

ATTENTION TO ROLLCALL

Association of Retired Police Officers of D.C. Inc.

14035 Canal Rd. SE
Cumberland, MD 21502
Toll Free 877-283-1065

Volume 22 Issue 1

March 2015

UPDATE ON TREASURY RAID ON PENSIONS

Just before the April General Membership Meeting of the AORP, representatives of the retired firefighters joined Gary Hankins, at his invitation, in a meeting with D.C. City Council Chairman Phil Mendelson. Gary had arranged for the meeting as part of a continuing joint effort between the retired firefighters and the AORP. The two organizations have been working together since the first of the year to stop the drive to reduce some of our members' pensions and seek past overpayments that total about 3 million dollars.

Gary reported to the Membership that Chairman Mendelson spent about 45 minutes with them and that he was interested in the details of how Treasury reached the decision to reduce pensions and seek millions of dollars in past overpayments. The discussion was clear and frank.

In the end, Mr. Mendelson asked for some time to consider the matter before he could make a decision. We had asked him to introduced emergency legislation before the City Council to provide that the City would offset any losses in the pensions of our members with District money. We argued that the District's Office and Pay and Retirement Services (OPRS) had made the miscalculations that Treasury says it has discovered. Further, that our members had no part or authority in making the calculations or the final determination of what was the correct amount.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is taking the lead in the Congress in this round and the AORP is working on the District government. The AORP lead the way on Capitol Hill last year in the effort to have all of the past overpayments related to the COLA reach back and Max80 issues.

We are now waiting for a meeting with key staff of Senator Mikulski and Congressman Hoyer's offices

which is being arranged by the IAFF. It is our hope to convince them to pressure Treasury to once again agree not to collect any past overpayments to include the miscellaneous ones they are not pursuing.

With the help of Congress, we were able to get Treasury to agree to forego collection of those overpayments. However, Treasury did not advise anyone that they had discovered additional "miscellaneous errors" when they completed the audits on the COLA and MAX80 issues. That's why many of our members got letters in January which advised them that Treasury would seek to collect any overpayments not related to the first two issues. Also, more than 500 retired police officers, firefighters and teachers saw their pensions reduced effective March 1, 2015.

Again, we ask every member who lives in the District to contact their Councilmember and the Mayor's office to ask them to step up and restore the pension dollars lost to Treasury because of mistakes made by the D.C. Office of Pay and Retirement Services.

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AORP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Gary Hankins

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Bob Arscott

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Bill Dixon

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Janet Hankins

TRUSTEES

Dave Shannon (2015)

Ed Reddick (2016)

Paul Angel (2015)

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR MEMBER– retired police officer

LIFE MEMBER– NO LONGER AVAILALABLE
AFTER 2012.

ASSOCIATE – Widow or widower of a Regular
or LIFE member – not required to pay dues.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AORP OFFICE

(877)283-1065

AORP OPTICAL/DENTAL PROGRAM

410-337-7577

DC RETIREMENT BOARD

(202)343-3272 (866)456-3272

POLICE & FF RELIEF BOARD

(202)442-9608

FOP LODGE (202)408-7767

FOP STORE (202)589-1637

METROPOLITAN POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Joe Mazur (703)370-2177

POLICE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Headquarters Branch

(202)383-1757

Main Branch

(301)817-1200 (877)278-7328

MPD RETIREMENT I.D.

HQ Room 4144

Derek (202)727-4183

LEGAL DEFENSE FUNDS NEEDED

When the US Treasury announced they were going after some of our members' annuities to take back funds we do not believe they are entitled to; and to reduce their monthly checks due to no fault of the member, one of the first questions we received was, "Are you setting up a legal fund for this?" We held off doing so until we could see the scope of the need.

Looking at the legal bills for the last three months, it is time to ask the membership for help. If you would like to make a donation, please send your check to the Cumberland address; make it payable to AORP and please indicate in the memo section of your check "LDF" or "legal" so it goes to the appropriate fund.

Gary will establish a method for making an online payment by debit/credit card. Once this is done, he will notify the membership by blast email.

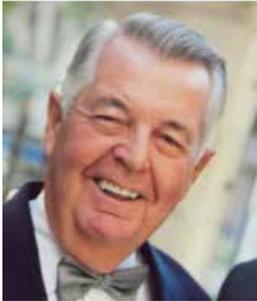
Since I became the Secretary/Treasurer, I have had the privilege of witnessing the generosity of our members who are quick to donate even when the issue at hand has no effect on them. This has been no exception. Thank you Brothers for the donations you have already made.

Janet Hankins

TRIBUTE TO BROTHER CHARLES E. HAINES

AORP BOARD TRUSTEE 2011- 2014

By Robert Arscott



Charlie Haines joined the Metropolitan Police Department on January 4, 1961 and retired August 30, 1980. Sadly on February 10, 2015, Charlie passed away.

I first met Charlie when I was a Detective Sergeant and was assigned to the 5th District Detective Squad. It didn't take me long to figure out that Charlie was an outstanding detective and a standup guy. He was always eager to take on tough cases and was almost always successful. Charlie was a problem solver, not a problem maker. He loved being a detective; but deep down I knew he loved his family more.

As time passed, Charlie was promoted to sergeant and I made lieutenant. But due to Department policy, we were both put in uniform and transferred to separate assignments. Charlie went to the Training Academy; and was instrumental in training several officers who later went on to become lieutenants, captains, inspectors and even an assistant chief.

Later, when I was transferred back to the 5th District Detectives, there was Charlie, now a Detective Sergeant. I had some concerns about this new assignment, but they were quickly alleviated when I found out that Charlie was assigned there as well.

When one thinks about the "Police Blue Line", Charlie was the classic example. He was totally loyal to the Department, extremely proficient, and a true friend. One of his main qualities was that he always backed up his men; and I must say that he backed me up anytime, as well. Charlie was gifted with the knack of being able to motivate people without alienating them.

After I transferred, Charlie and I still stayed in touch even though we had different assignments. We

remained friends for the next 20 years after we retired. In 2007, I was putting together a police retirement reunion for the Association of Retired Police Officers (AORP) in Ocean City. Charlie was the first one to call and offer me assistance. Once Charlie knew what was needed, just like always, he made it happen. He set up and managed the hospitality room. I'm sure that the fact that there was beer and whiskey involved had nothing to do with why he selected that particular job.

In 2010, I asked Charlie to join me and run as a board member of the AORP. He was reluctant at first, but eventually agreed and won the election. Unbeknown to me at that time, Charlie had serious health problems. In 2014, he decided to not run again; and did not tell anyone the reason why.

In late January 2015, his wife Bonnie called me and told me that Charlie was hospitalized with serious health problems. I went to the hospital and visited with him. He looked like the same Charlie I knew for almost 40 years; the smile was there, the upbeat attitude, was there and the humor was there.

His son Scott, a retired Major with the Prince George County Police Department, kept me abreast of Charlie's condition. One day in the early part of February, Scott called me from the hospital and told me that his dad was getting worse. He told me that his dad wanted to talk to me, but that his voice was weak and may be hard to understand. The first thing Charlie said was, "Hey! Top Banana." That was the last time I talked to Charlie.

We all put in our time as police officers as did Charlie. I'm sure you can all relate to this poem.

*As the Policeman waited quietly,
For His judgement, God said,
"Step forward now, Policeman.
You have borne your burdens well.
Come walk the beat of Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in hell."*

AORP MEMBERS DESERVE THANKS

Thank you **William Yates** for sending in an original photo of the first female traffic cop for the MPD museum.

Clattie Cunningham (703-802-4895) continues to help members calculate their Social Security to make sure they are getting the correct amount. He, also, knows a lot of little rules that work to your benefit that can get lost in the fine print.

Want to know about Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), Federal Health Insurance, or Medicare? Contact **Jim Aurouze** at willal@comcast.net or on 301-843-8187.

Family members are so grateful for old articles about their deceased officer that **Dave Richardson** locates from the Washington Post archives. Dave, also, provides interesting articles and photos for the AORP website on a daily basis. His daily jokes start the day with a smile.

Danny Rhoades and **Walter Bormann** assist with the monthly membership meetings by signing in members, selling 50/50 tickets (half of which is donated to the Dollard-Suter Family Fund each month); and helping with the dinners twice a year.

Thank you all for being such an important part of the AORP!

LAST NEWSLETTER?

If you have not paid your 2015 dues, your membership is now INACTIVE and this will be your last newsletter. Dues are \$35 and may be paid online or by mailing a check/money order to: AORP, 14035 CANAL ROAD, SE, CUMBERLAND, MD 21502.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN FILING FOR SURVIVOR'S ANNUITY

The Police & Firefighters Retirement and Relief Board is now requiring documentation proving the end of ALL previous marriages, for you and/or your spouse when your spouse files for a Survivor's Annuity after your death.

YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE MUST HAVE PROOF OF THE END OF EVERY MARRIAGE – NO MATTER HOW LONG AGO OR HOW LONG IT LASTED. THERE IS NO EXCEPTION. IF YOUR SURVIVOR DOES NOT HAVE THIS DOCUMENTATION, IT WILL PREVENT THE ANNUITY FROM BEING APPROVED. PLEASE GET THESE DOCUMENTS NOW!

There was a case where a precious divorce was not finalized many years ago. This prevented a widow from receiving any survivor's benefits despite being "married" for decades.

RENEWING DUES?

IF YOU ARE RENEWING YOUR DUES ONLINE – DO NOT CLICK ON REGISTER. THIS CREATES A SECOND FILE FOR YOU AND CAUSES A LOT OF WORK TO STRAIGHTEN OUT. ALWAYS USE LOGIN. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR USERNAME/PASSWORD, SEND JANET AN EMAIL AT jhankins@atlanticbb.net AND LET HER KNOW WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME – SHE GAVE UP MIND READING A FEW YEARS AGO!

HR 218 ANNUAL REGISTRATION NEW, IMPROVED & CHEAPER

By Gary Hankins

I recently made my annual trip to MPD Headquarters for renewal of my national Carry Permit made possible under the Congressional legislation entitled HR218 some years ago. This is a regular, but not entirely enjoyable, pilgrimage due to parking, expense, stops in the process being spread out all over Headquarters.

This year I was pleasantly surprised when I was directed to the new Firearms Registration Unit located in Room 3058. I anticipated more congestion and confusion since the MPD is now required to register long guns and handguns for anyone who lives in the District.

Upon arrival there, I discovered a clean, orderly and quiet office. I met Officer Eldorado Mills who is just a couple of years short of retirement. He is a good man and very good at his job. He took my old card and asked if I wanted to use the digital photo on file or have a new one. I opted for the old one.

After handing over my firearm qualification letter, earned under the direction of AORP brother, Anthony Medoro, I looked for a place to sit down. I didn't need it! Officer Mills advised me that I could go the other office in their suite, and pay \$13 for my registration. "\$13", I asked? "Yes", he answered. They no longer require back ground checks after your first one and the prints are digitized now, too. Not only that, but when I walked the dozen steps to the other office in the suite, they took my charge card and handled my sale faster than a 7-11.

I was done and out of there in 15 minutes, walking back to my car and enjoying the free time. Just a heads up when somethings goes better than right and they actually improve on past performance. Thanks to Chief Lanier, Officer Mills and everyone in between.

1ST PRESIDENT OF DOLLARD-SUTER FUND PASSES

Thomas P. Reilly was a booming presence wherever he went. He was a big guy with a big laugh and an even bigger heart. Tom was always ready to take the lead when he saw the need. For many years, Tom (with his partner in crime, Bob Drescher) spearheaded the COPS are TOPS Luncheon. He, also, accepted the challenge of being the first president of the Dollard-Suter Family Fund. On January 22nd, Tom passed on to his Heavenly reward... which surely includes a great golf course! (See Tom's favorite poem, "I am the Officer", in box below.)

"I am the Officer"

I have been where you fear to be,
I have seen what you fear to see,
I have done what you fear to do -
All these things I have done for you.
I am the person you lean upon,
The one you cast your scorn upon,
The one you bring your troubles to -
All these people I've been for you.
The one you ask to stand apart,
The one you feel should have no heart,
The one you call "The Officer in Blue,"
But I'm just a person, just like you.
And through the years I've come to see,
That I am not always what you ask of me;
So, take this badge ... take this gun ...
Will you take it ... will anyone?
And when you watch a person die
And hear a battered baby cry,
Then do you think that you can be
All these things you ask of me?
(Author unknown)

MOST SENIOR LIFE MEMBERS

MEMBER	DOB	JOINED AORP
HAROLD F. GIPE	09/21/15	09/01/73
MOIR G. BALILES	01/18/16	01/03/68
JAMES L. FAIRCLOTH	12/22/17	09/01/71
ROBERT F. MILLER	05/04/18	01/03/73
JOHN J. BALASSA	08/25/18	11/06/69
FRANK G. STONER	06/27/19	11/03/76
LEONARD V. DENITTO	03/16/20	09/02/81
YANCEY H. GARNER	12/23/20	01/05/77

Coming Soon

New Merchandise

THE AORP HAS TURNED OVER OUR MERCHANDISE BUSINESS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE COMMEMORATIVE BADGES, TO BOB DOWD. BOB SUPPLIES THE DC FOP GIFT SHOP WITH ITS MERCHANDISE AND MAINTAINS A WEBSITE AT FOPDCGIFT.COM.

IN THE COMING WEEKS, BOB WILL ADD AN AORP PAGE TO HIS MERCHANDISE WEBSITE. THE MERCHANDISE WILL BE AN UPGRADED QUALITY WITH FASTER AVAILABILITY.

ONCE IT IS SET UP, WE WILL PUT A LINK TO HIS MERCHANDISE WEBSITE ON THE AORP WEBSITE. THOSE WHO DO NOT USE THE COMPUTER WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE ORDER PAGE THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

IN MEMORIAM

Since the last quarterly newsletter, the following members, or their spouses, have been added to the list of those who have answered their last Roll Call and have gone on before us. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their family and friends.

NAME	RETIRED	DEPT	RANK	ASSIGN	DOD
Edward M. Schlorb	01/01/70	MPD	OFF	SOD	11/22/14
William F. Sturgeon	12/31/72	MPD	LT	TRNG	01/06/15
Everett D. Abbott	04/01/79	MPD	SGT	MD	01/09/15
Thomas R. Estes	03/01/78	MPD	D/C	PATROL	01/13/15
Robert F. Zinn	09/01/63	MPD	OFF	TD	01/17/15
Thomas P. Reilly	02/28/73	MPD	D/SGT	CID	01/22/15
Donald J. Bartel	01/01/75	MPD	OFF	K9	01/28/15
Charles E. Haines	08/30/80	MPD	SGT	5D	02/10/15
Sheldon Fischer	01/01/66	MPD	SGT	5PCT	02/15/15
Thomas E. Blake III	06/01/70	MPD	OFF	SOD	02/17/15
Harry Bogel	08/01/69	MPD	OFF	7PCT	02/25/15
Arnold J. Lau	09/30/79	USSS	A/D	TRNG	02/28/15
Robert S. Shuttleworth	07/31/71	MPD	INSP	FOB	03/03/15
Edward P. Leasburg	01/01/70	MPD	SGT	13PCT	03/08/15
Caesar Casiano, Jr.	02/25/12	MPD	DET	CID	03/27/15

NAME	SPOUSE	DOD
Florence I. Decker	Irwin G. Decker	12/19/14
Antoinette M. Kochis	George J. Kochis	02/01/15
Georgeianna R. Cosier	Walter Cosier	03/25/15

NAME	WIDOW OF	DOD
Mary Kay Cronan	William M. Cronan	11/02/14
Doris W. Taylor	William O. Taylor, Jr.	01/20/15
Estelle Bowman	Walter B. Bowman	02/14/15
Mary M. Andrews	Elmer J. Andrews	02/22/15
Grace H. Clark	William C. Clark, Jr.	03/02/15
Anne M. Stines	Ralph L. Stines	03/08/15

NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS

No matter what your type of membership, please request your loved ones to notify the AORP upon your passing. Ask them to contact Janet Hankins on (202) 438-1494. I can assist them with the notifications that will need to be made; and, make sure that any money due your estate is located.

AORP MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FRIST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JUNE, JULY & AUGUST. A MEAL IS PROVIDED PRIOR TO THE MAY AND OCTOBER MEETING FOR \$10 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

MEETINGS ARE HELD UPSTAIRS AT THE BRANCVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 4905 BRANCHVILLE ROAD, COLLEGE PARK, MD.

**MAY 6TH IS A DINNER MEETING
DINNER BEGINS AT 6PM - MEETING AT 7PM.**

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