

NEW YORK CITY



1899 Lieutenants Benevolent Association

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October 30, 2017

Dear Lieutenant:

The October Delegate and General Membership meeting was held on Wednesday, October 25th, 2017, at Antun's in Queens Village. LBA President Lou Turco chaired the meeting and the following topics were discussed:

CHANGES IN LBA BOARD:

JIMMY WOODS APPOINTED LBA TREASURER: With the retirement of LBA Treasurer, Kevin Leddy, I was pleased to elevate Jimmy Woods from LBA Marshal to Treasurer. Jimmy has over 36 years with the Department, has been a Lieutenant for 23 years and an LBA Board member for the past 16 years. His historical knowledge and experience with the Department and the Association will be, and have been, an asset to the Board and the membership in general. Jimmy possesses the organizational knowledge necessary to aid in the fiduciary management of the Association.

LBA STATEN ISLAND DIRECTOR RETIRES: I would like to thank John Peruffo for his years of dedicated service to the LBA. John routinely and capably addressed all the issues impacting on our members assigned to commands, and/or residing, in Staten Island. John retires on October 31st, after 24 years with the Department. He served as an LBA Delegate and the LBA Staten Island Director for the past four years. On behalf of the Board, Delegates, and the membership I wish to thank John and wish him good luck on his retirement.

VOTE "NO" ON A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION **ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH**

NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: I have communicated with membership, ad nauseam, about the importance of voting "NO" on an amendment to be included on the ballot this November 7th, "Election Day" in regard to convening a New York State Constitutional Convention. Make no mistake about it, if a Convention is convened our pensions, for both Retired and Active members, will be put in jeopardy. This will be the last time that I mention in an LBA Monthly Newsletter 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.**

JEANNIE KELLY, MT. SINAI'S WTC HEALTH PROGRAM OUTREACH AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

I would like to thank Jeannie for speaking with and informing our members at the meeting in regard with the importance of enrolling in several of the programs affiliated with providing services to our members who were involved with the rescue and recovery efforts on and after September 11th. Jeannie reiterated to our members that they must ensure that they have filed a Notice of Participation with the Police Pension Fund. The Notice of Participation (NOP) is **not** an application for disability benefits, but merely preserves the right of the member of the service to file for a WTC disability pension if he or she becomes disabled due to a 9/11-related illness. Failure to file the NOP may preclude the member from receiving a WTC disability pension or death benefit in the future. The NOP Form can be found on the **NYPD Police Pension Fund website**. Click on the following link and look to see if your Tax# is listed as having filed a Notice of Participation: http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycppf/html/wtc_information/wtc_information.shtml. If your Tax number does **not** appear, **you must file the form (even if you currently have no symptoms of illness) by September 11, 2018,** to be eligible in the future in case of illness and/or death. Some of the materials you can use to verify your Notice of Participation work claims include your memo books, DARS (daily activity reports), overtime slips, detail rosters, command log entries (either still at your command or at the borough command), signed and notarized affidavits from colleagues verifying you were at the pile, the Morgue, or Freshkills Landfill, photographs taken at the locations during the rescue and recovery, and/or news articles from the rescue and recovery in which you are mentioned. **The deadline to have a Notice of Participation on file with the Police Pension Fund is September 11th, 2018.** Jeannie also informed our members that they should enroll and participate in the Mt. Sinai WTC Health Screening Program. The World Trade Center Health Program provides medical monitoring and treatment for responders and survivors who were exposed at the World Trade Center site. This includes active police officers, as well as retirees, civilian volunteers, clean-up workers, and residents who were present in the exposure zone between September 11, 2001, and July 31, 2002. Anyone who was exposed should enroll in the program for monitoring, even if they are not currently sick or experiencing any symptoms. Members who wish to enroll in the Mt. Sinai WTC Health Screening Program can call 1-888-982-4748 or 1-888-702-0630, or go online to download the enrollment form at www.CDC.Gov/wtc, and click on "Find Out How To Apply". Jeannie also reminded our members of the "9-11 Victim Compensation Fund" ("VCF"). The September 11th

Victim Compensation Fund provides financial compensation for any individual (or a personal representative of a deceased individual) who suffered physical harm or died as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. This includes active police officers, as well as civilians, who were within the exposure zone between September 11, 2001, and May 30, 2002. The Fund can pay awards of up to \$90,000 for non-cancerous conditions, and can pay up to \$250,000 for eligible cancers. The Fund can reimburse you for significant out-of-pocket medical expenses, as well as household services you are no longer able to perform due to your WTC-related conditions. The Fund can also pay for lost earnings if you suffer from a disabling WTC-related condition. **All claims must be perfected by December 18, 2020, the date the Fund is set to close.** If you believe you may be eligible to file a Victims Compensation Claim, we strongly urge our members to contact and confer with our Article II Disability attorney Nick Cifuni. You can call Nick at 212-766-5800.

15 YEAR BILL: As I have reported in past meetings, Assembly Bill A9659 and Senate Bill S6059, pertaining to the legislative creation of the 15 Year Bill, were introduced into the respective legislative branches in Albany. The successful passage of this legislation is reliant on our ability to have the New York City Council issue a Home Rule Message. 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.

HEARTSCAN SERVICES PROVIDED AT NO COST: Over 60 of our members took advantage of the LBA sponsored Carotid/Thyroid/Blood Pressure Screening provided by Marilyn Matinucci and her team from HeartScan Services at this meeting. This is the fourth time we have provided this screening to our members. A number of our members have been through the completely non-invasive screening and a few have benefitted from the early detection of thyroid issues detected by the screening. Unfortunately, thyroid issues are becoming more prevalent for members who responded to the terrorist attacks on September 11th. We will be sponsoring HeartScan Services at one of the spring meetings coming up and I urge you to take advantage of this service. We will announce the date/location and time in future newsletters and on the LBA website.

THANK YOU TO MEDICAL DIVISION PERSONNEL: I would like to thank LBA Delegate, Lieutenant Rommelle Chin, and the nurses from the Medical Division for attending our meeting and providing free flu shots to our Active Members.

LBA WATCH:



The LBA has identified a vendor to provide our members with the opportunity to again purchase a fine timepiece designed and produced specifically for LBA members. Each watch has its own limited-edition number on the back along with the LBA shield logo. The dial and buckle carry the LBA shield and the crown features the LBA initials. The word “LIEUTENANT” is inscribed

on the side of the watch. These fine watches make great gifts and serve as a memento for Active and Retired LBA members. The watch features stainless steel construction with a custom designed 44mm sport case, sapphire crystal, swiss made chronograph movement, 330 feet water resistance, screw on case back, screw down crown and two-tone solid steel bracelet. **The price for this chronograph watch is \$250.** The LBA currently has 100 of these newly designed watches on hand, and ready to be shipped. If you would like to order one of these watches, and receive it before the holidays, we suggest you place your order no later than December 1st. If you would like to purchase this watch, please click on the following link to the [LBA Watch Order Form](#), please fill out the information on the form and mail it to the LBA.

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 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.

2018 PERSONALIZED LBA CARDS: **Attached to this e-mail is an order form** to submit requests for 2018 Personalized LBA cards. Each dues paying LBA member will continue to receive 5 generic 2018 LBA cards in late November / early December at no cost. The personalized 2018 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. The form includes all the information necessary to process your orders. If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Sal DelRosario at the LBA, 212-964-7500 (Option# 2).

NEXT MEETING: The November LBA Delegate and General Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 22nd, 1000 hours, at the Hudson Council Knights of Columbus (49-18 Queens Blvd., Woodside). I hope to see you at the meeting.

Lou Turco
President

Dennis Gannon
Recording Secretary