

BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICER

LOCAL 964

--STAFF--

STEPHAN G. FUGATE -- TOM NOSEK

By and For the Professional Fire Officer

IN UNION

THERE IS STRENGTH

Volume , Issue

June/July 2010

From the Desk of the President

By Stephan G. Fugate

My apology

If this newsletter is arriving a bit later than usual, it's my fault, and I apologize. The problem is that the several significant issues we've been dealing with on a daily, no, hourly basis seem also to change just as quickly and what I'll write today (6/8/10) may well change tomorrow. There are other matters included in this newsletter, however, that are time-sensitive, so I'll run with what I know today.

Our jobs

On June 3rd, I wrote a letter to thirty five members of our Union Local that contained notice of a distinct possibility never before faced in the sixty-two year history of Local 964. We've been through salary freezes, permanent and rotating closures, increased health care costs, three-person crews, and an assault on virtually every aspect of our employment rights and benefits but on June 1st, I received the hard copy of a letter from the Labor Commissioner providing notification of the demotions of thirty-five incumbent officers. An unprecedented action that simply demanded action by the Union to notify those potentially affected members and that was done.

Needless to say, that notice from the Union was not well received, but we cannot "sit" on a notice from the Labor

Commissioner even though it was not consistent with the provisions of our MOU. We do apologize for any unnecessary angst we may have caused for those recipients of our letter, but it's best to be aware of something that may not happen than to be caught cold with something that does happen. As I write, the Council is one meeting away from final adoption of a revenue package that would produce \$20mm and ostensibly obviate the need for layoffs and demotions in both the Police and Fire Departments.

Might I suggest that those thirty five members in receipt of our letter SAVE that letter for future reference. Some of you will end up in high level positions in the future when this very same issue will resurface and it will be instructive to have evidence of your own brush with personal catastrophe and how time, patience and understanding can make things right.

Pension Issues (again)

Quite frankly, I've lost track of what's been reported here and what has not, but I do know that Council Bill 10-0519 was just introduced last night (6/7), so I'm confident that I have not written about that yet. Council Bill 10.0519 is a "replacement" for Council Bill 10-0482 which the Unions found to be totally unacceptable. Truth be told, Council Bill 10-0519 is a marginal improvement of 10-0482 but nonetheless unacceptable primarily because it is a diminution of benefits for incumbent members and (we believe) a violation of the "contract clause on Section 42 of Article 22 of the Baltimore City Code.

There's really no point in listing the provisions of 10-0519 as, again, that

might well change before this writing goes to print. The Bill was introduced on 6/7 and the committee hearing is already scheduled for 6/10 and though the Bill has a majority of Council members as co-sponsors, anything could happen in the committee hearing process. Suffice it to say that the content of this newest Bill is disappointing to the extent that the authors continue to ignore the input and opinion of the stakeholders (US) and seem to operate in a world devoid of countering opinions. We'll do our best to keep our members up to date via the web site in between newsletters, but I suppose the local media may be a step ahead of us.

On June 3rd, the FOP and Local 734 did file a Federal Lawsuit naming the City of Baltimore, Mr. Tom Taneyhill, Mr. Ed Gallagher, and the Board of Trustees. The fifty-seven page filing amounts to eleven counts or claims of wrongdoing, naming the Board of Trustees in nine of those counts. Obviously, I am among those Trustees which makes me a defendant in the action, so I'll have to refrain from commentary in this forum. On the one hand, I honestly do not want to undermine any LEGITIMATE claims made by the FOP and 734 but on the other hand, I have a personal interest in having the FACTS prevail rather than cherry-picked half-truths but I suppose that will all be played out in Court and I am truly looking forward to the debate.

That issue aside, I do not want our members to think that we are simply sitting on our hands, on the sidelines, and not engaged in the process. While we are not and do not want to be part of the FOP, 734 effort, we have engaged who we believe to be the premier public

...continued on page 2

From the President's Desk.....

...continued from page 1

fund attorney in the Country to represent our interests and that could be the subject of an entire newsletter.

Mr. Klausner is domiciled in and practices from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, so our contact with him has, of necessity, been via telephone for the most part. We sent nearly eighteen pounds of documents to him about a month ago essentially containing everything of consequence, and he has read through that and is preparing an informational "memo" for our consideration. He will be coming to Baltimore on Monday, June 28th to address our members at day/night meetings and we, as a Local, will decide where to go from there and how to do that. The point being that though Local 964 is not a plaintiff in the recent filing by the FOP and 734, we WILL be a stand-alone plaintiff if appropriate and necessary.

Keep in mind that there are basically three primary issues in dispute. First, the under-funding of the plan and how or why that happened as well as the appropriate remedy. Second, the alleged underpayment of post-retirement increases over a three year period wherein an assumption rate of less than 6.8% was used in benefit calculation. And third, the proposed changes in the current benefit structure for both active and retired members.

In a nutshell, there's significant disagreement in the first issue, and I suppose that's an area best left to the Court to decide. The existing case law is mixed, but we do not believe it to be a cause of action to warrant our support.

The second issue is, quite frankly, debatable and we believe it could go one way or the other, and we really have no issue either way. If indeed, the Board erred in determining the post-retirement benefits for our members, we should make it all good including back-pay. We do also believe, however, that the Board has the latitude to not grant a benefit that it cannot pay for but, again, the Court will sort that out.

Finally, on the benefit diminution issue, we're ALL on the same page. We believe the "contract clause is VERY clear and that incumbent members' ben-

efits cannot be "diminished or impaired". Again, while we're not a joint plaintiff in that regard with the FOP and 734, we WILL file a separate judicial claim at the appropriate time.

I know that I've mixed the pronouns in all of this using "I" and "we" almost interchangeably, but let me be clear with a final observation. I am absolutely certain that years from now, when our then members look back on what's happening as I write, they'll agree that Local 964 did the right things for the right reasons and all of the uncertainty and doubt will have been unfounded. I also know that many of our members are not at all happy with me and/or what we're doing in response to the "pension issue" but I would respectfully ask for your understanding and patience. There's well-founded logic to our position and if I end-up being wrong, you know where I live.

More Pension news

You may already know that June 30th will close the last chapter of Ed "Porky" Heckrotte's collective FORTY-TWO YEAR run as a Pension Board Trustee in both the active member and retired member positions. Ed is likely the longest serving Public Pension Fund Trustee in the nation and his vast experience and institutional knowledge of our Plan will be sorely missed. It has been my pleasure to sit by his side for twelve years, and I'll be forever grateful for his friendship, guidance, and patience.

I'm not sure "replacing" is a word that even Joe himself would use, but Retired Lieutenant Joe Machovec will be taking the seat as the retired member trustee effective July 1st. Joe may be new to the Board but certainly not new to the "atmosphere" having served as an officer in both Local 734 and Local 964 as well as his longtime service on the Metro Fire Fighters Burn Fund. In short, Joe will serve our members well, and I would like to personally and publicly congratulate him and wish him the best.

Also, June 30th will close out my twelve year run as the active member Trustee, ten and one half of which were as Chairman. For any number of reasons, I chose not to run for another four-year term and an election concluded just today to fill that seat for a full four year

term. Both candidates, Don Dziwulski and Ray Hudson are qualified to serve and it was Ray Hudson who prevailed in the election, so he too will begin his term on July 1st. My personal and public congratulations to Ray and my best wishes for a smooth four years. The learning curve is steep, but I know Ray well enough to know that he'll do just fine and I'm confident that he too will serve our members well.

With the "happy" news out of the way, let me offer my personal disappointment in the process and it is NOT a criticism of ANY of the members mentioned above, it's a criticism of US. The Pension Board Trustee positions are likely the single most important advocates that we have and with all of the very difficult days and years ahead for not only our Plan but Public Defined Benefit Pension Plans in general, the interest should have been overwhelming. Only ONE retired member, however, stepped up to the challenge and that is simply a disgrace! Any, not a slap at Joe, he's a quality guy who will do very well so perhaps the end result is all that really matters but, again, only ONE retired member was interested? Unbelievable.

On the active member side, two members did step up and I suppose others may have been scared-off by all of the turmoil and that's fine. The American Arbitration Association conducted the election process and there were THREE ways to vote; by mail, by telephone, or via the internet. Okay, not everyone has internet service, but how many members don't have a telephone? And sure, there aren't as many street corner mail boxes any more, but PLEASE!!!

With THREE methods of voting, however, and several weeks to do so, only THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT of our active members bothered to vote!!! With all of the b**ching, moaning, whining and complaining about our pension system, THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT?!?!?!?! That's unforgivable Brothers and Sisters and the SIXTY-SIX PERCENT of you who didn't bother to vote are an embarrassment!

Very Briefly

A joint grievance was filed challenging the method of administering the six

month non-line-of-duty sick leave and the ninety-day terminal leave on September 18, 2009. On April 28th as we sat down before an Arbitrator, serious discussions of a settlement commenced and after more than two hours of negotiations, the Arbitrator was dismissed and we've worked since to craft a settlement. We are dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's" and expect to have a resolve very soon which, in short, will provide what amounts to eight months of leave in total. There are too many permutations of circumstances to explain in detail, but all of that will be published when the agreement is approved by the Board of Estimates.

Also, another long standing dilemma of not having a firm number of maximum leave days a member can accrue will be settled shortly. Once confirmed, members of 734 and 964 appointed before and after 7/1/79 will have a fixed number for reference rather than the "five years, working on six", etc. Suffice it to say that the agreement goes somewhat beyond the underlying problem and is actually a more generous number with "add-ons" for furloughs, grievance settlement and con-ed day accumulation. It's a good deal and you'll be please.

In closing

Have a safe and wonderful summer. Don't work too hard and spend some time with the kids.

Thanks to those who've taken the time to call, email, or write with their support.

And God Bless!

**Contact Locals 964 and 734
to purchase the**

**"We Support Our
Troops Shirt"**

Cost \$15.00

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

By Mike Campbell

My wife and I attended the Welcome Home Ceremony in Ft. Carson, Colorado for our son Jason along with over 340 troops returning from Afghanistan over the Memorial Day Weekend. Between the last newsletter and this one, we found out that Jason had been serving in the Korengal Valley, which has been dubbed "The valley of death" (and that caused much unrest in our household), but we are very pleased that he has returned safely to the states. He suffered a little loss of hearing from the continuous bombing and the extra pounds of muscle he has put on makes me think that just maybe I can't take him out any longer! The "words to twirl by" in this newsletter have significant meaning to our son and daughter, so grab a cold one and enjoy some Lynyrd Skynyrd. Leisa and I are extremely lucky and proud to have Jason and Megan and want to thank all of you for the thoughts and prayers wishing for Jason's safe return!

Maybe the paragraph above held influence in my next paragraph, but I would like to open this article with some personal views of what has and what is transpiring in my eyes with Local 964 concerning the pension issue. Recently, I was approached by an individual who wanted me to be aware that there were those in the field that don't hold Steve in high regard lately and feel I am "falling on the sword" for Steve Fugate, and that it may not be in my best interests and it could have a detrimental effect concerning any aspirations that I may have for future elected office. Well, I'm not real fond of perception or innuendo even though they do seem to rule the day around the various kitchen tables. What I am fond of is doing what you are elected to do and that is to make the best decisions possible for the membership and have a strong work ethic while maintaining your honesty and integrity. I have yet to see Steve come up short in either of these qualities! There is also a little thing

called the facts which some love to twist or just plain ignore if it doesn't suit their personal agenda. Again, I have yet to see or hear Steve mislead or misstate the facts. What I have heard him say is that in hindsight maybe the Trustees should've made some other choices. With that said, do I feel the pension system is going bankrupt? NO! Has any retiree not received a check? NO! Are some changes necessary to keep the system sustainable? YES! The three groups are still working hard on this and will do our best to see that our members' rights are protected. I'm not going to get into the weeds with the issue of us, 734 and the FOP. I'm more than happy to discuss that over a beverage of your choice. I guess my point in all of this is that the baseless claims of Steve's sudden onset of incompetence and my "blind loyalty" to him are just that, baseless claims, but if that is the sentiment out there. SO BE IT! My work on behalf of the membership will not be altered by some who wish to sway the masses with half truths and lies, but there are elections next year for mine and Steve's positions and if there is a groundswell for change then step up, grab the ball and run!!! As of this writing L-734 and the FOP have filed a law suit which claims that the pension system has been underfunded by the City along with the City Council introducing Council bill 10-0519 whereby changes would be made to Active and Retired members' benefits. I know that Steve will go over both issues in depth, so I will leave it at that other than to say that the bill that is being offered is not acceptable in its current form! Last but not least, I would like to personally thank Steve and Ed Heckrotte who combined has served our members for over 50 years concerning the F&P Retirement System. Thanks to both of you for your many years of service and for looking out for our benefits!!!! By the time you read this, we will have a new Active and Retiree representative on the Pension Board. Good luck to both. You have very large shoes to fill!

...continued on page 4

From the Desk of the 2nd V.P.

...continued from page 3

Outside of the pension issue we have been very busy with the City's budget and how it will possibly affect the BCFD. Steve and I sat down with the FD administration in late May going over what I truly hope will be an exercise that never sees the light of day and that is putting to paper the names of 7 of our Captains and 28 of our Lieutenants who face possible demotion if the City does not receive the financial package that is working its way through the City Council. This may have been the lowest day of my career in the BCFD, but I still hold out hope that this will not come to fruition. Per the MOU and the Administrative Manual the FD is compelled to notify each member within 21 days of a demotion and the Union has sent letters to those who may be affected prior to the Department's notification. I am available 24 hrs. a day, every day, to answer any questions that you may have concerning this. President Fugate has assigned me to represent L-964 in the last three analyses of incidents whereby a member either died in the line-of-duty or was seriously injured while fighting a fire. In all three of these analysis' it has been made crystal clear from the outset that there would be no disciplinary action taken against an individual involved in these incidents, but I still hear from some of our members that **they know** that the FD is looking to hang someone and are spreading this BS throughout the Department. Nothing could be further from the truth! Chief Clack has told the Committees that I have been involved with that we are only looking for ways to see that our members go home the same way they came to work and I, for one, don't have a problem with that. These Committees are made up of several members from the Command Staff and your peers along with a representative from each Union. I have asked President Fugate to choose someone else who is not a member of the Executive Board or a Trustee in the future so our folks can really see what it is that the Committee

has been tasked to do. Please send an e-mail to Steve or myself if you would like to be considered for any future analysis that may be needed. I'm hoping we never have a need for another one!! Ms. Virginia Eckard has taken over the Logistics position that Chief Trimper previously occupied. If you have an issue with your fire house, make sure you write a Special Report and call it in to Ms. Hendricks, but also send an e-mail to Ms. Eckard and cc me. This should help speed up the process. Ms. Eckard is also stopping by the fire houses to educate herself. Please give her any assistance she may need. Thanks!

Please keep FFPM Jeff Novack, Truck 12 in your prayers. Jeff is recuperating from injuries suffered on the fire ground rescuing civilians trapped in an apartment fire. Also, keep Lt. Larry Hughes and Lt. Jeff Walsh in your prayers. Both are recovering from injuries while fighting fires!

I attended the Deferred Compensation Committee meeting on 5/25/10. So far Great-West has done a fine job managing the plan. The Legg Mason Value Fund and the Artisan Mid Cap Value Fund were the two funds that missed their benchmarks by the greatest percentages. The two most sought after Hardship Claims were for foreclosure and medical needs this past quarter. If you have questions or concerns about Deferred Comp., contact the Deferred Compensation Plan Office at 201 E. Baltimore Street, Suite 120 or call 410-332-0809 or 1-877-233-2748. Their hours are Monday thru Friday from 0800 to 1700 hrs. Please keep abreast by logging on the Fire Officers website at www.iafflocal964.org.

Health Care

Please see below info. concerning what you need to do if you have a change in your Health Care status prior to Open Enrollment.

Family Status Change: The 2-Step Process

What Life Events Qualify As A Family Status Change?

- Birth
- Divorce
- Adoption
- Loss of Coverage - Employee, Spouse or Dependent Child
- Legal Guardianship
- Gain Other Coverage - Employee, Spouse or Dependent Child
- Court Ordered Dependent
- Child Termination of Domestic Partnership (Same Gender)
- Marriage
- Dependent Child No Longer Eligible
- Death of a Covered Dependent
- Change in Dependent Day Care Fees

The 2 -Step Process

If you experience a family status change, you must update your health benefits enrollment status online by logging onto BOSS at www.baltimorecity.essbenefits.com and submitting the required documentation to Employee Benefits within 60 days from the date of the change. For example, if your family status change is the birth of a child, then the date of the qualifying event is your child's date of birth. You will have 60 days from the date to make changes online and submit the child's birth certificate to Employee Benefits Division.

Step 1

- Log onto BOSS using your social security number and your 4-digit PIN.
- When you reach the Main Menu, click on menu option "Family Status Change".
- Enter the 8-digit date of your family status change.
- Choose your family change event from the drop down box and click continue.
- Then follow the prompts to enroll or remove dependents for each benefit plan.
- Be sure to click "Submit" to save your changes and print your confirmation.

Step 2

Once you have made your changes online, you must submit support documentation to Employee Benefits within 60 days from the date of your family status change. Please refer to the Required Documentation Form posted on the

website by clicking on the FORMS LIBRARY link. If you do not make your benefit changes online and submit the required documentation to Employee Benefits Division within 60 days of your family status change, you will have to wait until the next annual open enrollment to make your benefit changes.

Safety and Health

I attended the Safety/Health meeting on 5/20/2010. Items discussed were as follows:

- √ SAWS – The FD had removed the saws from the trucks due to an issue with using carbide tip blades. The Committee had much discussion on this and Lt. Steve Horchar, T1 is looking at either a different blade or saw. The saws are back on the trucks as of this writing.
- √ Rescue Rope – Lt. Mike Brown, T15 gave a presentation concerning various Personal Rescue Ropes and will bring more info. to the Committee at the next meeting
- √ Station Footwear – The recommendation of the Committee is going to Chief Clack for his approval. The Committee recommended an 8 inch high shoe with a side zipper and laces in front. The shoe is NFPA compliant.
- √ Turnout Gear – The FD is currently looking into the service life of our turnout gear. NFPA states that gear should be replaced after 10 years but the manufacturer states 7 years. The Committee has recommended going with the manufacturer's date.
- √ SCBA - FD has applied for a Fire Act grant to purchase new SCBA's. Manufacturer's will have to submit an RFP after the specifications are chosen.
- √ E31 – Engine 31 had their grand re-opening on 5/29/10. Thanks to everyone involved in this including Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke who worked tirelessly on the project. Congratulations!!!

√ Annual Physicals – The FD has applied for a Fire Act grant for annual physicals. The Unions and the S/H Committee will be involved.

√ Staffing – The FD has applied for a Safer grant to bolster staffing.

Make sure that you e-mail the Safety Office at (FDSO@baltimorecity.gov) if you have any safety related issues along with contacting me. If you are e-mailing Health and Safety Officer Bill Jones, you must e-mail William H. Jones, not William Jones! You must also continue sending in Special Reports as is policy. The next meeting is scheduled for 6/17/10. Contact me with any issues. **BE SAFE!**

President's Club

I picked up this year's President's Club shirt from Elliott's Sportswear and am in the process of distributing them. Retirees cannot contribute to the President's Club by way of dues deduction, but can still donate the full amount of \$100.00 by way of cash or check! Please make checks out to: Local 964 PAC Fund! The PAC Fund is our most important tool to have the **local** politicians listens to our concerns. The Fund can **only** be used for Local and State politicians and **cannot and will never be used** for Federal politicians, (President, Senator etc.) If you contribute \$4.00 or more a pay you are automatically included in the Presidents Club. Thanks to those who have contributed and to those who haven't. Contact me if you need a dues deduction card.

As always, keep your Beneficiaries up to date and don't hesitate to call or e-mail me at any time.

Cell – 443-629-0216
Work - 410-396-5682
E-mail: capttain16@hotmail.com

Worlds to twirl by...

If I leave here tomorrow
Would you still remember me?
For I must be traveling on, now
'Cause there's too many places
I've got to see!

LynyrdSkynyrd

From the Desk of the Recording Secretary

By Tom Nosek

I begin this newsletter article announcing a CRIME, The Mayor and City Council has seen fit to submit legislation (whether it be bill 10-0519 or 10-0428) to change the parameters of retirement eligibility for active members and STEAL the earned raise for retirees for this fiscal year. What makes it more insulting for the retirees is that the City will attempt this THEFT just 23 days from the end of the fiscal year. Both Fire locals, the FOP and both retiree groups are fighting to stop such.

Some members of both Locals have suggested that the Executive Boards are not fighting hard enough because most have their twenty years in!!!! How WRONG you are, I have actually witnessed more members with over twenty years and retirees showing up at rallies, pamphlet hand outs and lobbying City Hall than the members who could be affected by the above legislation. We have been here before, let me go back in time, in 1992 The City/Fire Dept was going to lay off 297 members. I have the list in my office , Firefighter classes from 7/20/1987 through 5/13/1991. Current union officials of Local 964 in those classes are Captain Kevin Rock, Captain Harvey Webster III, Chief Mike Campbell, Lt George Jones and Lt Thomas Nosek. I feel most us have ventured into union activism because of those days and distrust of the City/FD management. My wife was pregnant at the time and COBRA health costs if laid off would have been \$525 a month!!! So I have been there. So the few who don't think we are vigilant enough I say bullshit!!!

If the pension issues are not enough, the City/FD has advised both Locals of the possibility of three company closures T15, E36 and E52, layoffs, demotions and let us not forget that we took furloughs/pay cut. While Local 734 and 964 are suffering these cuts, Chief Clack has petitioned the department of finance for \$10-14,000 pay raises for some of his command staff.!!!! Chief Cole posted on our Forum that

...continued on page 6

Rec-Sec. ...continued from page 5

these staff members knew what they were getting into and now they want the membership to view them as Mother Teresa's all caring for the department, NOT.

Again my article speaks to the word SAFETY, Chief Clack announced at his original press conference that safety was paramount; now we hear rumblings of taking the Safety Officer off of all Boxes and replacing their role with Battalion Chiefs. Have the Safety Officers not done their job or is this another budget cut endeavor.

LOCAL 964 members step up, retired Lt Joseph Machovec E5 and Captain William "Ray" Hudson will be the new Fire Trustees on the F&P system. Congratulations and L964 will now have two members looking out for fire department members' interest on the pension.

I would like to publicly thank retired Pump Operator Ed "Porky" Heckrotte and Captain Stephan Fugate for their years of dedicated service for all the members of the F&P system. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND EFFORT.

In closing that baby my wife was carrying when I was possibly gone to be laid off in 1992, just graduated from high school and will be going to college next year. I am also proud to point out that my oldest daughter graduated this May from the University of Maryland, great job Erin and Megan!!!!

Please take time to enjoy your family this summer, stay safe and remember in Union there is strength.

Baltimore City Fire Officers Union Hall for Rent

1020 S. Linwood Ave.
In the heart of Canton Square!!

- small parties
- weddings
- showers
- birthdays
- business meetings
- etc.

The hall is currently not handicap accessible, no kitchen facilities. Capacity 100 plus, two flat screen televisions, bar, ice provided.

If interested call Tom Nosek 410 499 5441, or any Eboard member.

Box 414

by Walt Lemmon

Now that the Hot days of summer are near, we can't forget those brutal days and nights of the blizzard this past winter. We are proud that we did not miss any runs. It is times like these and times to come that the payroll deduction is worth every penny. The monies have afforded us to put in service the Potty Wagon (a welcomed site on the fireground). The temperatures have already had us on the fires with refreshments and cold towels.

Our annual Banquet was a success. It was held this year at the Baltimore Museum Industry on Key Highway. A good time was had by all.

Sick and Injured

By Bob Hatoff

- ◆ Fred Riedel is home and doing good.
- ◆ Bob Mueller is being treated for cancer.
- ◆ Paul Geoghegan is in a nursing home.
- ◆ Charlie Crovo had a fight with a hedge trimmer. The loser needed 6 stitches in his finger.
- ◆ Don Schuchman is being tested for the cause of his vertigo.
- ◆ Wayne Melchior is recuperating at home after successful prostate surgery. This makes him a bigger pain in the ass than his brother Roger. I didn't think it was possible.

Keep them in your prayers.

Union Memorial Heart/Lung Scan and Wellness Testing program

- heart/lung scans for union members only are offered on Tuesday and Thursday only from 1100-1200 hrs, 1-877- 744-3278, cost \$75

- heart/lung scan and wellness assessment for union members only are offered only on Tuesdays from 1200 1400 hours, for wellness assessment info call Rebecca Winch 410- 544- 2167, cost for combined tests, \$150

- Union Memorial also has heart/lung scans through their community outreach program for the general public on Saturdays only 1-877-744 3278, cost \$75

**BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICERS, LOCAL 964
JOHN L. SEISS BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT
TO BENEFIT THE VEBA FUND**

at
**Compass Pointe Golf Course
Pasadena, Maryland**

FRIDAY, July 16, 2010

Registration 7:30AM: Shotgun Start: 8:30 AM

- Featuring:
- Continental Breakfast, Food on the course and a Gourmet Buffet Dinner after golf. Beverages on the course.
 - Special prizes: A week's stay in St. Croix, Hole in One prizes
 - Great door prizes, consisting of weekend stays at Inner Harbor Hotels, and dinner gift certificates at Baltimore restaurants.
 - Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place teams, closest to pins, long drive

Cost: \$100 per player

Send Team Registration Form to: Baltimore Fire Officer's Local 964
1030 S. Linwood Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

For more information, contact: Tom Nosek: 410-499-5441

*** * * A T T E N T I O N * * ***

Announcing Election Notice

Nominations will be accepted at the first two Union Meetings in September for:

- Secretary-Treasurer
- Trustee
- 6th Battalion Steward

Tired and Retired

By Bob Hatoff

Due to his health problems Porky did not apply for another 4-year term on the Pension Board. Thank you and God bless you Ed for years of hard work on our behalf. Porky's successor is Joe Machovec. Joe's got some really big shoes to fill, but I feel he's up to the job. There's one thing he'll never fill and that's Porky's waist line!

Don't forget this year's Retreat is September 15th & 16th. One thing I've neglected to do is to invite our female members. I apologize and urge you ladies to join us. The Retreat is open to everyone and God is an equal opportunity host. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Recently I realized I was losing the feeling in 2 fingers on my right hand. After an examination and some tests I learned I had a severely pinched ulnar nerve in my elbow. The doctor said without surgery I could lose the use of my hand. When I came to in the recovery room, I found a cast on my arm from the fingers to the shoulder. The doctor said I would have this for 3 to 4 weeks. For more than 70 years I've been doing everything with my right hand. I quickly found out the only 2 things I could do with my left hand was scratch my head and wave bye bye.

So here is a list of some of the every day things you can do with your left hand, but it takes a lot of patience and perseverance. Eating soup. Cutting a meatball with a fork. Putting on your socks. Removing and replacing the cap on a tube of toothpaste. Punching in the 3 numbers of your TV channel before the first one disappears. Hitting the mute button before you have to suffer through a Progressive Insurance ad. Cleaning your right ear with a Q-Tip in your left hand. Finally, and I won't elaborate on this one, using the bathroom!

Now there are some impossible things that shouldn't even be attempted! Driving your car. Writing a check that anyone can read or recognize your signature. Tying your shoelaces. Cutting the fingernails on your left hand using your left hand. Soaping up a washcloth that can be used without flooding the bathroom. Slipping on your sport shirt when the sleeve is smaller than your cast. I tried it once and wound up with the sleeve hopelessly jammed on the cast. My left arm was entangled in the shirt in a position above my head. Fortunately Anita heard my cry for help! A perk is that Janice has been getting up and fixing me breakfast. This hasn't happened since, come to think of it, it's never happened!

Well fans as you can see my life is calm and cool as always. You can still reach me at 1805 Greencastle Dr, Balto., MD 21237 or 410-866-3235.

THE BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICERS

Local No. 964

Meetings -- 1st & 3rd Monday

1030 S. Linwood Avenue

Baltimore, MD. 21224

PHONE: 410-276-6964

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4815
Baltimore, MD

Change of Address -- Cut out and return to the Secretary, Local #964

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE No. _____