

ATTENTION TO ROLLCALL

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

P.O. BOX 22
HANOVER, MD 21076
Toll Free 877-283-1065

Volume 22 Issue 3

September 2019

Longtime Volunteers Recognized for Helping Fellow Officers



Clatie Cunningham (left) and Jim Aurouze (right) receive plaques recognizing years of service.

The Association of Retired Police was founded on the principle of volunteerism dedicated to the community of brave men and women who serve and protect their fellow citizens. Throughout the years many of our members have stepped forward to serve their brothers and sisters in every circumstance. They serve at our membership meetings; in elected offices; and in the homes and besides of those who find themselves in difficult circumstances of ill health. We do not have the time or space to recognize them all.

Jim Aurouze and Clatie Cunningham have spent years working to help our members who face difficulties with the benefits that come with retirement, like the choice of health plans and serious questions about the Social Security entitlements. These two gentleman have gifts of understanding and expertise in these areas which have helped many to make choices that helped ensure they received the proper benefits. Thanks for serving those who served.

AORP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Gerald G. Neill

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Ed Reddick

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Lou Cannon

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Janet Gross

TRUSTEES

Paul Angel (2019)

Al Kelly (2017)

Henry Banks (2019)

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR MEMBER– Retired Officer

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

Al Kelly (301)758-9553

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

RETRO CHECKS

Retro Checks Update: If you were an active Officer or Sergeant on MPD between October 1, 2017 and February 1, 2019 you should have your retro check in your hands now. About three weeks ago members let it be known that they had their checks. MPD payroll has let it be known that if you have not received your retro check by the end of October to call them.

Since we are addressing retro checks, the MPD pay raise is a done deal. This contract begins on the first day of the fiscal year which is October 1st.

MPD Labor Committee negotiated the pay raise with the below listed dates and percentages:

3 percent pay raise for 2018 being paid back to October 1, 2017.

2 percent pay raise for 2019 being paid back to October 2018.

3.5 percent pay raise for 2020 being paid back to October 2019.

To all who have received money owed in the latest round of pay raises, spend it well. You earned it. If you decide to put some away for rainy days ahead or give some to your favorite charity or church its money you earned.

Congratulations,

Gerald G. Neill,
President

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Retro Checks Update: If you were an active Officer or Sergeant on MPD between October 1, 2017 and February 1, 2019 have been keeping up on your posts on the AORP web site. I see that many remember some of the more interesting events that they were involved with on the job. How lucky we were to have a job where we looked forward to getting on the street and being the police. Not the "O-lice", but the real Police. Imagine going to work every day and hating your job. The police stories we have but can never tell anyone other than a trusted few. These are the stories I look forward to on our web site.

A lot of our membership is older, and I glean a bit of sadness in your hearts as we all age. What I know is that we must keep busy. Find an interest. Lend your hearts to that interest. If you can, donate time or money to that interest. The lessons you learned in life should be passed on. Lord only knows that the newer generation today needs it.

We are the retired sworn officers and officials of the Metropolitan Police Department. There were times in our lives when we were the best police in the country. We have a membership that is not only known all over the country but all over the world. I know that your words and actions represent the best in us.

What interests do you support? I am sure it is a long list. You can email me at police21stcent@aol.com. If you do not want to share openly, I will keep your name out of anything I write or talk about.

Reaching out:

I began my career in the Seventh District. The old timers of the Seventh District as they like to call themselves are a strong family. In the old days of policing, your tour began when you took the streets with your family. We all supported each other like family. We backed each other up on the streets and all checked off together.

Just a few days ago one of my training officers, Master Patrol Officer Charles Washington, hit me up for a donation to support the Seventh District Commanders Children's Christmas party. I will be honored to send them a check.

Heck MPO Washington was one of the officers who taught me how to police on the streets and survive. I can remember the entire Sector 2-A section officers names. Each of them had a lesson for me in policing. I just had to listen. I got most of the lesson free of bumps and bruises.

I know that there are other groups from other districts meeting including a group from SOD. We will reach out to these groups and bring them into our AORP family.

Preparing for the end of our tours:

A few months ago, at one of our meetings, I began to talk about this article, and thought you would like the information.

In the spring issue of the 2019 TERP; which is the University of Maryland Alumni magazine, they devoted several pages to an article entitled, "Speaking of Death". Here is the short version:

1. Write your advanced medical directives. If it is written down and properly documented the hospital must follow your wishes. These decisions are usually made when you are of sound health both of mind and body, and express what we want done FOR US in our final days and hours. Such as no heroic measures to keep us alive. No ventilators tube and no intravenous hydration.

2. Prepare a Will. Even if there is not a lot that you want to leave write down who gets what. Our Attorney Michael Hannon is ready to help with your will not where you live in the United States.

3. Collect YOUR financial information. The AORP has a document that is available to you written by Janet Hankins entitled "I Die and Then What? Take the time to read this if you haven't done so, and do this now.

4. Shop before you drop. Know what it costs for the kind of service you want when you check off the book. Visit local funeral homes before you need their services.

4. Talk to your loved ones. This is probably the hardest thing we have to do at this time in our lives. They better be ready, because we are all going to be called home one day.

To my AORP family; Good health and God's Blessing to you and yours.

Respectfully, Gerald G. Neill Jr.- AORP President

NEW DIRECTORY INFORMATION PLEASE READ ALL THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AND TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

The AORP will be publishing a new directory. Please take a few moments to examine the label at the bottom of this page for accuracy. If there are no corrections, and you would like your information included in the next directory, simply print CORRECT over the face of the blank form. If the word, "invalid" appears in your email address, we do not have an email address for you.

If there are corrections, please make them on the space provided below the label. We can put only one phone number and one email address in the directory. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY TO AVOID ANY ERRORS. Cut the form where indicated and mail it to:

**AORP
P.O.BOX22
HANOVER, MD 21076**

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR INFORMATION LISTED IN THE NEW DIRECTORY, PLEASE GO AHEAD AND MAKE ANY CORRECTIONS ON THE FORM FOR OUR RECORDS, AND BE SURE TO MARK THE "DO NOT PUBLISH MY INFORMATION" BOX AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM

IF YOU MADE CORRECTIONS, CUT ON THE LINE ABOVE & MAIL TO AORP ADDRESS

LABEL

The word "invalid" in your email means we have no email address for you

FIRST NAME MI LAST NAME

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SPOUSE

DO NOT PUBLISH MY INFORMATION

AORP CHALLENGES TREASURY

The AORP membership authorized the Board to hire Mr. Bob Deso, an attorney who has represented the MPD Fraternal Order of Police and the AORP regularly over the last forty years in matters of individual and group employment issues. Mr. Deso argued and won the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) case on behalf of the active members of the MPD which netted millions of dollars in compensation for past violations of the FLSA and forever changed the way police officers are compensated for overtime hours worked.

The AORP asked Mr. Deso to determine if the U.S. Treasury's Office of DC Pensions (ODCP) has the authority to change the effective dates of retirement for MPD members. The ODCP has changed the effective dates for many members who retired at times which qualified them for the "Look Back" Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). These men and women were awarded the COLA for the six month period prior to their retirement as well as the COLA which became effective just after their retirement date.

The ODCP decided to change the effective date of their retirements in such a way as to disallow the Look Back COLA. Subsequently, they recalculated their pensions to eliminate the original Look Back. This reduced their original pensions and the ODCP calculated all of their subsequent pension increases to reduce them as a result of the original reduction.

The District's firefighters were similarly affected and experience reductions across their pensions as well. The Retired Firefighters Association joined the AORP in sharing the cost of Mr. Deso's research.

The ODCP has resisted any suggestions that it has acted improperly in making these reductions. They continue to maintain they have the authority to make changes in the method of calculations and awarding of pensions which were made by the District of Columbia as police officers and firefighters retired.

The AORP, working in cooperation with the Retired Firefighters Association spent years working to reverse previous recalculations done by the ODCP which affected hundreds of our members. The ODCP rejected our initial explanations of why we believed they had acted improperly. But, with the help of Members of Congress and the U.S. Senate, they were convinced to reverse themselves. They restored the benefits of the affected retirees.

Mr. Deso has spent many hours researching the law and past practices relating to the ODCP's latest actions against our members. He has focused on the applicable statutory and regulatory provisions that were in effect when the District made the original decision to award the Look Back COLAs to the affected police officers and firefighters.

As a result of his efforts, Mr. Deso crafted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) letter to be sent by the presidents of the AORP and the Retired Firefighters Association. The letter requests copies of all relevant materials which the District used or published that describes the authorities and their application in decisions to award the Look Back COLAs to police officers and firefighters.

It is our position that the awarding of the Look Back COLAs were done in error. But, rather than the District properly applied the law in this issue. Accordingly, we do not believe that the ODCP has the authority to retroactively apply their federal standards to the decisions made by the District on behalf of its employees.

We believe the District's response to our FOIA will provide the documentation necessary to support a suit against the ODCP demanding that they reverse their actions and pay back any losses to the affected brothers and sisters. A copy of the FOIA letter appears on page X of this newsletter.

We will publish articles reporting on the progress of this as it proceeds.



ARE YOU MISSING OUT on Police FCU BENEFITS?



Here is just a small sample of what's available!

The HONOR CARD From Police FCU

Get our exclusive HONOR Credit Card with a low, non-variable rate of **6.99% APR***. This special card is in honor and recognition of our **retired law enforcement officers** and **new recruits**.

HONOR CARD
Non-variable rate of 6.99% APR*



*APR=Annual Percentage Rate, which is subject to change without notice.



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*APY= Annual Percentage Yield, which is subject to change without notice.

START ENJOYING ALL THE BENEFITS OF A POLICE FCU MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Call 301-817-1200 or visit to www.policefcu.com



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
Joseph L. Fink Jr.	06/30/1989	MPDC	OFC	4D	04/18/2019
Gilbert Bussey	08/31/1990	MPDC	CAPT	7D	05/12/2019
Thomas F. Matthews	01/31/1995	MPDC	SGT	5D	06/13/2019
Harry Begle	10/01/1972	MPDC	OFC	CID	06/21/2019
Gerard LeGrande	01/01/2000	MPDC	OFC	1D1	07/13/2019
James V Francis	06/30/2014	MPDC	D1	CID	07/13/2019
Francis Richard Ford	11/01/1973	MPDC	LT	MD	07/23/2019
James H Ahrens	04/01/1976	MPDC	LT	2D	08/19/2019
Columbus Collins	05/05/1990	MPDC	OFC	5D	08/29/2019
Robert E. Reynolds	10/01/1976	MPDC	SGT	ID&R	08/29/2019
Thomas C. Collins	07/01/1972	MPDC	SGT	5D	09/07/2019
James Costello	09/30/1978	MPDC	Det/SGT	USCP	09/12/2019

NAME	SPOUSE	DOD
Louise McBroom	Eugene McBroom	06/14/2019

NAME	WIDOW OF	DOD
Carolina Edwards	James P. Edwards	01/18/2018
Harriett Somerville	Joseph Somerville	05/04/2019
Aziza Buentello	Frank Buentello	05/11/2019
Marguerite V. Anastasi	Augustine (Gus) Anastasi	06/20/2019
Theresa Cones	Conrad Cones	07/02/2019
Edna Barrick	Pete Barrick	07/21/2019

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 Joe Roche on (703)232-9695. 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 FIRST 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 BRANCVILLE ROAD, COLLEGE PARK, MD.

SPECIAL ATTENTION: JANUARY 2020 MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2020.

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