



The Billy & Spanner



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Mike Alford

In an effort to better serve the membership with areas of need, your board of directors has devised a Survivors check list for those who suddenly find themselves in a position of the loss of a loved one.

In this time of grief and mourning there are a lot of issues that sometimes are overlooked or not thought of at all. For that reason two board members have taken on the responsibility of “contact person” for those who find themselves in need of this resource. The contact persons are, John Shuman 408-667-1615 for Police, and Walter Bugna 408-799-3004 for Fire.

This is an issue that we don’t like to think about and don’t plan for but all too often it happens when least expected. The check list has been devised to relieve some of the stress from the process for the surviving spouse. Some of the items covered on the check list will include (1) where to look for insurance policies along with contact help (2) help with honor guard/color guard representation, and (3) providing a liaison with the respective department officials if one is not already chosen.

There are other areas as well so if the need arises contact one of these two gentlemen or any board member to be put in contact with them.

On a more cheery note it looks as though the city has finally decided to begin an effort to resolve issues that have caused a decline in Police and Fire services.

They are in the process of setting dates for resuming negotiations with the respective bargaining units within the city. The proposed plan is to make an effort to reach an agreement to be then taken, along with the PERB ruling on measure “B” to a Judge to obtain a ruling stating that the city resolution that placed measure “B” on the ballot was unlawful, and therefore is completely rescinded. (You can read in more detail inside the newsletter).

We can only hope the process will move forward in a positive way and this mess called measure “B” will be a bad memory of a failed attempt to destroy a once great city. In any case, when we hear of any movement in the process we will pass the information on to the membership.

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Officer Michael Johnson Killed in
Line of Duty.

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

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are kept up to speed with the latest
Association developments.



VETERAN SAN JOSE POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY

Just before going to press with this newsletter, we learned that San Jose Police Officer Michael Johnson was murdered in the line of duty. A 14-year veteran of the Department, Officer Johnson was shot and killed as he and fellow officers responded to a call for service at an apartment complex on Senter Road yesterday evening. The suspect was found dead in his apartment. He was shot at least once. The SJPD has not officially confirmed if he died as a result of return fire following his cowardly shot of Officer Johnson.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Officer Johnson's family, friends and his fellow officers. Johnson, who also served as a Field Training Officer, came from the same academy class as Jeffery Fontana, the last officer killed in the line of duty.

Officer Johnson went to work yesterday, as he always did, to protect the citizens of San Jose. Without warning, and without cause, Officer Johnson paid the ultimate price for doing his job. The loss of this brave hero to our community, our police department and most importantly, his family is profound.

As former officers, firefighters, and spouses, we know the inherit risks in the job we ask our public safety officers to take on in exchange for keeping us safe. Unfortunately, we've lost officers before. Even though we've been here before, however, we never numb to the grief we feel when one of our own is taken in the line of duty.

We will keep you informed on this situation as more information becomes available.

STATE EMPLOYEES & RETIREES FACE SIMILAR CUTS TO HEALTH CARE AS SAN JOSE EMPLOYEES & RETIREES

Following the slippery slope of San Jose toward low-cost, wallet busting healthcare for retirees and employees, Governor Jerry Brown announced a plan to move state employees to "high deductible" health care plans.

As we know in San Jose, high-deductible plans are a way for employers to shift more and more of health care costs to their employees. State workers have already voiced strong opposition to the degradation of health care coverage for employees.

The proponents of high-deductible plans say they encourage subscribers to consider not going to the doctor, which cuts costs. Of course, by not going to the doctor, we have a higher chance of putting off treatment and identification of more serious ailments that will require more extensive and expensive care in the future.

The State's Legislative Analyst's Office, the non-partisan policy arm of the State Legislature, has weighed in on the situation and is encouraging the Legislature to review Brown's proposal for degraded coverage and consider if that is even necessary. "It is possible that future state employees may not value today's retiree health benefits as much as they cost, and therefore the state and future employees might be better off if the state made significant changes to its retiree health benefits in the future," the LAO wrote.

In a recent story in the Sacramento Bee, CalPERS, which manages retiree healthcare for state retirees, stated, that its low premium, high deductible plan has the fewest subscribers compared to the other plans offered and that those subscribers are the most dissatisfied with their coverage and service.

Ann Boynton, how manages healthcare for CalPERS told the Bee, "Unlike how some employers think about things, we have our members until they die, so the long-term is incredibly important to us."

Amen.

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL FINALLY GET SERIOUS ABOUT RESOLVING MEASURE B & OTHER ISSUES

A few weeks before this newsletter's publication, the Mayor and City Council signaled that they were committed to finally settling the conflicts surrounding Measure B and other contract related issues and to do so this year.

Recall, that among other things, Measure B allows for the potential suspension of retirees' annual COLA for up to 5 years. An action the City has yet to take, but a threat we always have to live with.

As some of you may remember, the City was issued charges of unfair labor practices by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) for failing to bargain over Measure B in good faith in 2012. PERB ordered that the City Council rescind the City Resolution known now as Measure B. This ultimately would have to be upheld by in court, but the PERB order significantly strengthened the employee's argument that Measure B should be rescinded. The PERB charge is separate from the victory earned by city employees in Superior Court that Measure B is unlawful to begin with.

Led by the POA and Local 230, collectively, the City's unions informed the Mayor and City Council that they would no longer negotiate the major differences related to Measure B, retiree healthcare and contract issues in a piecemeal fashion, and demanded that the City seek solutions that could be implanted in 2015, instead of waiting for 2016 to place a new measure on the ballot to fix the seriously flawed and illegal Measure B.

The POA, Local 230 and City unions demanded that instead of waiting until 2016 to implement the changes needed for Measure B that the City and unions use the PERB /quo warranto process. In essence, this would allow for the repeal of Measure B based on the order from PERB and its replacement with a negotiated settlement between all sides. No waiting until 2016. No need for a new election.

As we all know, the SJPD and SJFD have been decimated by failed city policies, most notably Measure B. Waiting another two years to fix this mess is absurd.

In response to the calls from SJPOA, Local 230 and other city unions, Mayor Sam Liccardo sent a public letter confirming that the City now desires to reach an agreement that would replace Measure B using the PERP/quo warranto process.

While no terms have been proposed yet, this letter signifies the City's willingness to change course away from the failures in Measure B and hopefully work cooperatively to resolve the many issues that have harmed our police and fire departments, active employees and retirees.

We will stay engaged with the POA and Local 230 during the discussion process and keep you informed along the way.

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visit our website:
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/1/15 City Diner – Tan, 2951 Monterey Rd., SJ – 269-5490
4/8/15 Burger Pit – Blue, 120 Blossom Hill Rd., SJ – 225-6030
4/9/15 Association Meetings 11AM to 1PM at
the San Jose P.O.A. Hall, 1151 N. 4th St San Jose
4/15/15 Goodies – Wine, 2201 S. Bascom Ave, Campbell, 369-1236
4/22 Bill of Faire Restaurant – Green, 1005 Saratoga Ave., at Williams 408-446-4050
4/29/15 Hick'ry Pit – Gray, 980 E. Campbell Ave., Campbell, 371-2400
5/6/15 City Diner – Tan, 2951 Monterey Rd., SJ – 269-5490
5/13/15 Burger Pit – Blue, 120 Blossom Hill Rd., SJ – 225-6030
5/14/15 Association Meetings 11AM to 1PM at
the San Jose P.O.A. Hall, 1151 N. 4th St San Jose
5/20/15 Goodies – Wine, 2201 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell, 369-1236
5/27/15 Bill of Faire Restaurant – Green, 1005 Saratoga Ave at Williams - 408-446-4050

CONDOLENCES

– Francis C. Keffer, Police Officer, retired July 10, 2004, died January 28, 2015.
– Charles A. Petersen, Police Officer, retired January 16, 1993,
died December 12, 2014. Survived by his wife, Marilyn Petersen.

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