Final Resolution of FOP Millage Suit in Sight
FOP in Settlement Discussions with City

In the early 1980’s, the Fraternal Order of Police filed suit against the City of New Orleans alleging the City was underpaying police officers the annual millage payments they were due. Beginning at some point prior to 1980, and continuing through 2004, New Orleans police officers’ payroll stubs showed a payment of $8.31 in millage payment during each pay period. In their lawsuit, the Fraternal Order of Police alleged the payment shown on the pay stub was not actually being paid as “additional wages” as required by law, but was instead being paid as a part of the police officers’ normal salary. The FOP was eventually successful in that lawsuit and received a $3.3 million dollar partial judgement, covering the period 1980 – 1994. Our attorneys believe adding the years 1995 – 2004 will bring the final amount owed to just over $6 million dollars. Because of legal delays employed by the City, none of the judgement has ever been collected.

All NOPD commissioned police officers who worked at any time during the years 1980-2004 are part of this suit. Our accountants estimate that payments due to individual police officers would range from a minimum of a few dollars, to the maximum payment of $3,000 - $3,500.00 for an officer who worked continuously from 1980 – 2004.

FOP Attorney Claude Schlesinger will be at our March 2017 FOP meeting to present a more full explanation of the millage law suit, and the ongoing settlement discussions with the City of New Orleans. Claude has submitted the below to be published to members in this month’s newsletter:

“The Millage litigation has been going on for years now and we believe that the final resolution may be within sight. Claude A. Schlesinger, our lodge attorney has been in discussion with the Landrieu administration about totally resolving the entire matter. Claude obtained a $3.3 million dollar judgment years ago for a portion of the millage that is owed, 1980-1994. However, the City refused to pay this judgment treating it like they do all tort judgments. The City has not paid a state court tort judgment in over 15 years.

“Claude then associated another law firm, Lowe, Stein to assist. Lowe, Stein has extensive experience in class action law suits. Together with Mark Stein, the senior partner, they took a new tact and filed a Mandamus proceeding to force the City to pay the judgment, arguing that the judgment owed was not like a tort judgment but rather a fiduciary duty the City had to pay dedicated taxes that they collected on behalf of police officers. The City then agreed with our legal position and decided to settle the matter instead of protracted litigation.

“Claude is now in discussion with the City Administration to not only pay this judgment but to pay the remaining portion of the millage that was not contained within that original judgment, 1995-2002. We believe that the total amount of millage owed to NOPD officers is about $6 million dollars.

“Our attorneys are also attempting to get the City to be responsible for the administration of this fund, to find the past and present officers and pay them the millage that is owed. We will keep everyone apprised of significant developments as they occur.”

On February 8, 2017 a meeting, attended by lawsuit class representatives William Roth, William Patin, and Patricia Childress in addition to the FOP Board of Directors, was held for the purpose of hearing from attorneys Claude Schlesinger and Mark Stein on their plans for moving forward with settlement discussions. At that meeting, a motion was made by class representative William Roth and seconded by class representative Patricia Childress to accept the contents of letters of engagement presented and to, “...authorize (FOP Treasurer) James Gallagher to sign said letters from Guste, Barnett, Henderson and Alpauh, as well as Lowe, Stein, Hoffman, Alweiss and Hauver, to work towards the settlement of the millage suit. Not to exceed legal fees of $110,000 for each firm.”

Both firms made clear that no payment would be due until final settlement and initial payment from the City of New Orleans is made, and that payment would be on a contingency basis with payment being taken from the proceeds of the settlement. Both firms also stressed that they believed final legal payments would be less than the maximum quoted. The full minutes of the February 8th FOP Board meeting have been published on our website.
MEETING SCHEDULE

Our March 2017 membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Lakeview Presbyterian Church meeting hall, 5914 Canal Blvd., one block north of the I-610/Canal Blvd exit.

Dinner will be served at 6:30PM, and the meeting will begin at 7:00PM.

Chef John Schluter and the Kitchen Krewe will be serving a dinner of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, a salad and dessert.

ODDS AND ENDS

FOP LICENSE PLATES

The LA Department of Motor Vehicles is once again issuing Fraternal Order of Police specialty license plates. These valid Louisiana license plates, available to all FOP members, feature the FOP Emblem and the words “FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE”

To order an FOP License Plate you must present a copy of your vehicle title, proof of insurance, and a letter from the Louisiana State Lodge certifying your membership in the Fraternal Order of Police. The necessary letter can be obtained by visiting our State Lodge website www.louisianafop.com and scrolling down to the Louisiana FOP License Plate Request block.

There will be a $25.00 fee assessed for new plates and two-year renewals. This fee is being collected by the DMV to support the LAFOP Foundation.

FOP Motorcycle License Plates are also available.

For assistance in obtaining an FOP License Plate please contact FOP State Trustee Billy Roth at (504) 443-2128.

POST QUALIFYING RETIRED MEMBERS

The FOP is helping our retired members attain the Post Certification required under HR 218.

Paul Graffeo has agreed to qualify members for a fee ranging from $80.00 to $120.00, depending upon last qualification date. Our lodge will pay one half of that fee for our retired members (must have FOP membership card).

Professional Security Training, Inc. is located at 603 S. Clark Street in New Orleans. Training is held on the second Thursday of each month.

For additional information, contact Paul Graffeo at (504) 524-1410.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE

Insurance Chair Dave Lentz, a licensed insurance agent, can assist FOP members with all of their supplemental insurance needs, including cancer policies, accidental death / injury policies, hospital indemnity and loss of wage policies.

Dave Lentz can be reached at (985) 649-5741.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE UNIVERSITY

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

NOPD officers must meet New Orleans Civil Service educational requirements in order to become eligible for promotion. The current requirement is an Associates’ Degree or equivalent for promotion to the rank of sergeant; and a Bachelors’ Degree for promotion to the rank of lieutenant.

Upper Iowa University is a member of the National Fraternal Order of Police University system, a consortium of colleges and universities that provide members of the FOP with access to multi-varied learning programs.

Upper Iowa University, with both online and onsite (Jackson Barracks) classes, offers a 15% tuition discount to FOP members and extends that discount to members’ spouses and dependent children under age 26. Upper Iowa also awards up to 20 hours of college credit for having attended a certified Police Academy, and offers accelerated eight week terms to police officers.

For more info: www.uiu.edu/locations/neworleans or call Vicki Melton (504) 682-6792.

Already enrolled at Upper Iowa University? Check out the National FOP Tuition Reimbursement Scholarship program by visiting www.fop.net and clicking on the “EDUCATION” button and then on “FOP UNIVERSITY”. You can download an application for a $500.00 tuition reimbursement.
NEW MEMBERS

The following new member has applied for admission to our lodge since our last newsletter.

Matthew Edersheim  NOPD 1st District

We hope that all of our members will take full advantage of their membership by becoming active in our lodge, attending our meetings, and participating in F.O.P. activities

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Each month, The Fraternal Order of Police, Crescent City Lodge honors those members who have reached the milestone of seventy-five years of age. Most of those listed have been members of the Fraternal Order of Police for fifty or more years. It is a testament, not only to the individual members, but also to an organization that inspires such loyalty and devotion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Cassanova</td>
<td>March 24th</td>
<td>91 years</td>
<td>Huey Pope</td>
<td>March 14th</td>
<td>81 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floyd Volz</td>
<td>March 3rd</td>
<td>90 years</td>
<td>Paul Vetter</td>
<td>March 8th</td>
<td>80 years</td>
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<td>John Alesich</td>
<td>March 24th</td>
<td>90 years</td>
<td>Franklin Ruiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Noto</td>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>89 years</td>
<td>Warren Roberts</td>
<td>March 30th</td>
<td>76 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elmer Poche</td>
<td>March 28th</td>
<td>88 years</td>
<td>Gustave Thomas</td>
<td>March 10th</td>
<td>75 years</td>
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<td>Clarence Mathieu</td>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>86 years</td>
<td>Richard Hughes</td>
<td>March 23rd</td>
<td>75 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidney Cates, III</td>
<td>March 10th</td>
<td>86 years</td>
<td>Eddie Davis</td>
<td>March 29th</td>
<td>75 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horace Perez I</td>
<td>March 14th</td>
<td>83 years</td>
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IN MEMORIAM

Danny Mack, a member of the Board of Directors (Trustee) of the Fraternal Order of Police, Crescent City Lodge, passed away on February 7, 2017 at the age of 71.

Please keep our brother Danny, his wife Patsy, his family and his many friends, in your thoughts and prayers.

RECENT RETIREMENTS

The following members retired from N. O. P. D. since our last newsletter.

Terrell Seiber retired on 02/03/2017 with over 25 years of service.
Juan Henry retired on 02/08/2017 with over 28 years of service.
Jimmy Bates retired on 02/18/2017 with over 33 years of service.
Chantell Long retired on 02/23/2017 with 13 years of service.

We honor and thank all of our retirees for their loyal and dedicated service to our community and to our department. We wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors. Your wisdom, advice and continued support of our active NOPD members is invaluable.

FOP MEMBERS ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Katrina Barnett, Junious Grady, Hilry Hunt, James Martin, Shantia McCormick, Christopher Pugh and Chad Williams are currently serving on active military duty.

I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who shall go for us?’
And I said, ‘Lo! Here I am Lord, send me’. Isaiah 6:8

We humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service, as well as our brothers and sisters in law enforcement. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Protect our land and its people from enemies within and without. Amen.
The Fraternal Order of Police, Crescent City Lodge relies heavily on our attorneys to represent our members. In addition to the great work they perform for the FOP, each of our attorneys also maintains a private law practice. With that in mind, we would like to encourage our members to engage an FOP attorney for any and all of your personal legal needs. Our attorneys handle:

- Automobile accidents (on or off-duty)
- Personal Injury
- Wills and Estates
- Family Law
- Power of Attorney
- Criminal Defense
- Power of Attorney

When you or a family member has personal legal needs, please consider hiring one of our FOP attorneys. Remember FOP members are entitled to two hours of general attorney services without cost, and four hours of attorney service for family law matters (divorce, child custody or support, successions, etc)

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