA will once again offer scholarships to children of active and retired members (grandchildren are not eligible). **This year we have expanded the number of scholarships to be awarded from six to ten.** Awards will be based upon the student's SAT scores from any single day's testing; merging scores from different days will not be counted. Due to the inability to narrowly and reliably compare/convert ACT scores with SAT scores **we will only consider SAT scores in awarding the scholarships.**

To be eligible, students must be high school seniors, and send a copy of their SAT score to the LBA office (Attn: Gene Loewy) by Friday, June 30th, 2017. You MUST call the LBA Office soon after forwarding the SAT scores to confirm that we did in fact receive them. SAT Scores may be E-mailed to LBA@NYPD-LBA.org, Faxed to 212-964-4240, or mailed to Lieutenants Benevolent Association / Attn. Gene Loewy / 40 Peck Slip / New York, NY 10038.

The following scholarships will be awarded:

- Two \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded. One each to the female and male student with the highest SAT scores
- Two \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded. One each to the second place female and the second place male student
- Two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded. One each to the third place female and the third place male student
- Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded. One each to the fourth place female and the fourth place male student
- Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. One each to the fifth place female and the fifth place male student

Winners will be notified prior to the July LBA Meeting, and awards will be presented at the July LBA Delegate and General Membership Meeting (date and location are yet to be determined). In case of ties, awards will be split among the highest scores achieved on any single day.

NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: Due to the importance attached to the following topic, I will be reiterating to our members at the monthly meetings and including in the Monthly Newsletters the information related to the upcoming referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention.

On November 7th, 2017, for the first time in 20 years, New York State voters will be presented the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want to hold a convention to change the New York State Constitution; first drafted in 1777. The legal process for conducting a voter-initiated convention can be found outlined in Article XIX of the New York State Constitution:

1. A majority of state-wide voters consider the question of convening a constitutional convention on the ballot on November 7, 2017.
2. If a majority of voters approve the convention, three delegates in each of the 63 state senate districts and 15 statewide at-large delegates are elected by voters in November 2018.
3. These 204 delegates, once selected, will then convene in Albany beginning in April 2019 for the limited purpose of holding a convention to discuss reforms to the supreme law of our state that they have the ability to propose for consideration.
4. Changes approved by more than a majority of the delegates assembled are then put before voters, where an affirmative majority vote would ratify the changes to the state constitution.

WHAT'S AT RISK: Many of the rights we enjoy as New York state citizens would be fair game should a State Constitutional Convention take place. The entire document would be exposed, and the following rights currently enjoyed, will be in jeopardy:

- Guaranteeing the right to a free public education (Article 11, §1);
- Prohibiting reductions in public pension benefits (Article 5, §7);
- Rights to workers' compensation (Article 1, §18);
- Rights to be a member of a union and bargain collectively (Article 1, §17); and
- Requiring the state to provide for social welfare needs (Article 27, §1).

The last time voters approved convening a convention was 1937, meaning voters rejected them in 1957, 1977 and 1997. These conventions were rejected with good reason. A voters' approval to convene a constitutional convention will make some of the hardest fought for and secured benefits we and other unions have achieved over the years vulnerable to change, if not completely lost. We ask that you speak with your family and friends and urge them to VOTE NO on November 7th in regard to convening a NYS Constitutional Convention. We will continue to remind our membership of the importance connected with ensuring that a Constitutional Convention is not convened and that our benefits are not put in jeopardy.

PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE: On Thursday, May 18th, I sent an e-mail to the general membership suggesting that our members boycott the Puerto Rican Day parade and any businesses associated with this event. This request was based on the organizers of the parade selecting a convicted domestic terrorist, Oscar Lopez Rivera, as the recipient of the recently created "National Freedom Hero" award. I continue to be dumbfounded how an entity representing an ethnicity that is so incredibly culturally rich and whose people have contributed immeasurably to this country chose a man representing and promoting violence against the citizens of this country, and especially in New York and Chicago, as their "National Freedom Hero". Admirably, the NYPD Hispanic Society was one of the first organizations to pull away from the parade and many of the corporate entities who routinely have sponsored the event have also withdrawn their support. Police Commissioner O'Neill, Governor Cuomo, and several other politicians have refused to actively participate in the parade. However, there are still some local and state politicians who continue to attempt to rationalize and legitimize the selection of this terrorist to be honored at the parade. I ask that you remember these self-serving, subjective, and opportunistic politicians come election time.

FINEST ADJUSTERS: I would like to thank Joe Viruet, and Kevin Schwartz, from Finest Adjusters, for speaking with our members and informing them of the services their company provides when people experience catastrophic events at their homes, i.e. fire and/or flood. Joe and Kevin can help members receive the maximum insurance payments owed them after experiencing a fire, flood, etc., and they will help navigate the administrative process associated with receiving the benefits included in your insurance policies. These services are provided to LBA members at a discounted rate. If you need additional information, or the services provided by Finest Adjusters, please call Joe at 631-804-7921 and/or Kevin at 347-524-5937

NEXT MEETING: The June LBA Delegate and General Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28th, 1100 hours, at the Staten Island Marine Corps League (46 Ontario Avenue, Staten Island); a barbecue lunch will be served at this meeting. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Lou Turco
President

Dennis Gannon
Recording Secretary