



# TUEBOR

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Volume 89, Issue 4

Official publication of the Detroit Police Officers Association

Fall 2025

## NOTICES

**Tuesday, Nov. 4** — Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. at the DPOA office.

**Tuesday, Nov. 11** — Veterans Day holiday — DPOA office closed.

**Wednesday, Nov. 12** — Board of Directors meeting, 3 p.m. (note day/time change), Sacred Heart Catholic Church Activities Building, 3451 Rivard St.

**Wednesday, Nov. 12** — General Membership Meeting, 5 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Activities Building, 3451 Rivard St.

**Friday, Dec. 5** — Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. at the DPOA office.

**Saturday, Dec. 6** — Kiddie Christmas Party, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farwell Recreation Center, 2711 East Outer Drive. Please register your children for gifts by Nov. 14. See form on Page 10 for more details.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9** — Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., at the Gaelic League Hall, 2068 Michigan Ave.

**Tuesday, Jan. 6** — Executive Board meeting at 9 a.m. at the DPOA office.

**Tuesday, Jan. 13** — Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., at the Gaelic League Hall, 2068 Michigan Ave.

POSTAL SERVICE: BUNDLED PAPERS MUST BE SEPARATED

## Hard road to recovery 'Everything I do now is enhanced'

By Joe Hoshaw Jr.  
*TUEBOR EDITOR*

Michael Fountain Sr. has been a member of the Detroit Police Department for nearly four decades now, but there's a good chance that coworkers who haven't seen him in a few years won't recognize him.

Fountain over the last five years has shed nearly half his peak body weight of 385 pounds and, consequently, has a new outlook on life and is often seen sporting a much wider smile than his friends have seen on him in several years.

His weight-loss journey was anything but typical though. It began right after the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 with a serious bout of covid that nearly killed him and culminated this past March 21 with a successful kidney transplant at University of Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor.

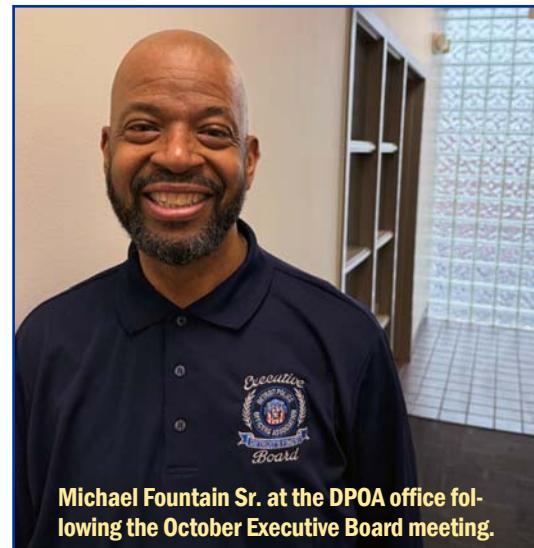
"Everything that I do now is enhanced," said Fountain, 60, a longtime member of the Detroit

Police Officers Association's Executive Committee. "I'm more aware of day-to-day activities when it comes to anything ... work here, relationships with people. I kind of used to let a lot of things get to me. Now I kind of just let things go by. I try not to sweat all the small things."

That appears to be a long way from the bleak outlook he was dealing with in early 2020. Though he didn't fully realize it at the time, there was major concern that he might not make it through his first night in the hospital.

"I'm thinking, 'I'm fine; I'm not going to die, I'm just sick' — not knowing that (covid) is going to kill me if they don't do something quick. They're telling my wife they are doing everything they could do but I might not make it."

But covid was just the beginning of what would be a grueling five-year-long struggle during which he endured kidney dialysis and bariatric surgery while trying to bring his weight down to the point where he would be deemed a



Michael Fountain Sr. at the DPOA office following the October Executive Board meeting.

viable transplant candidate.

But words his wife, Denise, shared with him during his hospital stay for covid, resonated with him throughout the entire ordeal.

"My wife said, 'You've got to listen to what (the doctors) say; your kids are counting on you,'" Fountain said. "It was hard. Difficult.

*Continued on Page 10*

## Cookout time!



Photos: David L. Chapman

Police Officers Kinya Chatman and Benjamin Seward, above, are liking the selection of offerings at the annual DPOA Family Cookout, held in the union office parking lot in August. Officers Michael Harrington and Keisha Beasley-Dorsey, right, were among the Entertainment Committee members working hard to feed the masses. For more photos see Page 13.



DPOA President Craig Miller welcomed numerous city and union officials as guests at the annual DPOA Cookout, including those pictured here: Fire Department Community Relations Chief James Harris (left), Mayor Mike Duggan and LSA President Mark Young.



## Members need to sign up for gifts

The annual Detroit Police Department Kiddie Christmas Party has been moved back up to the first weekend in December, so Entertainment Committee Chairman Royice Hill is reminding DPOA members that it's coming up quick and is asking them to register their children for gifts as soon as possible.

Hill said the longtime tradition requires a lot of effort from his committee members, and the earlier the gift needs are known the better.

The gift enrollment

*Continued on Page 9*

## ATTENTION MEMBERS: The next General Membership Meeting is Nov. 12

PLEASE JOIN US! 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church activities center, 3451 Rivard

Get important updates from your union leadership and a chance to meet with various financial services vendors who can help you plan for your future.

Dinner●prize drawings●comradery

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**OFFICERS' REPORTS** — Pages 2, 4 and 5

**REMEMBERING THE FALLEN** — Page 23

**IN MEMORIAM** — Page 24

**RETIREES & ASSOCIATES NEWS** — Page 26

**TRADING POST** — Page 27

Plus, officer articles, more news inside!

Tuebor is online! Find the digital

edition on the DPOA website!

[www.detroitpoa.com](http://www.detroitpoa.com)

# Corporals' seniority pay should be on the way

In 2024 the Detroit Police Officers Association filed a grievance for more than 30 members who had not received their seniority corporal pay when they reached 15 years of service. As of Oct. 3, 2025, the city has started paying these members. Make sure you check your Ultipro for updates and make sure you let the DPOA Grievance Committee know if you received payment at (313) 567-8772.

Members, it is very important you know your beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. We have found that our members have not updated their beneficiaries in years and are surprised when they learn who they have listed as beneficiaries. To manage, change, or check on your benefits, come into the DPOA office located at 1938 E. Jefferson Ave. with a copy of your current check stub.

It is also very important we have your current address and cell phone number on file with the DPOA. You can also change it on the DPOA website: [detroitpoa.com](http://detroitpoa.com). To access: Use your department email address as your username then use your badge number as your password. If you do not have four digits in your badge number, add zeros to the front. (Example: For badge number 999 use 0999, or for badge 99, use 0099.

It is always imperative to remember that you are not required to do phone interviews, interviews with supervision or use their cell phones for zoom interviews. Notify the DPOA office at (313) 567-877 if you are advised or ordered to do so.

When an officer is served a notice of Garrity from the supervisor, contact the office at (313) 567-8770 so information can be recorded in the Garrity Book. In addition, please take a clear picture of the Garrity request and email it to [legal@detroitpoa.com](mailto:legal@detroitpoa.com); include cell phone number as well.

At no time should you ever think you are not the focus of an investigation; you should always request a



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Craig Miller

union steward either by radio or call the DPOA office at (313) 567-8770. There is an Executive Board member on call; also, we do not do interviews with our supervisors, internal or anyone else. They can provide you with written statements "Questions" on a 568 and the officers will schedule an appointment with the DPOA office to have questions answered. Do not answer them yourself!

If you are not yet aware, please note that the DPOA has a text-messaging system in place so we can quickly notify the membership of important information. One thing to note is that you must "opt-in" to receive these notifications. Please be sure to do this, otherwise you may not receive crucial information you need.

The text will be coming from the DPOA office number, (313) 567-8770. If you need to request to be added to text messaging or have any questions, contact Executive Board Member Keith Baker. Text messaging is the most expedite way we have to reach you with important news, so please be sure you are on the distribution list. **Coalition of Detroit Public Safety Unions Trust Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan** The CDPSU HRA Plan provides eligible retired City of Detroit police and fire fighter employees with reimbursement of covered out-of-pocket medical care expenses on a non-taxable basis.

Eligible participants include city public safety employees who have retired *after* Jan. 1, 2015, while covered under a collective bargaining agreement between the City and the following Unions: DPOA; DPLSA; DPCOA; and DFFA. The current HRA monthly stipend for DPOA is \$250 per month.

To apply for your monthly benefits, contact CDPSU's claims administrator, Automated Benefit Services, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at (877) 456-4306; or, for more information about the CDPSU HRA Plan, visit [CDPSUTrust.com](http://CDPSUTrust.com).

I hope everyone has a safe and happy fall and holiday season. Please try and join us for the final General Membership Meeting of the year Wednesday, Nov. 12. Also, don't forget to register your children for the annual Kiddie Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Please remember to stay safe and back each other up. We are all we have.

# TUEBOR

(USPS-643-560)



Official Voice of the Detroit Police Officers Association. DPOA Office Hours: Weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. After hours, weekends and holidays, a designated on-call Executive Board member or Chief Steward is available by calling (313) 567-8770. The DPOA is the sole certified bargaining agent for all members of the Detroit Police Department with the rank of Police Officer. The DPOA is a founding member of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO). The views expressed in Precinct/Section articles are not necessarily those of the DPOA or its officers.

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Change of address/subscriptions: Send label from Page 1 or old address plus new address to: DPOA, 1938 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207

POSTMASTER: Return forms to Detroit Police Officers Association 1938 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48207

# DROP program move in-house should be completed by the end of the year



## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ron Thomas

pension should be reminded to fill out the sick/pay out sheets prior to separation. The sick/pay out sheets to redeem 85 percent of your unused sick time upon separation are located at the Association Office. This only applies to members leaving under a vested pension.

Members leaving under a Duty Disability Retirement must wait until their 25th year and send a letter to the Chief to be paid out from their sick banks. Vesting occurs after 10 years of completed service.

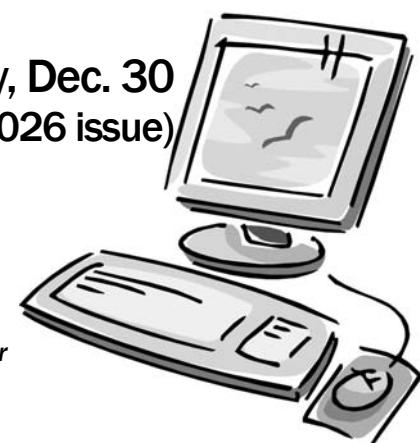
The Third Precinct and 10th Precinct have experienced flooding again. It is important to contact the Association immediately so we can make sure they clean these facilities properly.

Members should be reminded you have to be served with Garrity notices 72 hours in advance, they cannot attempt to serve you within the 72 hours and if they do

## Writers' deadline for the next issue:

Tuesday, Dec. 30  
(Winter 2026 issue)

**Writers needed!**  
Check with your chief steward if you would like to represent your command area with an article in Tuebor.



Condolences to Lt. Matthew Bolden on the loss of his father; Sgt. Kimberly Wilson and Corporal Calvin Wilson on the loss of their son; friends and family of active Corporal Rhonda Morris on her passing; retired Sgt. Ceryl McCoy-Oniell on the loss of her mother; and friends and family of former Officer Albert Powell.

Also, condolences to Lt. Trevis Anderson on the passing of his father; Sgt. Harold Lewis on the loss of his mother; Detective Jerry Knight on the loss of his brother; friends and family of retired Officer Emma Jean Simmons; Sgt. Heather Fitzpatrick on the loss of her mother; friends and family of former Officer Brienne Carlson from the Second Precinct on her loss.

The Detroit Police and Fire Pension System continues to move forward to bring the DROP in house to be managed. We expect to have this completed before the end of the year. Until then the return rate for the DROP will be recalculated quarterly through VOYA.

The rate for the upcoming quarter will be 2.75 percent. On Oct. 1 members in the DROP should have seen the retro payment get added to their accounts. The Association continues to have meetings for the next round of pension improvements.

The return rate for the voluntary hybrid/legacy annuity for the year is set at the ceiling which is 5.25 percent for the next fiscal year. The annuity rate is set by the Detroit Police and Fire Retirement Board of the previous year's returns. Last year's return was close to 12 percent.

Members leaving the department under a vested

Continued on Page 7

# Never forgotten

## Honor Guard strives to sustain the memory of fallen officers

By Chontel Jones  
DETROIT POLICE  
HONOR GUARD

Greetings from the Detroit Police Honor Guard!

Our mission is to stand beside and support the families of our fallen officers, ensuring their sacrifice is never forgotten. Our hearts are extended to one of our own, Rhonda Morris, and our York County, Pa., family on the loss of Sergeant Cody Becker, Detective Isaiah Emenheiser, and Detective Mark Baker. They stood

watch so others could rest in safety, and though they have fallen, their courage lives on and we will guard their memory.

We would also like to recognize the passing of retirees Emma Jean Simmons and Stephanie Bally. We're proud to welcome the newest members of the Detroit Police

Honor Guard. Your choice to stand with families during their most difficult moments is a true act of compassion and service.

The Honor Guard kicked off another great golf outing at Rouge Park Golf Course, bringing people together for a day of connection and support. It's hard to say goodbye, but we're proud to congratulate Roderick Spencer as he begins his next chapter with Border Patrol. We wish him nothing but success in his future endeavors.

As we approach cold weather, let's continue to keep our brothers and sisters in blue in our prayers, as they head out each day to serve and protect the people of Detroit.



Photos courtesy of Chontel Jones



The annual Honor Guard Golf Outing is a key fundraiser to help support the Guard's efforts to bring comfort and support to the families of active or retired officers who have died. Held each September at Rouge Park Golf Course on the city's west side, the event draws its support from law enforcement entities and the wider community.



## DPOA PAC ENDORSEMENTS

The Detroit Police Officers Association's Political Action Committee has endorsed the following candidates in the Nov. 4, 2025, General Election:

**City of Detroit Mayor — Mary Sheffield**  
**Detroit City Council District 2 — Roy McCallister Jr.**  
**Detroit City Council District 5 — Willie Burton**  
**City of Taylor City Council — Chris Clark**

# Pension RFP process is nearing a final selection

Fall is once again upon us and as this year comes to a close, I hope everyone has had a good year so far.

You will see the 2026 Work Periods Calendar included on Page 8 of this issue of Tuebor. There are colored paper copies available at the DPOA office front desk and the heavy card-stock versions will be available soon.

One will also be sent out with the DPOA winter mailing along with other DPOA swag. Make sure your current address is up to date at the office. If you need to make a change, please call and make the update.

The Deferred Compensation Committee has had a few meetings since my last article. The finalists in the RFP process came before the board and presented their offers. There were a couple of legal questions that needed to be answered before a final vote can be taken to choose the provider. At this time a date for the vote has not been set. We have a quarterly meeting on Nov. 20, 2025. I believe there will be a meeting prior to that to make the final decision. I will update you as soon as I have more information.

I want to clarify another matter regarding pension benefits. If you were hired prior to 2014, and you did not DROP before July 1, 2024, before reaching age 50, you will receive both your legacy and your new pension benefits upon retirement if you have 25 years or more of service, age is not a factor.



## SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

**Kenneth  
Eppenbrock**

If you entered the DROP before July 1, 2024, prior to age 50, you would only receive your legacy pension benefits if you retire before age 62, your new pension benefits will not available until you reach age 62.

If you entered the DROP after July 1, 2024, and were below age 50, you will be eligible to collect both pensions upon retirement regardless of age. If you were hired after 2014, you must have 25 years of service and be age 50 or more to be eligible for your pension benefits upon retirement.

If you reach 25 years of service and retire before age 50 you will not be eligible to collect your benefits until age 62. We are working on getting all members hired after 2014 full pension benefits after 25 years of service regardless of age upon retirement. If you have any questions, I'm always available, so feel free to call me anytime.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays, spend some time with family and friends. As always, be careful and stay safe out there!

## Manpower as of Oct. 5, 2025

RANK	BUDGETED*	FTEs FILLED THIS MONTH	OVER/UNDER BUDGET
Chief of Police	1	1	0
1st Assistant Chief	1	1	0
Assistant Chief	2	2	0
Deputy Chief	7	7	0
Commander	19	19	0
Commander - DDC	1	1	0
Captains	28	27	-1
Lieutenant	120	113	-7
Lieutenant - Transit	2	1	-1
Sergeant	333	316	-17
Sergeant - Transit	5	5	0
Master Sergeant	40	44	4
Sergeant - DDC	15	18	3
Investigator	7	7	0
Detective	184	177	-7
FTO	85	71	-14
FTO - Transit	3	2	-1
N.P.O.	60	53	-7
Mental Health NPO	14	12	-2
Mental Health PO	11	11	0
Police Officer	1695	1681	-14
Police Officer - Transit	35	37	2
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>2668</b>	<b>2606</b>	<b>-62</b>
Police Assistants	23	22	-1
Police Assistants (Funded)	1	1	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2691</b>	<b>2628</b>	<b>-63</b>

## Upcoming or recent separations from the Department are as follows:

Name	Command Area	Status	Last Duty Date
SPO Dina Rashad	Academy	Resigned	7/1
SPO Laren Martin	Academy	Resigned	7/8
SPO Ulysses Espitia	Academy	Resigned	8/5
SPO Joseph Dushi	Academy	Resigned	8/26
SPO Ellington Jones	Academy	Resigned	9/3
SPO Asia Brown	Academy	Resigned	9/3
SPO Benyanmen Benyamen	Academy	Resigned	9/9
SPO Bailey Zealer	Academy	Resigned	9/17
PO Sherman Flake	Firearm Inventory	Retired	7/1
PO Louis Wilson	9th Pct.	Resigned	7/2
PO Stephanie Harrington	TAC Ops	Retired	7/7
PO Jalen McIntosh	2nd Pct.	Resigned	7/8
PO Demiracle Roberson	11th Pct.	Resigned	7/10
PO Brett Letwin	5th Pct.	Retired	7/12
PO Douglas Houghson	9th Pct.	Resigned	7/18
PO Alexander Ordaz	3rd Pct.	Resigned	7/18
PO Lashawn Brown	6th Pct.	Retired	7/23
PO Derrik Doud	11th Pct.	Resigned	7/23
PO Alexander Pruent	2nd Pct.	Resigned	7/25
PO Jerrod Mitchell	2nd Pct.	Resigned	8/3
PO Sean Murtagh	8th Pct.	Resigned	8/4
PO Phillip Parham	Executive Protection	Retired	8/6
PO Steel Goss	11th Pct.	Retired	8/7
PO Correy Seward	AVERT	Retired	8/9
PO Eric Martinez	8th Pct.	Resigned	8/11
PO Timothy Parrish	11th Pct.	Resigned	8/12
PO Jared Stoyanof	8th Pct.	Resigned	8/12
PO Rhonda Morris	Firearms Training	Died Active	8/18
PO Julian Sandifer	10th Pct.	Retired	8/19
PO Khalil Major	7th Pct.	Resigned	8/21
PO TJ Yessian	8th Pct.	Resigned	8/22
PO Julian Johnson	11th Pct.	Resigned	8/28
PO Glenn Bines	5th Pct.	Resigned	9/3
PO Marsida Cami	2nd Pct.	Resigned	9/5
PO Kiley Sakofske (Lauretti)	5th Pct.	Retired	9/8
PO Jerrod Davis	5th Pct.	Resigned	9/8
PO Brianne Carlson	2nd Pct.	Resigned	9/9
PO Shawn Bradley	10th Pct.	Resigned	9/9
PO Daniel Sitarski	8th Pct.	Retired	9/10
PO Barbara Age	5th Pct.	Resigned	9/19
PO Demetrius Patillo	TSS	Resigned	9/22
PO Tyresse Henderson	7th Pct.	Resigned	9/22
PO Mark Greenhow	12th Pct.	Retired	9/22
PO Franklin Brookins	11th Pct.	Resigned	9/23
PO Liana Shaw	12th Pct.	Resigned	9/24
PO Jared Shaw	11th Pct.	Resigned	9/24
PO Rodrick Spencer	2nd Pct.	Resigned	9/26
PO Jaivon Evans	9th Pct.	Resigned	9/26
PO Lester Lee	Communications	Retired	9/29
PO Alvin Hughes	11th Pct.	Resigned	9/29
PO Aaron Tucker	12th Pct.	Resigned	9/29
PO Jessica Allen	TSS	Resigned	9/30
PO Earl Crutchfield	DDC	Retired	9/30
PO Christopher Wizinsky	3rd Pct.	Resigned	9/30
Det. Lahanna Sims	Sex Crimes	Resigned	7/10
Det. Carla Williams	Sex Crimes	Retired	8/3
Det. Sarah Markel	3rd Pct.	Retired	8/15
Det. Gina Gibson	11th Pct.	Retired	9/8
Inv. Timothy Banks	Inv. Ops.	Retired	7/1
Cpl. Kenneth Johnson	Task Force Admin.	Retired	8/1
Cpl. Aubrey Wade	9th Pct.	Retired	9/3
Cpl. Cassandra Pardon-Smith	6th Pct.	Retired	9/12
Sgt. Mark Williams	Communications	Retired	7/6
Sgt. Jeffrey O'Keefe	Firearm Inventory	Retired	7/7
Sgt. Raelona Thomas	Office of Enforcement	Retired	7/12
Sgt. Kristie Purdy	Detective Bureau	Retired	7/12
Sgt. Daniel Green	6th Pct.	Retired	7/16
Sgt. Julie Krupinski	4th Pct.	Retired	8/4
Sgt. Debbie Johnson	5th Pct.	Retired	8/9

Continued on Page 6

# DPOA has rich history spanning 160 years

I came across this article while cleaning out the file cabinet in the office and felt I should share it with you. I thought it was somewhat interesting. Author is unknown.

The unity enjoyed by today's membership in the Detroit Police Officers Association had humble beginnings that date as far back as 1865.

It was in 1865 that the Police Benevolent Association was formed. Available to all police officers for dues of 1\$ per month, it provided protection from civil responsibility. (Almost as if they knew where this litigation situation was headed).

The following year, the Detroit Police Relief Society was founded and collected dues of 1\$ per month. The society provided death benefits of \$250 and originally covered sickness after the third day, with an annual limit of \$90. By 1918, Detroit Police Officers were paid \$800 per year, and enjoyed one leave day every 12<sup>th</sup> day. In 1915, Detroit officials place a ban on officers joining the Fraternal Order of Police even though it was not a labor union per se, but more of a social entity.

## Always be aware of your Miranda and Garrity rights

Regarding your rights under Garrity and Miranda, please refer to Section 16 page 41, of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, entitled "Members' Rights - Investigative Procedures."

This section details your rights in any and all investigative procedures. I would also like to emphasize that it is each individual Officer's responsibility to be aware of these rights and to fully exercise them. These rights apply whether the interview is conducted at the Offices of the Internal Affairs Section, Office of the Chief Investigator or any other location.

In addition to this information, be aware that members have a right to 72 hours notice of a Garrity interview and the right to have an attorney present at that interview. In order to ensure the presence of an attorney, it is each officer's responsibility to notify their union steward and/or the

DPOA of the date, time and place of the interview. In turn, it is the DPOA's or the steward's responsibility to notify this office of same. It should not be "assumed" that an attorney will be present if this office is not notified.

It has recently become the practice of some Investigators and Sergeants to attempt to convince officers that they should waive their right to an attorney, telling them that they are not the focus and "do not need an attorney."

The Collective Bargaining Agreement in Article 16 addresses this issue. It specifically states that members have a right to have both legal counsel and a representative of the union present during an interview. Officers should never waive their constitutional or contractual right to an attorney or any other right that the DPOA has fought hard to obtain for you.



### SERGEANT AT ARMS REPORT

Linda Broden

After World War I, the principle that police should not strike was established in Washington, D.C. In 1919 Congress passed a wage increase for police that forbade union organizations which did not specifically exclude the right to strike.

In 1935, a notable stride was achieved with the granting of the right to organize and negotiate that came with the National Labor Relations Act. In 1938 Patrolman Howard Heine began organizing secret meetings to create an organization of Detroit Policemen in conjunction with the F.O.P. when the Department caught wind of this, he was of course suspended. He fought their attempts stating that he wanted an "Association" and not a union which was prohibited by general orders.

In 1941, the average pay for a patrolman was \$2,640 per year, and from that you were required to purchase your own uniforms.

In 1943, a charter was granted by the State of Michigan for the formation of Detroit Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 115, of which Heine was elected president. They had more than 70 members in a matter of a day. The commissioner was of course upset, and despite the immediate dismissals, the membership numbers continued to flourish, further enraged the commissioner and superintendent. The equivalent of today's Internal Affairs reported on who was attending meetings and dismissals continued.

A breakthrough came on April 12, 1944, when newly appointed Commissioner John Ballinger granted permission to form what is now the "Detroit Police Officers Association." The first official meeting was held 12 days later where Charles Neilan was appointed to act as president. Bylaws were discussed and in addition it was decided that the Women's Division should be included in the new association.

ciation. By the time the general meeting was held in October of 1944, the DPOA included a membership of 2800 plus.

Also, in 1944, the first DPOA newsletter was published, and the name overwhelmingly approved from many submissions was "TUEBOR," the name that stands to this day and translates to mean "I WILL PROTECT." The members got their first hospitalization plan in 1947 and won a five-day work week in 1948. Average pay was \$3300 per year, and members were still buying their own uniforms. Wages finally soared past the \$4000 per year mark in 1951.

Back in 1951, Patrolmen were given stiff sentences at trail boards for moonlighting. The DPOA argued that if given a decent wage, outside employment would not be necessary. If you received a 20-day suspension that meant you had to work 20 leave days at no compensation, unlike today where you would go home and serve those 20 days.

The DPOA was instrumental in the formation of the first truly national police organization, the "National Conference of Police Organizations," as it became more increasingly apparent that we required a collective voice in Washington.

In 1953, victory came in the form of parking privileges at headquarters and the courts and also the first longevity payments. Union election procedures were standardized in 1954. The constant battle with city hall over wages wore on in the following years, and just as it is today, the DPOA constantly fought to keep our pension system intact.

The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics was established at the national level in 1957 and made a part of our DPOA Constitution. Commissioner Piggens was impressed with it to the point that he adopted it into the Detroit Police Manual. 1957 also brought the DPOA a victory in that 8 holidays became city ordinance. This same year brought the establishment of the \$2 per active member cooperative death benefit that we still participate in today when a sister or brother Officer passes away.

By 1960, patrolman's pay was \$6,042 per year. The DPOA was fighting to get the starting pay to \$6,000 with top pay of \$8,000 after nine years of step increases. In November of 1963, the DPOA Wives Association was formed.

The DPOA received the first city hospitalization contribution in 1964. Also, that year a bill was passed to al-

*Continued on Page 6*

## Now serving

Recent steward and alternate swearing-ins included Arianna Hendricks (below), a new alternate for the Fifth Precinct, who took the oath from Sergeant-at-Arms Linda Broden at the October Board of Directors Meeting. The two inductees at right were welcomed at the August meeting. They were Malek Nasser (bottom), a new steward for No. 6, and Niccolo Romano (top), a Second-Precinct alternate.



## ABOUT TUEBOR:

The official publication of the Detroit Police Officers Association, Tuebor is published quarterly. Our next issue will be published in January both in the print edition and a PDF version posted to the union's website, [www.detroitpoa.com](http://www.detroitpoa.com). Recent back issues also are available on the website. Several writer positions are currently open. If you see that your command area doesn't have a writer and you are interested in serving in that role, please see your steward. Do you have DPOA-related news you'd like to share? Letters, photos and other information pertinent to the DPOA membership can be emailed to [tuebordetroit@yahoo.com](mailto:tuebordetroit@yahoo.com). Items may be submitted anytime between now and Dec. 30 to be considered for publication in the next issue.

Contact Tuebor Editor Joe Hoshaw Jr. at (734) 558-6955

## YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Michael Fountain  
Royice Hill  
Karen Maxey  
Lashun O'Rear  
Charles Roland  
Christine Rozier  
Sean Wayrynen

# Linda Broden: DPOA history spans 160 years

Continued from Page 5

low police officers to collect worker's compensation for job related injuries. 1964 also brought pension improvements that allowed for what we know as the 40 and 8 pension, (now 10 years vested) survivor's benefits, ownership in the annuity funds we have today and non-duty disabilities. Association dues were 75 cents per day in early 1966 and rose to 2.50. During 1966, Mayor Jerome P. Cavanaugh granted a \$1000 raise, and members were allowed tuition reimbursement for courses completed at Wayne University. House Bill 3354 outlining compulsory binding arbitration came into being.

Maximum pay in 1970 rose to \$12,000 and over-

time at the rate of 1.5 was paid over 40 hours. Association dues were now \$14 per month. Congressman John Dingell introduced a bill that made it a federal crime to kill an on-duty policeman or fireman.

A 1971 grievance was filed concerning the mandatory wearing of name tags which was lost at arbitration in favor of then commissioner John Nichols, who had risen through the ranks. Commissioner Nichols had instituted demand felt to be outrageous, such as one-man scout cars, holsters with flaps, mandatory lie detector tests for policemen accused of misconduct to name a few. The DPOA responded in 1972 by doubling its dues temporarily to launch a public information cam-

paign against Nichols. The DPOA got vast media attention and placed 72 billboards around town that carried the slogan "Walk in our shoes just once." The department still had double standards. Women were paid 20 percent less than males and needed a 2-year college degree to be appointed. There were also separate promotional lists. Civil Rights and Michigan Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaints were filed over these issues.

By 1973 the department had 5,600 officers with a salary range of \$11,200 to \$12,750. Although the DPOA endorsed Nichols for mayor, Senator Coleman Young was elected, and Phillip Tannian was appointed to the post

that would soon have him become the last commissioner and the first chief of police. Following his appointment, more arbitration cases were filed by the end of 1974 than had been filed in the previous four years combined. A rally was staged in front of city hall with approximately 400 members in attendance. The rally received vast news coverage.

Although this only brings us up to the basic conditions and achievements of the union 30 years ago, it is this foundation laid by these officers of yesterday that led to the many grievance awards, wage increases and working condition improvements that we enjoy today. Since then, the association continues to respond to the constant actions that threaten all that the DPOA has fought long and hard for during

the past 60 years since its inception. This fight is not carried on by merely our four elected officers, the Executive Board, the Grievance Committee, nor the stewards comprising our Board of Directors, but by all members, as a

WHOLE continuing to ensure that at the very least, we "get what we bargained for."

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** "Opportunity is missed by most people, because it is dressed in overalls and look like work."

## Retirement Getting Close? Annuity Rollovers Deferred Compensation DROP Plan



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## Separations, continued from Page 4

Name	Command Area	Status	Last Duty Date
Sgt. Edmund Kress	PTIU	Retired	8/10
Sgt. Tyrell Jones	3rd Pct.	Resigned	8/17
Sgt. Arick Flesch	Homicide	Resigned	9/6
Sgt. Tad Lloyd	Child Abuse	Resigned	9/7
Sgt. Matthew Gnatke	Homicide	Retired	9/28
Lt. William Brown	Communications	Retired	7/7
Lt. Clegg Hughes	6th Pct.	Retired	7/7
Lt. Nathaniel Weekly	7th Pct.	Retired	7/7
Lt. Robert Torres	12th Pct.	Retired	7/18
Lt. Ronald Lockhart	2nd Pct.	Retired	7/28
Cpt. John Widmer	FAMLE	Retired	7/3

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Officers' Rights under Miranda & Garrity — Page 5
- Meet your Executive Board members — Page 6
- Grievance Committee Update — Page 9
- 2026 Work Periods Calendar — Page 8
- Be aware of coverage changes at age 65 — Page 26

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# Holding the line

## We leave our mark by making each moment important

By The Rev. Peter Latouf

If the last few months have taught us anything, it's that there are no guarantees about where or when violence will hit. A lot of places people once thought of as safe havens became the most dangerous places to be. Over these past few months, churches, universities, elementary schools, stores, even quiet neighborhoods have seen horrible acts of violence. These are places our people always thought of as safe, but sadly, they don't feel that way anymore.

For the members of the Detroit Police Officers Association, this isn't really news. You already live with that reality every day. You put on your uniforms knowing full well

that your shift could take a turn at any moment. I'm sure that you've all seen, in one way or another, how quickly a calm situation can become chaotic or how a routine call can become a crisis. Unlike a lot of people, you don't need the news to tell you that tomorrow isn't promised.

But what I've learned in my ministry work is that most of the world does need that reminder. Most people still go about their day assuming nothing bad will happen ... they just assume that someone else is holding the line. Well, it seems that "someone else" is you. When every-



### THE BIGGER PICTURE

one else is shaken and unsure, you're the one they're looking for. It's a heavy responsibility, but it's also why your role is so vital and so appreciated.

There's another angle to this, too. The same truth applies to you and to your families personally as well. None of us know how many days we've got left. Which means every day and even every shift matters. Every conversation you have with a resident matters, every time you defuse a fight matters and every time you check on someone who looks lost matters. All of these things make a mark on the city that might even outlast you.

It's easy to forget this in the middle of long hours, paperwork and other demands. But when I think about the people I've known and are gone now, I don't ever remember the awards they received or all the certificates they've gotten over the years. The thing I remember most is the way they carried themselves and the small things they did consistently. I think it's important we all just remember that we're part of something greater (a city and a world) that will still be here after we're not.

So we leave our mark by making each moment important. That's also why unity in the DPOA matters so much. The officers standing next to you today are

the same ones you may depend on tomorrow, in ways we can't see yet.

So please don't wait for a tragedy to remind you of what matters. Be sure to take care of your health and make time for your family. Try to build each other up instead of tearing each other down and do the job with knowing you're part of something bigger than yourself.

My prayer is that, however many days we're given, we live them well; that we support each other, carry out our duty with integrity, and never lose sight of

how sacred this work really is.

May God bless the men and women of the DPOA, and may God keep you safe.

*Father Peter Latouf recently completed his missionary assignment in Taiwan and Hong Kong and is now assigned to serve as parochial vicar at Holy Family Catholic Church in Orlando, Fla. The Detroit-area native is the son of retired Police Officer Donna Latouf, the former secretary-treasurer for the Detroit Police Officers Association, and also the brother of Police Officer Lisa Latouf of Internal Affairs.*

**Looking for a recent past issue of Tuebor? Did you know the last three years are available on the DPOA website? Check them out by visiting [www.detroitpoa.com](http://www.detroitpoa.com) and click the "Tuebor Editions" tab.**

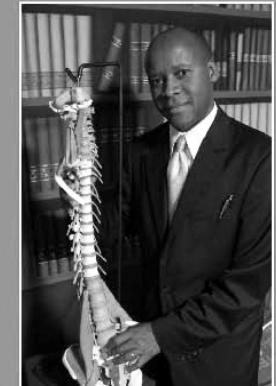
***Editor's Note: The article deadline for the next issue of the Tuebor is Tuesday, Dec. 30. Please email articles and other info for publication to Editor Joe Hoshaw Jr. at [tuebor@detroit@yahoo.com](mailto:tuebor@detroit@yahoo.com). He can also be reached at (734) 558-6955. For more details on being a contributor to Tuebor, please see Page 6.***

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### Contributing writers needed

Don't see your command area represented with an article in Tuebor? You are welcome to help us change that. If you are interested in being the writer and are willing and able to provide a quarterly article, please contact your chief steward or email [tuebor@detroit@yahoo.com](mailto:tuebor@detroit@yahoo.com)

Visit the Detroit Police Officers Association online at [www.detroitpoa.com](http://www.detroitpoa.com)



# 2026 Work Periods

2026 SUMMER FURLOUGH DRAW																					
Monday, Feb. 16, 2026																					
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
5	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
12	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
14	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
18	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
22	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
24	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
26	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
28	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
29	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	①	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Tear out this page and save. Printed 8.5 x 11 copies also are available at the DPOA office.

### OFFICERS

Craig Miller, President  
Ron Thomas, Vice President  
Ken Eppenbrock, Secretary-Treasurer  
Linda Broden, Sergeant-At-Arms

### DPOA

1938 E. Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
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### EXCUSED TIME

- (4) 8 hours on Good Friday, 4-3-26
- (5) 8 hours on Easter, 4-5-26
- (6) 8 hours on Juneteenth, 6-19-26
- (3) 8 hours on Martin Luther King's Birthday, 1-19-26

### 2026 HOLIDAYS

- New Year's Day-Jan. 1, 2026
- Memorial Day-May 25, 2026
- Independence Day-July 4, 2026
- Labor Day- Sept. 7, 2026
- Veterans Day-Nov. 11, 2026
- Thanksgiving Day-Nov. 26, 2026
- Christmas Day-Dec. 25, 2026

### 2026 SUMMER FURLOUGH PERIODS

1. March 30-April 8
2. April 13-April 22
3. April 27-May 6
4. May 11-May 20
5. May 25-June 4H-May 25
6. June 8-June 17
7. June 22-July 1
8. July 6-July 15
9. July 20-July 29
10. Aug. 3-Aug. 12
11. Aug. 17-Aug. 26
12. Aug. 31-Sept. 10 H-Sept. 7
13. Sept. 14-Sept. 23

### 2026 WINTER FURLOUGH PERIODS

1. Sept. 28-Oct. 7
2. Oct. 12-Oct. 21
3. Oct. 26-Nov. 4
4. Nov. 9-Nov. 19 H-Nov. 11
5. Nov. 23-Dec. 3 H-Nov. 26
6. Dec. 7-Dec. 16
7. Dec. 21-Dec. 31 H-Dec. 25
8. Jan. 4-Jan. 13
9. Jan. 18-Jan. 27
10. Feb. 1-Feb. 10
11. Feb. 15-Feb. 24
12. March 1-March 10
13. March 15-March 24

### 2026-2027 SUMMER FURLOUGH PERIODS

1. Sept. 28-Oct. 7
2. Oct. 12-Oct. 21
3. Oct. 26-Nov. 4
4. Nov. 9-Nov. 19 H-Nov. 11
5. Nov. 23-Dec. 3 H-Nov. 26
6. Dec. 7-Dec. 16
7. Dec. 21-Dec. 31 H-Dec. 25
8. Jan. 4-Jan. 13
9. Jan. 18-Jan. 27
10. Feb. 1-Feb. 10
11. Feb. 15-Feb. 24
12. March 1-March 10
13. March 15-March 24

### 2026-2027 WINTER FURLOUGH PERIODS

1. Sept. 28-Oct. 7
2. Oct. 12-Oct. 21
3. Oct. 26-Nov. 4
4. Nov. 9-Nov. 19 H-Nov. 11
5. Nov. 23-Dec. 3 H-Nov. 26
6. Dec. 7-Dec. 16
7. Dec. 21-Dec. 31 H-Dec. 25
8. Jan. 4-Jan. 13
9. Jan. 18-Jan. 27
10. Feb. 1-Feb. 10
11. Feb. 15-Feb. 24
12. March 1-March 10
13. March 15-March 24

### 5 Circled Seniority Leave Day Periods

- Period-1 Period-6
- Period-10 Period-13

### 2026 Work Periods

- Period-1 Period-6
- Period-10 Period-13

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# Pay issues get resolved in members' favor

Hello again.

Here is some of what has been going on since the last article.

## Total Grievances Filed in 2025 = 78

### Arbitration Decisions

#### Termination Appeal - 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct Member

The appeal was heard by Arbitrator Gail M. Wilson. Arbitrator Wilson upheld all charges and the termination stands.

#### Third Precinct - Denied Use of Comp Time

The grievant was denied comp time due to the shift being short on the date requested (not a valid reason). This grievance was scheduled for arbitration Sept. 18, 2025. On Sept. 17, 2025, the Association was notified that the City will grant the grievance. The grievant is to receive eight hours comp time in her bank for this violation.

**DPOA Policy - Pro-rated Longevity** — This grievance was submitted due to four members not receiving a longevity payment in December of 2023. The Department stated that the members did not work enough days in the year to receive a longevity payment. The Association's stance differed. The CBA states that if you work a set number of days in a month you will receive a longevity payment for that month. Arbitrator Gail M. Wilson heard the grievance and agreed with the Association. The grievance was granted, and the members are to receive their partial longevity payments.



## THE GRIEVANCE FILES



**Keith Baker**

### Important information: Seniority Corporal and Pay

The City has identified the following as being affected by the Failure to Pay/Promote to Seniority Corporal:

#24-046 Robin Carver; #24-047 Robert Brown; #24-048 Ronald Daniels; #24-049 Derrick Dixon; #24-050 Lee Dyer; #24-051 Darrell Lightfoot; #24-052 Darren Long; #24-053 Jason Martin; #24-054 Jose Martinez; #24-055 Matthew Miller; #24-056 Rahaman Muhammad; #24-057 Billie Peters; #24-058 Steven Rauser; #24-059 Willie Robinson; #24-060 Verona Shaw; #24-061 Darius Shepherd; #24-062 Monique Swartz-Bell; #24-063 Miesha Wallace; #24-064 Felicia Washington; #24-065 Troy Wesley; #24-066 Louis Wilson; #24-067 Calvin Wilson; #24-068 Daniel Woods; #24-069 Kimberly Wright; #24-070 Christopher Williams; #24-071 Melissa Adams; #24-085 Steven Dudzic; #24-087 Steven Townsend; #24-088 James Bradford. (The numbers are the grievance num-

bers)

The Department has started paying members

backpay for the 2.5 percent owed. Please contact the Association when you receive your money.

If you are nearing your 15th year of employment with this great Department, notify your command.

Keep an eye out for a change in your pay. A 2.5 percent pay increase is what you will receive.

#### DROP Extension

Participating DROP members who are reaching the end of their 10<sup>th</sup>

year and would like to continue doing so for another year, must send a request to the chief of police. This request must be submitted to the chief of police no less than 2 two months prior to your DROP end date. If you are uncertain of your DROP date, call and speak to a member of the Grievance Committee. We have that info and a template of the request to extend.

**DPOA Texting System (Active DPOA Members)**

The Association has a

texting system in place to distribute union information. There are still active members who have not opted into the texting system. If you wish to opt in, text your name to (313) 567-8770 to be added.

**Remember**, the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Drink more water! Read a book. Knowledge is power. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Make sure your beneficiary is up to date.

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### COLONIAL LIFE SHORT TERM DISABILITY IS BACK!

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#### Whole Life insurance\*

- Ages 18-50 up to a max of \$150,000
- Ages 51-79 up to a max of \$60,000

#### Term Life insurance\*\*

- Age 15-50 to a max of \$125,000
- Age 51-60 to a max of \$75,000
- Age 61-75 to a max of \$30,000

#### Spouse Term Life

- Age 16-50: \$25,000
- Age 51-75: \$10,000

**Critical illness insurance\*\*** is being offered to all employees up to a \$20,000 benefit.

**Hospital indemnity insurance\*\*** is being offered to all employees up to a \$1,000 Hospital Confinement benefit.

#### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO CITY OF DETROIT EMPLOYEES:

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##### Cancer Insurance

##### Dental Insurance\*



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## Time to sign up for kids' gifts

*Continued from Page 1*

form can be found on Page 10 and is available at the DPOA office to fill out and get youngsters registered as soon as possible. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 14.

This year's Kiddie Christmas party will be held from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Farwell Recreation Center, located at 2711 East Outer Drive. This will mark the fourth year the long-standing DPOA event has been held there.

Hill said his committee members are working hard to make the event a

fun and exciting time for all. Kiddies will be treated to food, snacks, desserts and beverages, as well as music and live entertainment. Santa also will be there — for photo opps and to listen to the Christmas wishes of the attendees. Hill said DPOA members can help greatly with that effort by filling out the gift form.

The form requests the age of each child coming to the party, and that information will be used to make sure there are an adequate number of appropriate gifts for each age level.

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4-24 | NS-1103666-2

# Officer grateful after life-saving transplant

Continued from Page 1

You tell yourself, I'm not doing that, and this is just too much. And you realize you're not just doing that for yourself. Your family is depending on you — to be the person you have been. They understand that you are at a weakened state, but they still look and say, Dad, you're a fighter. You know you're going to do this."

Fountain, who will celebrate his 40-year anniversary with the department in January, has been a mainstay in Communication for the past two decades. The first half of his career was spent at the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct. His interest in getting into law enforcement was stoked in 1985 after he and his stepfather were caught in the middle of a robbery at a meat-packing store where they both worked. The suspect actually shot at but missed Fountain. A sergeant who was at the crime scene encouraged him to look into becoming a police officer with DPD, which was in a major hiring blitz at the time. He applied in the summer of 1985 and was sworn in about six months later.

He and Denise, who works at Providence Hospital as a surgical scheduler, have three adult children, including youngest son, Mitchell, who still lives with them and helped make sure his father got to the hospital the night he became the latest DPD member to get caught up in the emerging covid pandemic that came out of nowhere and seemed impossible to control.

"People at work were dropping like flies," Fountain said. "And all of a sudden one day it just hit me really hard, around maybe the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. 'I called in and told the sergeant, 'I think I may have covid. I'm having issues. I'm not feeling good at all.' I think I stayed home maybe two days and I wasn't getting any better. The medication that the doc had given me wasn't really doing anything, I said, 'Man, I really think I need to go to the hospital.'" His lieutenant encouraged him to go to the hospital quickly due to the surging number of people seeking care.

"At this point I think I'm probably full-blown covid. I've got it. My wife, she's got it. She's sick." His son, who was sequestering away from his parents, didn't have it. Fountain remembers driving to the hospital in pouring rain with his son following behind him in his own car.

Fountain said he could feel himself starting to lose consciousness as he entered the hospital.

"I got to the door ... at that point I could feel myself fading ... I'm like I can't stop myself from getting ready to pass out and I like I'm losing it. And, all of a sudden, the lights just went out. My son said I fell."

He regained consciousness a minute or two later as he was being put on a gurney and then taken into the emergency room for examination and testing. The result showed he indeed had covid and indicated he was in serious physical distress. Fountain's heart rate was above 200, and a dropping creatin level indicated that his kidneys were nearing failure.

Several medical procedures followed,

and he eventually found himself inside a small room.

"It's like a hospital room but the door is locked. I can't get out. They are locking you in your room because they don't want you to spread it to anybody else."

A variety of drugs were given, but nothing seemed to be working.

"I go to use the bathroom and it's so dark it's like the urine is almost black and I'm like, what is going on ... And my heart is like at a steady 120-130 while I'm sitting down resting because the covid is now attacking my heart. They had been talking to my wife...they were telling her that I might not make it through the night because they couldn't stop whatever the covid was doing. They had no known medication that could reverse or fix anything that was going on with my kidneys, anything that was going on with my heart ... They knew that (covid) was here, but they had nothing to really combat it; nothing that they could give (and) anything they gave ... wasn't helping.

"They were throwing the kitchen sink, trying to slow the effects down. They knew they couldn't cure it, but they figured whatever they could give me to slow it down to save my life is what they're doing ... give him this ... give him that. They were trying to slow the progression. Because they knew if they didn't give me anything I would have died. It would have killed me... (covid) would have given me either a heart attack or a stroke...it was coming...the body could only take so much."

Fountain's hospital stay would last a week.

The first two days were the hardest," he said. "Of course I'm there by myself. Can't see my family ... Every nurse who came in had a spacesuit on, so I couldn't tell one from the other."

None of the food or medicine would stay down.

"The one thing they gave me that made me feel halfway better was some Hall's (cough lozenges). I don't know what it was, my nose felt like it was completely open. It felt as big as my head and it felt like all this air was coming in ... believe it or not, it made me feel a whole lot better. It made my stomach feel better. For whatever reason, maybe it was the menthol, but whatever it was, it made me feel better. It just started decreasing the effects. Heart rate came down, but the kidney function was to the point where it was damaged beyond repair. Just that quick. They thought maybe a little bit of dialysis would bounce it back ... for some people it regenerated the



Fountain in his early days as a patrol officer at left, and with wife Denise at a 2017 event.

Fountain said his weight at one point reached 385 pounds. Hospitalization for covid in 2020 was the start of a five-year journey to reclaim his health.

"He said, 'But you're alive, we can fix things, we can fix things if you want to fix this.' I tell people it was a hard road. People don't know what you have to go through to get to where you're at. People see me now and say, 'Mike, you look good. You're doing this, you're doing this; you're like a totally different person.' And I tell them I feel great; I feel wonderful, but I have to also remember when I wasn't feeling so wonderful and the nights that you're alone; you're by yourself. And you pray. You pray for some forgiveness.

"You think about your salvation.

Continued on Page 18

## Sign your child up now for a gift at the DPOA Kiddie Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 6

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Attn: Mary Moss  
Deadline to reserve your  
child's gift is **Friday, Nov. 14**

# Optimism prevails in outlook for new year



**Abdul Shabazz**

Good day to all!

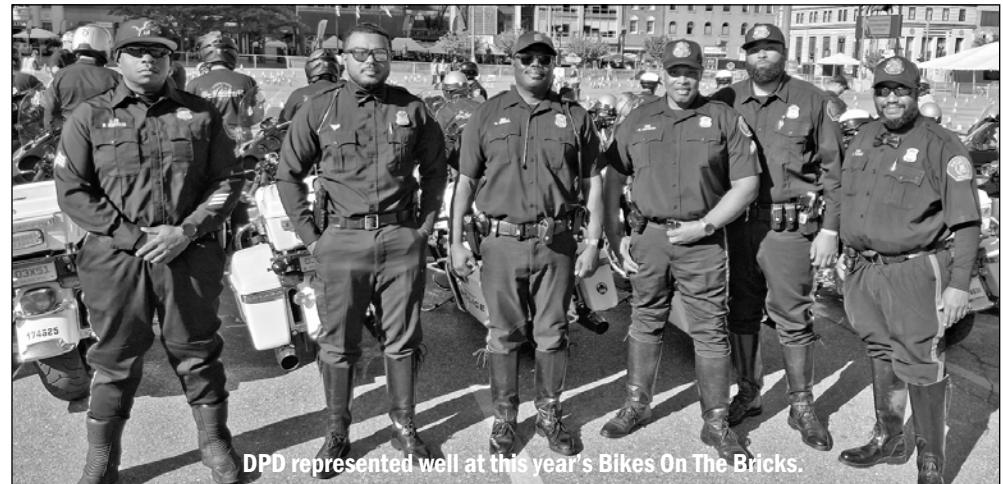
After much stagnation, we finally have a motorcycle training course for our new members! So as of press we're entering the first couple of days of DUCK season! LOL

Kudos to the efforts of not only our esteemed instructors, Officers Croxton and Turner, but Sgt. Reed, a supervisor who recently transferred to Traffic Enforcement who has shown an interest in becoming a motorman that hopefully will help restore the glory we once had when EVERYBODY rode! I mean everybody (timekeepers, clerks, supervisors, etc.). As our now Sheriff Washington's used to say (one of many, I should say), "this a grown-ass man unit."

As the years have gone by the unit has slowly eroded, sometimes beyond our control and sometimes within our con-

trol. We need motivated members to join the ranks of Traffic Enforcement, no doubt. We recently added members to swell the ranks and they're doing a great job, but we need more. But hey, it's coming up on 2026 and I'm optimistic that we're going to excel.

We've been in the spotlight lately because Gratiot has been like the Talladega Speedway and too many fatal accidents have occurred within a short period of time. And as I've said before, the concerned citizens of Detroit have our support! Yes, we want the world to know if we catch up with you it's going to be a ticket and maybe a tow! Who cares who your cousin is or who you know! Slow down! No one wants an out-of-control speeding car crashing into them and it seems like it happens all the time, while



**DPD represented well at this year's Bikes On The Bricks.**

the unlicensed driver walks away from a high speed crash and the innocent get seriously injured.

I had the pleasure of travelling to Flint for the annual Bikes On The Bricks. DPD represented, but hey it's a rebuilding year — bike been down, no mechanic for our bike. Like I mentioned before, the efforts of TEU have even reached beyond the scope of DPD. The city has now obtained the services of a Harley Davidson dealership to provide much needed maintenance on our bikes since the untimely death of our mechanic. So hopefully we'll have a certified me-

chanic join us at Russell/Ferry.

On a bright note we have new editions to the TEU family! Congrats to Officer Green on the recent birth of his daughter! And to Officer Dalzochio on his upcoming marriage as of press time!

As requested, here is a photo from up in Flint during the bike competition. Next year we're going to sweep! We'll be seeing you at the Thanksgiving Day parade with our new motormen! I'm hopeful every motivated duck will pass and I'm rooting for you!

Stay safe out there and back each other up!



**Kromanix**



## Officers help curb weekend shootings

Summer is over. This year, it was very hectic. The men and women in blue were very busy providing protection and safety for residents and businesses of the city.

Though crimes sometimes are pre-meditated or random acts, law enforcement can't be omnipresent to prevent the mens rea of these bad actors. The neighborhood block parties contributed to most of the many shootings around the city, though the shot spotter has been a great help in locating and arresting some of these criminals and continues to be an important tool to the Department.

Hopefully, technological advancement will add up to the tools of locating and combating crimes in our communities. Thanks to Chief Todd Bettison for the establishment of weekend block parties operations during the weekend, from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. Our thank you also to our gallant men and women for their hard work in curbing weekend shootings.

On the home front, I want to commend and applaud Commander Michael Chambers and Captain Derrick Griffins, who are doing fantastic jobs at the Precinct.

Their teamwork is producing great results in regards to the precinct operations, as they keep echoing proactive policing in the precinct, enforcing traffic violations, giving continuous patrol to hot spots and giving special attention to businesses in the Precinct. Thank you, gentlemen!

### WELCOME

I wish to welcome our new probationary police officers at the precinct. The new additions are products of the Training Center, doing a great job to augment our manpower. They included:

Alesia Bethea, Bobbi Janikic, Tonie Strong, Alex Bowman, Derrick Scott, Marcelles Gadson, Emmanuel Johnson, Derrion Tankard, Keondre Smith and Kevin Crowe. Welcome to the Blues Inn, I hope you will enjoy the journey!

Last but not least, we extend our profound sympathies to Lt. Travis Anderson, who lost his father last month. We pray that he garners the strength to overcome this irreparable loss. May the soul of the departed rest in eternal peace. Until next time, stay tuned and be safe.

— M. Mustapha Kroma

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# 'Walk a Mile' highlights a very busy summer

Greetings everyone. It has been a busy summer for Second Precinct. The Second Precinct had a very successful Walk a Mile Wednesday with Police Chief Todd Bettison in our aviation area (208) of the Second Precinct. We hosted our National Night Out/Backpack giveaway at Adam Butzel Recreation Center.

I would like to thank our Aviation Unit and Canine Unit for coming out to our NNO. The par-



ents and children were very excited seeing the helicopter land in the parking lot of Adam Butzel Recreation Center. The Second Precinct also host-

ed the Fifth Annual Jazz in the Park, featuring Leslie Deshazor at the Adam Butzel Recreation Center Pavilion.

Thanks to my partner,

NPO Jennifer Tyler, aka "THE EVENT PLANNER," for another successful event. The event was live and we had special guest Former Chief

James E. White attend the Jazz in the Park event. The community had a really good time.

I would like to give a shout out to Andre and his staff at the Adam Butzel Recreation Center, which always supports the Second Precinct Neighborhood Policing Unit with our community events. I was on furlough when I heard about my brother in blue Ali Kamaldine's accident while patrolling. I am praying for him and his

family for a successful and healthy recovery. I would also like to give my heartfelt prayers and condolences to my brothers and sisters in blue's family members who have recently passed away.

Remember to always CHECK on our BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN BLUE! I would like to wish all officers who had birthdays in July, August and September (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)! WITH LOVE!

## New training unit a big plus



### Three Triple Three

**Lindita Merditaj**

Welcome to fall! And go Lions! With football and tailgating season in full swing let's remember to drink responsibly! Utilize Lyft/Uber, do NOT drink and drive!

**What's new with the Third Precinct?** A lot has happened since our previous newspaper writer departed. Larry Jenkins, our former writer, has been promoted to sergeant! Congratulations to Sgt. Jenkins, who now oversees the midnight shift at the Eighth Precinct.

At the Third Precinct, a dedicated training unit was established under the leadership of Sergeant Rodney Ballinger. Commander Fulgenzi and Sgt. Ballinger developed this unit out of a shared belief that comprehensive police training is essential for equipping officers with the skills, judgment and integrity required to protect the community effectively while fostering trust, accountability and respect for human rights.

Introducing the Third Precinct Field Training Officers: Cpl. Mathieu Charles, Cpl. Daniel Polisuk, PO Brent Benavides, PO Ryan Jaberoo and PO Roy Boyd. Together, they offer a wide range of training strategies, with each officer bringing an extensive and diverse background to the unit.

The training unit operates between 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m., ensuring that all new officers receive proper instruction from FTOs, who primarily work the day shift.

Even while directing the FTO program, Sgt. Ballinger remains fully engaged as a road patrol sergeant. Last September, Sgt. Ballinger and officers responded to a dispatched run for a disturbance at 120 Parsons St. Upon arrival, they discovered a male — likely under the influence of narcotics — who was completely nude and throwing all of his belongings out of his apartment window. The man had already broken



**The Third Precinct's new field training officers include Cpl. Mathieu Charles, Cpl. Daniel Polisuk, PO Brent Benavides, PO Ryan Jaberoo and PO Roy Boyd. Officers Willie Johnson, Christopher Potts, Mathieu Charles and Scott Maurer, along with Sgt. Rodney Ballinger above, were recent recipients of Lifesaving Awards for their work during an incident that occurred in September.**

*Photos courtesy of Lindita Merditaj*



out all the window glass and was sitting directly on shards without showing any signs of pain. Moments later, he climbed onto a narrow 6-inch ledge outside the window, creating a life-threatening situation.

Working quickly, Sergeant Ballinger secured the man's left arm while Detroit Fire Department EMS member Samuel Lemire wrapped his arms around the subject's waist. Officers Willie Johnson and Christopher Potts assisted by securing his right arm. Meanwhile, Officers Mathieu Charles and Scott Maurer maintained control at street level, clearing the area of

citizens in case the man attempted to jump.

The officers' bravery and quick thinking earned them one of the

department's highest honors — a Lifesaving Award.

Congratulations gentleman, well deserved.

# NOW WE'RE COOKING

## DPOA picnic adds some sizzle to dog days of summer



The annual Detroit Police Officers Association Family Cookout has proven to be a great way to bring all branches of Detroit public safety services together for food and camaraderie each August. Held again at the DPOA office, this years get-together was enjoyed by hundreds who stopped by throughout the day. The effort to run the event is a before sun-up to well after sundown event that is organized and run by the members of the DPOA's Entertainment Committee. Congratulations to all for making it an outstanding day.



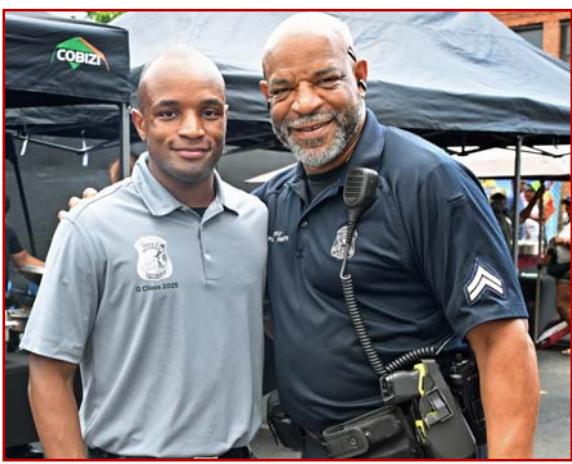
Photos: David L. Chapman



# Cookout

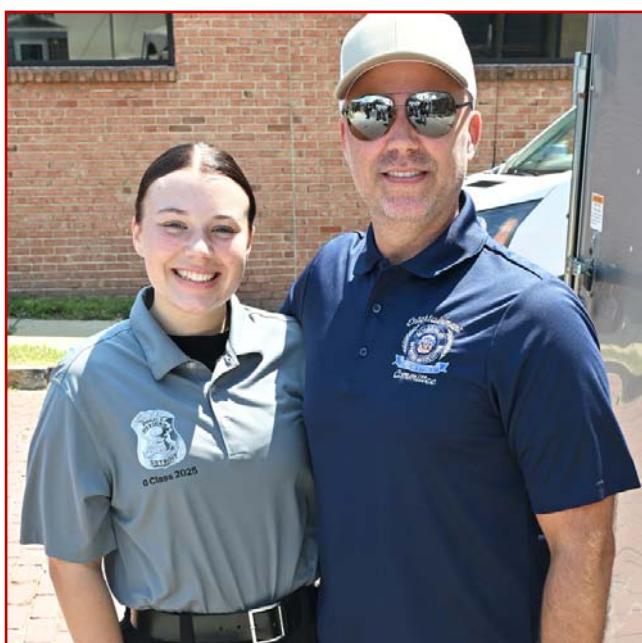


Photos: David L. Chapman

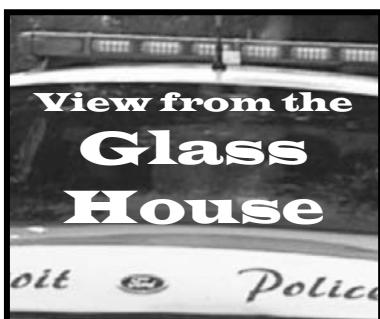




## Cookout



# 'Tis the season for sick time review



Hello, my brothers and sisters in Blue. I pray that you all are in good health and spirits.

It's time for sick time review. If you received a notice of initial counseling or 350 counseling, please contact your union steward or the union office so that we can go over it with you. Remember what management thinks sick time abuse is and what the contract says can be different.

I hope everyone understands that what we do is not just a job, it's a profession and we must carry ourselves as professionals. We must be on time, in the right uniform and with the right equipment. We must be where we are supposed to be and complete the task we were sent there to do.

A professional does his or her job even when they are not happy about it. We are held to higher standards as police officers on and off duty, so know your rules and regulations, i.e. general orders.

If you are off duty and a situation occurs, re-

member you're still a professional who will be judged as such. I talk with many unions, from California to Australia, and believe me when I say the Detroit Police Department is well respected by everyone for the job we do. Be proud of that!

Remember to take pride in your profession, you are the standard. I want to say thank you to all of you professionals for another great job at the 48th Annual Detroit Free Press Marathon. You dealt with the rain and wind with more than 30,000 participants and visitors, making sure everyone was safe and had a good time.

Love you guys. Great job!



Thanks to all for another great job at the Detroit Free Press Marathon!



## Labor Day duty

On watch (above) during the Detroit Labor Day Parade Sept. 1 are Cpl. Kristin Nieman (left) and Cpl. Janel Paton. The officers were working at Michigan Avenue and Cochrane, and their fellow union members marching in the parade were giving the occasional shout-outs of support to the men and women in blue.



Working the corner of Michigan and Sixth are Lt. Kevin Robinson (left), Cpl. Stacie Cybulski and Cpt. Mark Carson.



Manning the corner of Michigan Avenue and Sixth Street are NPOs Jason Briggs (left) and Darrin Nevels, who both work out of Downtown Services.



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# Honoring Hispanic Heritage

## Month dedicated to celebrating history, culture

By David Vazquez  
HPOAM PRESIDENT

Every year, from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, our nation observes Hispanic Heritage Month, a time dedicated to honoring the history, culture, and contributions of the Hispanic community.

What may surprise some is that these dates were chosen to coincide with the independence anniversaries of several Latin American countries, a reminder that our heritage is rooted in resilience, freedom, and unity.

It just so happens that as we celebrate this month, the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan (HPOAM) continues reflecting on its own legacy of service and leadership. For more than three decades, HPOAM has proudly served as a bridge between law enforcement and the community.

Originally founded by Manual Pompa and Robert Ayala and revitalized in 1994 by Officer Javier Chapa and then Sgt. John Serda, the association was built on values of representation, cultural pride and service.

Today, under the leadership of President David Vazquez, HPOAM continues its mission: to serve with integrity, build trust, and create opportunities for the next generation of leaders. Through community outreach, mentorship, and scholarship programs, we are not only supporting officers today, but also inspiring the officers of tomorrow.

We believe that diversity in policing is not just representation — it is strength. By celebrating heritage, engaging with residents, and investing in youth, the Hispanic Police Officers Association of Michigan proudly helps build a safer, stronger, and more united Detroit.

And while our foundation is Hispanic, our doors are open to all. Officers of every culture and background are welcome to join us, stand with us, and carry forward a legacy of pride, service, and community for generations to come.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, there's no better time to step forward, join our mission, and be part of something bigger than yourself.

Follow us on Facebook for information, upcoming events and engagements.



Photos courtesy of David Vazquez



Mike Fountain in May, just two months after receiving a new kidney.

## Officer grateful after transplant

Continued from Page 10

What have you done with our life. Is this the part where it's going to end for you? What have you done in your life to deserve a second chance. And I tell people I think that's what I was given.

No one can answer that but myself. I atoned for things I have done and I asked God for forgiveness, because nobody else can judge you and I endured the dialysis for five years. In those five years" the doctors and nurses said "you can get from this point to this point to be off (dialysis), if that's what you want, but this is what you have to do, starting with, A), not looking to the bottom, the end, you've got to start at the top. You've got to start all over again as to what you want to do. Is this what you want to do? I want to be free from dialysis. If you do, this is what you need to do."

What he needed to do, primarily, was lose weight. A lot of weight. Enough to get his name added to the kidney transplant list.

By working on his diet and going to the gym, Fountain was able to lose close to 60 pounds, but plateaued and still was well over 300 pounds, "It wasn't enough. They said you are going to have to lose more," he said. At that point he was recommended for bariatric surgery. He had the surgery in 2023 and lost another 70 to 80 pounds, bringing his weight down to about 260. He continued to lose steadily, and when he got down close to 240 he was approved for the transplant list.

He said he was doing well at this point, but dialysis was becoming more of a struggle.

"The longer you're on dialysis it breaks your body down," he said, explaining that dialysis is only meant to be temporary. "(You) can't live 20 years on dialysis, it's going to have a devastating effect on your body."

Fountain said he started noticing that his balance would be off and his hands would shake, sometimes terribly. The three and a half hours three days a week on the dialysis machine was taking its toll.

"It felt like the machine was just sucking the life out of me. I was literally getting depressed...praying every day. There were days I just wasn't fine. I endured it. It's hard. Extremely."

His energy was drained.

"I would be so tired," he said. "It was the will of God to just say, we gonna get up ... keep it moving ... But my legs and my knees and my body would just feel so heavy it would hurt. The dialysis was literally giving me pain."

Continued at right

Continued from previous page

But he endured it until the March 21 phone call that would change everything. Perhaps a little ironic for someone who has spent two decades in Communication, Fountain, who was at work at the time, initially missed the call to his cell phone.

But the caller, one of his nurses at U of M, reached him at his work number. When Fountain answered the phone and heard, "We have a kidney for you." He didn't need to hear anymore. "I'll take it."

The donor was a 20-year-old white male who had died in a car accident the day before.

"His parents decided to donate his organs," said Fountain, who is befuddled by the various stigmas people have both about donating organs in general as well as about donating or receiving organs from people of different races.

"It's so stupid. Just because somebody has more pigmentation in their skin, it doesn't mean they're not a person, not human. People call it black and white — they're a person more than any color."

— Mike Fountain

He believes his donor's parents feel the same. "They believe the same thing. Our son was a person. We want to help somebody else regardless of who they are. So I received his right kidney."

He wishes more people would be open to organ donation.

"It's just so funny in saying that that people of color like myself, older people, they bury their loved ones with their organs intact knowing that there is something they can give to save somebody else. I don't know why; there's a stigma that just stuck in their head. But we were fortunate enough for these parents to say, you know what, we'll give our son's organs away."

Fountain does not know who his donor was, but he is hoping to someday have the chance to

meet his parents. "We only got the information that the hospital gave us. We gave our information on a card if they ever want to reach out."

Fountain said he hasn't been at his present weight, 201 pounds, since junior high school.

"It's been like six months (since surgery) and I feel good," he said, noting that his most recent blood-pressure reading was 120/70. "I wake up every day, and I put my feet on the floor and I say, 'Thank you.' I have a new look on life that I didn't have before."

Still, he is left with feelings of guilt he can't fully explain but suspects are related to the young man who lost his life and people he met in dialysis who are still there — and the ones who may not receive a kidney in time.

"I knew I should not question what God has for me, but I just wondered, there's so many people (still in need of kidneys). Even the people I used to talk to everyday and the dialysis center ... they're still there. I went back to visit a couple times since I've had my surgery. They're still there. They're still there everyday Tuesday, every Thursday, every Saturday morning. They're still there."

But he's adjusting well to his new lifestyle, where he does not feel the need or want to eat a lot and enjoys the fact that his wife's new nickname for him is "Thinzel."

"Things have changed for me because I felt as though now, getting the transplant truly has saved my life," he said. "I do realize that I would have died. So, it's kind of changed me. Because I could tell being on dialysis it was really breaking my body down; I was ready to retire because it was just in bad shape that I couldn't continue to even come to work. It was hard."

"I look at things different. I look at everything different."

# September is for members

(More Membership Meeting photos on Page 20)



Photos:  
David L. Chapman

Membership Meeting No. 3 for 2025, held Sept. 16, was a chance to say goodbye to summer and hello to fall as active members and numerous retirees gathered at the Sacred Heart Church Activities Building, which is conveniently located just outside of downtown. Those on hand received updates from DPOA leadership and a range of information from several of the vendors who provide services to officers. The business portion of the gathering was followed by dinner and a raffle.

Here are some more photos from the September General Membership Meeting. If you missed it there's one more chance for members to get together for 2025. The final meeting of the year will be held Nov. 12, again at the Sacred Heart Church Activities Building.



Photos: David L. Chapman

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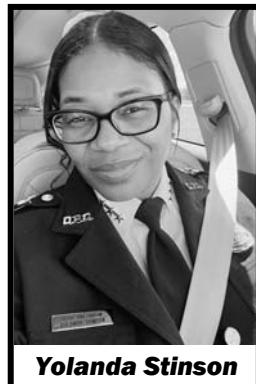
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Thank you to the resident who participated and won the car prize at the Showdown in Motown, pictured along with Cpl. Sean Wilson, Chief Todd Bettison, Capt. Tanya Leonard and Dannie Woods.

## Remember that your efforts are appreciated



**Yolanda Stinson**

Thank you for going the extra mile!

Somedays you feel like you work, you push, you drive, you go hard to help "save the day;" make the arrest; not make the arrest; solve the case; fight for somebody's benefits or rights;

maintain the peace and help bring order. Some days you complete the reports; you cover for someone else; you schedule the meetings; you facilitate the training; you make sure the boss eats or makes it to that last-minute meeting.

You do it all; not just because it's your job, but you do it because you care, you were chosen for this and you were built for this. But sometimes you just need to know you're appreciated, sometimes you need to know that all the extra things you do are not unnoticed, that you are making a difference.

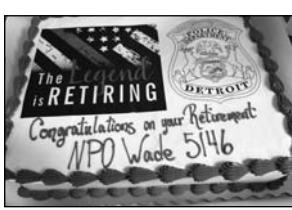
Well allow me to scream out loud,



A thank you and support during the Prayer at the Spirit of Detroit to Bishop Daryl Harris, Ceasefire; Apostle Lennell Caldwell, former Chief of the Detroit Police Department's Chaplain Corp; Pastor Quantez Pressley, member of BOPC, and myself.



With Cinceré Al'Talet and Quantez Pressley at 9/11 memorial.



The cake for a farewell thank you celebration for NPO Aubrey Wade.



A retired officer from NYC came to celebrate with us to say thank you to the fallen at 9/11 Memorial.

"THANK YOU for everything you do! THANK YOU for showing up! THANK YOU for not quitting and not giving up! You are valued, you are appreciated and you are prayed for."

Let's keep going the extra mile. God sees it all, He is a rewarder, and you are making a difference. Much love, keep changing the world. Here are a few photos from us making an impact.

*Contributing Writer  
Yolanda Stinson is a civilian Detroit Police Department employee and a past deputy chief chaplain.*

## WE ARE 'FAMLE'

Unit provides support at most critical times

By Katherine Price  
FAMLE UNIT

FAMLE (Family Advocate and Management Liaison for Engagement) Unit is devoted to walking alongside families through the hardest moments of their lives. We care for the families of fallen and critically injured officers.

When an officer dies, their families are often overwhelmed and unsure where to even begin, unaware of the benefits and ceremonial honors they are eligible for. That's where our unit steps in. We don't just offer words of comfort — we take on the heavy burden of navigating state and federal benefit applications, all handled with confidentiality, so they can focus on grieving and healing.

These benefits can take years to come through, and we remain by their side for as long as it takes, ensuring they never feel forgotten.

At the heart of everything we do is a promise: Your loved one's service will never be forgotten. We are committed to preserving their legacy and supporting those they leave behind.

We aim to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the community. For families affected by homicide, we offer consistent support and a compassionate presence, connecting them with resources and standing by them in their grief. We urge all families to access these resources whenever they feel ready; grief has no set timeline.

If you encounter a family affected by homicide in our city, please advise them to scan the QR code below for questions regarding their case or access to resources.

Our flyers are located at all precincts. Families of fallen, retired, and critically injured officers, contact us at (313) 596-1838.



### Honoring our own in remembrance of upcoming anniversary dates:

Lloyd Todd, EOW: 09-12-2022

Kenneth Steil, EOW: 09-17-2016

Patrick Hill, EOW: 10-20-2013

Myron Jarrett, EOW: 10-28-2016

Rasheen McClain, EOW: 11-20-2016

Shawn Bandy, EOW: 12-06-1998

Bikira Gray, EOW: 12-09-2023

Raymond Hughes, EOW: 12-17-2021

If you would like your loved one's name submitted for the next quarter, email us at [FAMLE@detroitmi.gov](mailto:FAMLE@detroitmi.gov).

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# REMEMBERING THE FALLEN



## Police Officer Harold Roughley

END OF WATCH: May 5, 1919

Detroit Police Officer Harold Roughley, a recently discharged World War I veteran, was shot and killed May 5, 1919, while attempting to investigate a murder that took place earlier in the week.

Officer Roughley, 34, who was in plain clothes, went to the home of a person of interest for questioning at a Clinton Street location near Gratiot that day is about midway between Greektown and Ford Field.

He was accompanied by other officers who approached the front of the home. He and a partner approached the back of the house and attempted to force entry into the home in order to detain a suspect in the case.

As recounted on the Officer Down website (www.odmp.org), the rear door of the home opened a crack and a double-barreled shotgun was used to shoot Officer Roughley.

The suspect was arrested and admitted to the murder.

Officer Roughley had served with the Detroit Police Department for seven years total. He had recently rejoined the Detroit Police after serving overseas in World War I.



## Police Officer Neil Keith Wells

### END OF WATCH: April 4, 2001

Police Officer Neil Wells was shot and killed April 4, 2001, while he and other officers were investigating a complaint of drug dealing in a partially vacant apartment building at Cherrylawn and Ellsworth, which is near the John C. Lodge Freeway and Wyoming Street.

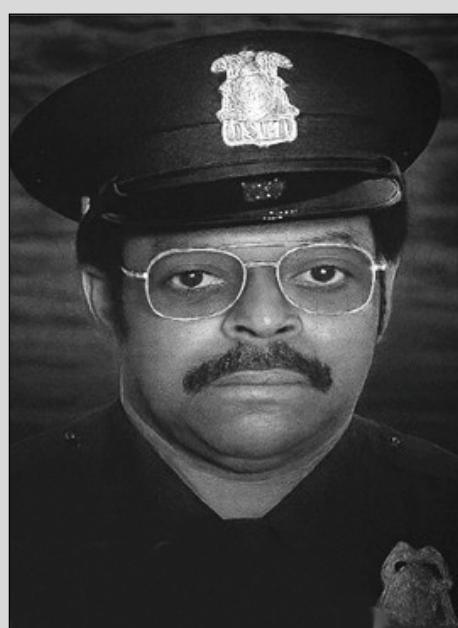
Officer Wells, 41, was in plain clothes and wearing a vest. As he searched the building, he encountered one of the suspects and was shot twice, once in the chest and once in the side, with an AK-47 rifle. At least one of the rounds bypassed his vest.

Three suspects were apprehended at the scene shortly after the shooting. It was later determined that the shooter had been released early from prison after using a false name. He was apprehended and eventually sentenced to 62 to 92 years for the murder.

Officer Wells was a member of a unit that policed high crime areas and had served with the Detroit Police Department for 14 years. He was survived by a teenage son and a teenage daughter.

"April 4th is such a sad day, not just for me but for our old crew as well," a retired former colleague wrote on Wells' odmp.org memorial page in 2019. "Some of us talk, meet or communicate in some way on this date every year. You will never be forgotten and our hearts will always ache. You were great to work with and a treasured friend."

In 2018, another friend posted: "Neil, just wanted to let you know how much you're missed. I can still remember like it was yesterday, talking to you that Monday night before that terrible monster took your life that Wednesday. If only we had known there would have been so much more to say. Thank you for all the good times and for being there for me. Sure wish I could talk to you now. Always and forever on my mind and in my heart."



## Police Officer Freddie Lee Jackson

### END OF WATCH: Oct. 6 1986

Police Officer and Army veteran Freddie Jackson was shot and killed Oct. 6, 1986, while working a plainclothes detail in an area near the John C. Lodge Freeway and Oakman Boulevard that had been experiencing a high level of automobile burglaries.

That evening he and his partner had observed three men tampering with a car near the 15000 block of Idaho Street. As the officers approached the men all fled the scene.

The two officers began examining the car for damage when a man, the son of a local business owner, stepped out of a building with a shotgun and opened fire, striking Officer Jackson in the chest.

The man was the vehicle's owner and thought the two officers were breaking into it. He was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in connection with Officer Jackson's death.

Officer Jackson, 42, had served with the Detroit Police Department for 14 years and had previously served with the United States Army. He was survived by his wife and four children.

He was remembered frequently in memorial postings on the odmp.org website, including several shared thoughts and memories from retired DPD officer Adrian Ponder, who was his partner.

"It was devastating," Ponder wrote. "He had quite an outgoing personality; he was a good partner, my best friend and was well liked by all – throughout the Police Department and the community on many levels."

## Police Officer Waldis Johnson

### END OF WATCH: May 31, 2020

Detroit Police Officer Waldis "Jay" Johnson died May 31, 2020, a little more than three years after sustaining a gunshot wound while responding to a domestic violence call at 10075 Joy Road, near Wyoming Avenue.

On April 30, 2017, he and fellow officer Darren Weathers approached a common front door to the apartment complex, which was locked. After several minutes of knocking on the door, a man unrelated to the call for service came downstairs, opened the door, and pointed a semi-automatic handgun at Officer Johnson.

Officer Johnson immediately grabbed the firearm and began to struggle with the subject. Officer Johnson let go of the firearm to draw his service weapon. They both fired simultaneously. Officer Johnson was struck once in the head, and the subject was struck twice by Officer Johnson. Officer Weathers also returned fire before pulling Officer Johnson from the entryway. The subject died at the scene. Officer Johnson suffered a traumatic brain injury and remained in a rehabilitation facility until his death. He was 48.

Due to the coronavirus, the service held for Officer Johnson at Unity Baptist Church June 10, 2020, was limited in size. However, the unlimited praises for the officer strongly reflected the deep affection for him held by all who knew him.

"He really is what I look at as an American hero; Detroit's hero," former Chief James Craig said to media members gathered outside the church after Officer Johnson's funeral service. "And so, we celebrate his life. We celebrate what he did for the city for 14 years, and that's a deep thank you; and to the family, who shared him with us over that time."

Officer Johnson, who was assigned to the Second Precinct, was constantly in the thoughts of his coworkers after the shooting occurred. Along the way, several fundraisers were held to help out with his care, including a benefit hockey game and bowling fundraiser, among other efforts.

That support began at the scene of the shooting itself, where Officer Weathers protected Johnson by returning fire and pulling him from harm's way. Weathers, who himself died tragically a year later in a training exercise accident, earned commendations for his life-saving efforts.

Officer Johnson received several accolades at his funeral, including the announcement by Chief Craig that he has been promoted posthumously to corporal. He was also given the Spirit of Detroit Award and a memorial resolution from City Council.

Johnson was born on June 26, 1971, in Shefford, Ala., and was an avid fan of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide football team. He enlisted in the Army and developed a love for boxing. He joined the Detroit Police Department in August 2004.

But the one thing he loved most was his family – his wife, Nicole Johnson, and children, Jade, Piper and Arin. He spent his free time going on field trips and to sporting events with them. His family knew him for always finding a reason to laugh.

# In Memoriam

AQUILINA — Retired Police Officer Michael Aquilina, 76, died Sept. 10, 2025. Officer Aquilina was appointed to the Department on March 27, 1978, and retired Aug. 20, 1993.

BARRY — Police Officer Jonathan Barry, 52, died June 10, 2025. Officer Barry was appointed to the Department on Jan. 8, 1996, and died active.

BEDNARSKI — Retired Police Officer James Bednarski, 76, died June 10, 2025. Officer Bednarski was appointed to the Department on Dec. 14, 1970, and retired Dec. 12, 1986.

BELCASTRO — Retired Sergeant Mark Belcastro, 60, died June 11, 2025. Sergeant Belcastro was appointed to the Department May 4, 1987, and retired Jan. 26, 2005.

BULLY — Retired Police Officer Stephanie Bully, 65, died Aug. 13, 2025. Officer Bully was appointed to the Department on July 21, 1986, and retired Sept. 6, 1994.

BURROWS — Retired Lieutenant Theodore Burrows 79, died June 12, 2025. Lieutenant Burrows was appointed to the Department on Feb. 17, 1969, and retired March 29, 1994.

CARLSON — Police Officer Brianne Carlson, 32, died Sept. 18, 2025. Officer Carlson was appointed to the Department on April 25, 2016 and resigned.

CLARK — Retired Lieutenant Charles Clark, 58, died June 29, 2025. Lieutenant Clark was appointed to the Department on Jan. 4, 1994, and retired Sept. 1, 2017.

CORDLE-MILLS — Retired Investigator Flora Mills-Cordle, 79, died Oct. 3, 2025. Investigator Mills-Cordle was appointed to the Department on July 18, 1977, and retired Jan. 18, 2012.

CRONIN — Retired Police Officer William Cronin, 72, died Sept. 28, 2025. Officer Cronin was appointed to the Department on July 22, 1985, and retired Oct. 14, 1988.

DEKUN — Retired Police Officer Michael Dekun, 82, died Aug. 25, 2025. Officer Dekun was appointed to the Department on May 16, 1966, and retired Sept. 27, 1991.

DRAKE — Retired Sergeant Maggie Drake, 81, died Sept. 19, 2025. Sergeant Drake was appointed to the Department on June 14, 1974, and retired Dec. 30, 1992.

DURKIN — Retired Police Officer William Durkin, 75, died Aug. 26, 2025. Officer Durkin was appointed to the Department on March 10, 1977, and retired Nov. 29, 1984.

GAJESKI — Retired Sergeant Richard Gajeski, 88, died July 20, 2025. Sergeant Gajeski was appointed to the Department on Oct. 21, 1957, and retired Jan. 3, 1990.

GAWRONSKI — Retired Police Officer Michael Gawronski, 74, died June 8, 2025. Officer Gawronski was appointed to the Department on Sept. 27, 1971, and retired July 7, 1998.

GERNAND — Retired Police Officer Peter Gernand, 80, died Sept. 7, 2025. Officer Gernand was appointed to the Department on Nov. 17, 1969, and retired Jan. 8, 2000.

GOSSARD — Retired Sergeant Daniel Gossard, 82, died Sept. 22, 2025. Sergeant Gossard was appointed to the Department on Aug. 5, 1968, and retired June 6, 1998.

HABKIRK — Retired Police Officer Gary Habkirk, 79, died Oct. 3, 2025. Officer Habkirk was appointed to the Department on March 10, 1969, and retired July 23, 1994.

HAVEL — Retired Police Officer Dennis Havel, 76, died May 21, 2025. Officer Havel was appointed to the Department on Dec. 6, 1971, and retired Aug. 12, 1981.

HEIMES — Retired Police Officer Richard Heimes, 83, died Sept. 30, 2025. Officer Heimes was appointed to the Department on Oct. 26, 1970, and retired July 2, 1985.

HERRICK — Retired Sergeant Daniel Herrick, 90, died July 16, 2025. Sergeant Herrick was appointed to the Department on Oct. 21, 1957, and retired Jan. 4, 1985.

HILL — Retired Police Officer Harry Hill, 77, died Aug. 8, 2025. Officer Hill was appointed to the Department on March 8, 1971, and retired July 28, 1981.

ICKES — Retired Police Officer Morris Ickes, 82, died June 1, 2025. Officer Ickes was appointed to the Department on Jan. 8, 1973, and retired July 7, 1998.

JACKSON — Retired Lieutenant Charles Jackson, 95, died Aug. 28, 2025. Lieutenant Jackson was appointed to the Department on Jan. 31, 1955, and retired Dec. 1, 1990.

JENNINGS — Retired Police Officer Michael Jennings, 74, died Aug. 18, 2025. Officer Jennings was appointed to the Department on Sept. 11, 1972, and retired Oct. 10, 1992.

JONES — Retired Police Officer Gary Jones, 67, died Sept. 29, 2025. Officer Jones was appointed to the Department on Aug. 8, 1977, and retired Nov. 2, 2002.

JORDAN — Retired Sergeant Sadie Jordan, 73, died July 27, 2025. Sergeant Jordan was appointed to the Department on Dec. 19, 1977, and retired May 7, 2004.

KAMINSKI — Retired Police Officer John Kaminski, 77, died June 23, 2025. Officer Kaminski was appointed to the Department on May 26, 1977, and retired Aug. 30, 1990.

KEMP — Retired Sergeant Phillip Kemp, 86, died June 28, 2025. Sergeant Kemp was appointed to the Department on Aug. 2, 1965, and retired June 27, 1992.

KREZA — Retired Sergeant Gerald Kreza, 88, died July 2, 2025. Sergeant Kreza was appointed to the Department on Sept. 25, 1961, and retired Feb. 28, 1992.

KWIATKOWSKI — Retired Sergeant Henry Kwiatkowski, 84, died July 10, 2025. Sergeant Kwiatkowski was appointed to the Department on July 9, 1962, and retired Sept. 6, 1989.

LINK — Retired Lieutenant Daniel Link, 76, died July 5, 2025. Lieutenant Link was appointed to the Department on May 7, 1973, and retired April 28, 2006.

LOCH — Retired Police Officer John Loch, 88, died Aug. 29, 2025. Officer Loch was appointed to the Department on Jan. 3, 1961, and retired July 9, 1997.

LYONS — Retired Police Officer George Lyons, 82, died Aug. 29, 2025. Officer Lyons was appointed to the Department on Sept. 29, 1969, and retired Oct. 15, 1982.



**Special Thanks to Cindy Kallapure and the Detroit Police Benefit and Protective Association for providing the information used to compile these notices.**

MALINOWSKI — Retired Police Officer Philip Malinowski, 71, died Aug. 5, 2025. Officer Malinowski was appointed to the Department on June 30, 1975, and retired March 30, 1994.

MALLORY — Retired Sergeant David Mallory, 78, died June 25, 2025. Sergeant Mallory was appointed to the Department on Oct. 26, 1970, and retired Feb. 29, 2004.

MITCHELL — Retired Commander Crear Mitchell, 89, died July 2, 2025. Commander Mitchell was appointed to the Department on Nov. 26, 1962, and retired Sept. 8, 1990.

MLOSTEK — Retired Police Officer Donald Mlostek, 78, died Sept. 12, 2025. Officer Mlostek was appointed to the Department on March 18, 1968, and retired Sept. 1, 1978.

MOEDE — Retired Police Officer Norman Moede, 78, died July 22, 2025. Officer Moede was appointed to the Department on May 8, 1972, and retired July 31, 1989.

MORRIS — Retired Police Officer Carl Morris, 80, died Aug. 25, 2025. Officer Morris was appointed to the Department on April 7, 1986, and retired April 27, 2008.

MORRIS — Police Officer Rhonda Morris, 50, died Aug. 18, 2025. Officer Morris was appointed to the Department on June 24, 1996, and died active.

MORRISON — Retired Investigator Christine Morrison, 76, died July 11, 2025. Investigator Morrison was appointed to the Department on June 6, 1977, and retired July 20, 2004.

OLARIU — Retired Police Officer Alex Olariu Jr., 77, died Aug. 23, 2025. Officer Olariu was appointed to the Department on Dec. 11, 1972, and retired Jan. 7, 2003.

PELTIER — Retired Police Officer Ernest Peltier, 79, died Aug. 5, 2025. Officer Peltier was appointed to the Department on May 15, 1967, and retired Sept. 26, 1992.

POWELL — Retired Police Officer Albert Powell, 70, died Aug. 15, 2025. Officer Powell was appointed to the Department on Nov. 4, 1985, and retired March 20, 1997.

RUSSELL — Retired Sergeant Nedra Russell, 58, died Aug. 5, 2025. Sergeant Russell was appointed to the Department on May 4, 1987, and retired April 17, 2009.

SAENZ — Retired Lieutenant Richard Saenz, 72, died Aug. 14, 2025. Lieutenant Saenz was appointed to the Department on July 11, 1977, and retired Oct. 28, 2005.

**“Evil is powerless if the good are  
unafraind.”**  
— President Ronald Reagan

SAXBY — Retired Police Officer William Saxby, 97, died July 14, 2025. Officer Saxby was appointed to the Department on Feb. 13, 1950, and retired Feb. 13, 1975.

SHAVERS — Retired Police Officer George Shavers, 82, died Sept. 14, 2025. Officer Shavers was appointed to the Department on Sept. 10, 1973, and retired Jan. 24, 2004.

SHAW — Retired Police Officer Joseph Shaw, 78, died Aug. 4, 2025. Officer Shaw was appointed to the Department on March 26, 1973, and retired May 4, 1993.

SHIMP — Retired Police Officer Norman Shimp, 82, died Aug. 8, 2025. Officer Shimp was appointed to the Department on Nov. 13, 1967, and retired Jan. 2, 1989.

SIMMONS — Retired Police Officer Emma Simmons, 69, died Sept. 13, 2025. Officer Simmons was appointed to the Department on Nov. 21, 1977, and retired July 8, 2002.

SMITH — Retired Police Officer Marshall Smith, 86, died June 8, 2025. Officer Smith was appointed to the Department on April 21, 1969, and retired July 11, 1995.

SPAICH — Retired Police Officer Anthony Spaich, 100, died July 19, 2025. Officer Spaich was appointed to the Department on Feb. 23, 1948, and retired March 1, 1973.

STEPHENS — Retired Police Officer John Stephens, 79, died Oct. 3, 2025. Officer Stephens was appointed to the Department on May 13, 1968, and retired May 15, 1993.

STINSON — Retired Sergeant Richard Stinson, 91, died July 15, 2025. Sergeant Stinson was appointed to the Department on June 6, 1955, and retired July 8, 1980.

SUTTON — Retired Police Officer Clyde Sutton, 78, died Aug. 15, 2025. Officer Sutton was appointed to the Department on May 26, 1977, and retired July 31, 1982.

TOKMAN — Retired Police Officer Gerald Tokman, 76, died July 9, 2025. Officer Tokman was appointed to the Department on Dec. 3, 1973, and retired Feb. 19, 1988.

WERNER — Retired Police Officer Michael Werner, 77, died Aug. 7, 2025. Officer Werner was appointed to the Department on Jan. 8, 1973, and retired Jan. 8, 1988.

WILLIAMS — Retired Inspector Melvin Williams, 86, died June 18, 2025. Inspector Williams was appointed to the Department on Jan. 24, 1966, and retired May 18, 1999.

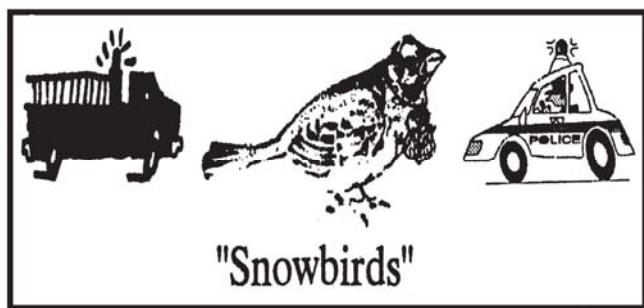
WILLIS — Retired Sergeant Gerald Willis, 86, died Aug. 26, 2025. Sergeant Willis was appointed to the Department on Jan. 8, 1962, and retired Jan. 9, 1997.

ZADOROZNY — Retired Inspector Patricia Zadorozny, 86, died July 1, 2025. Inspector Zadorozny was appointed to the Department on June 2, 1969, and retired June 25, 1992.

ZIEMBA — Retired Police Officer Edward Ziembka, 76, died Aug. 3, 2025. Officer Ziembka was appointed to the Department on April 27, 1970, and retired July 15, 2000.

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## RETIREE & ASSOCIATE NEWS



# Group founded 72 years ago to reunite retirees

By Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from Northern Michigan!

The "Snowbirds" organization was started officially on July 26, 1953, the explicit purpose being a social get-together for retired Detroit Police and Firefighters and their spouses so they could visit, recall old times, renew old friendships and make new ones.

The dues were \$2 a year. Because of inflation we changed it on July 9, 2000 to \$3 a year, which it still is.

Besides the monthly meetings, we do other group activities like trips, shows and picnics. Our August picnic in Prudenville was really nice, as was the Higgins Lake pontoon cruise.

We care and are sorry when we lose members like Peter Gernand and we send condolences to his wife Carol and their family. We also recognize those who are ill, and those with birthdays and anniversaries.

Our last meeting of 2025 will be Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. at Fred's of Roscommon. So stop by and join us – the food is good, too.

**November birthdays:** Zig Bogumil, Bill Jasper, John Wood and Maryann Syniewski.

**December birthdays:** Bob Rentz, Ted Ponik, John Wood, Joann Cherry.

**January birthdays:** Jerry Ciesinski, Dan Zemaitis.

Take care and God bless. (989) 305-1035.

## Be aware of insurance coverage changes if you are approaching 65

If you are approaching your 65th birthday and paying for life insurance, this information is for you.

If you are retired, your pension check shows deductions for Code 40610, 40620, 40640 or 40650.

If you are active, your pay stub shows deductions for Code 40650 or 40652.

According to the

terms of the plan, your benefits and premiums will be reduced by 50 percent when you reach age 65. However, the benefits are not reduced for your spouse or dependents.

To make the change in your deduction, contact Benefits Coordinator Katie Fuquay Murphy at the DPOA office at least 30 days prior to your 65th birthday.

Have your pay stub

handy so you can tell her what deduction code you're referring to. Call her at (313) 567-8770 or write her at the DPOA office, 1938 E. Jefferson, Detroit MI 48207.

You must also contact the pension board. Write them at Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Room 908, Detroit MI 48226 or call (313) 224-3362.

Planning a move? Don't forget to update your address at the DPOA office.

Send your retiree news items to [tuebordetroit@yahoo.com](mailto:tuebordetroit@yahoo.com)

## What's Cooking?

### With Mary Moss

Happy fall to all!

We could not ask for a better fall, as the weather has been perfect. Warm days and cool nights, it could not get any better.

I had an interesting start to the summer. On June 24 I became bionic with a brand new left knee. I have been very fortunate with recovery. The first two weeks I used a walker, the third week a cane, and from the fourth week and on, walking on my own. I gradually returned to work mid third and fourth week, working a few hours a day.

The first week in August I returned to full time. Every week has been a different chapter in this journey of what they call running a marathon and not a sprint. I have attended numerous PT Sessions along with exercising at home, but my bend is blah.

I believe due to scar tissue; I have an upcoming appointment with the surgeon to see what the next step will be (no pun intended). Stay tuned, till the next issue of the journey of Mary and her new knee.

This installment of What's Cooking has a definite Root Beer flavor.

Bon Appetit!



### Root Beer Pull-Pork Sandwiches

#### Ingredients

1 boneless pork shoulder butt roast (3 to 4 pounds); 1 can (12 ounces) root beer or cola; 1 bottle (18 ounces) barbecue sauce; 12 kaiser rolls, split

#### Directions

Place roast in a 4- or 5-qt. slow cooker. Add root beer; cook, covered, on low until meat is tender, 8-10 hours.

Remove roast; cool slightly. Discard cooking juices. Shred pork with 2 forks; return to slow cooker. Stir in barbecue sauce. Cook, covered, until heated through, about 30 minutes. Serve on rolls.

### Root Beer Float Cake

#### Ingredients

1 box chocolate cake mix; 1 12-ounce bottle root beer; Cool Whip or your favorite frosting

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and lightly grease or spray a 9x13-inch baking pan with cooking spray.

Pour cake mix into a large mixing bowl.

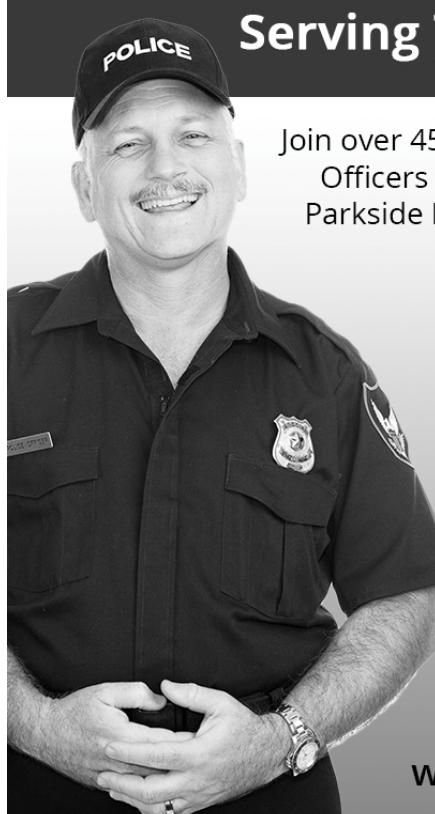
Pour root beer into bowl, and mix batter until completely blended.

Pour batter into a 9 x 13-inch baking pan.

Bake for 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

Remove from oven, and allow to cool completely before frosting.

## Serving Those Serving Others



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# THE TRADING POST

## MISCELLANEOUS

**WANTED TO PURCHASE FOR A FRIEND**—TMU challenge coin for a retired TMU officer. Contact R. Swanson at 810 919 8875,(24/7). New or used coin OK.

**DETROIT POLICE PATCHES** wanted. Will trade or buy. Call PO at 313-995-0966.

**AMERICAN RIFLEMAN** magazines wanted for the following years: 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1979, 1965 and 1998. Contact ret. Lt. Ralph Palmer at email address Palmer-las@aol.com.

**WANTED WWII stuff**—Retired DPD officer buying headgear, weapons, uniforms, insignia, photos. DON'T THROW IT AWAY. SELL IT TO ME. Call Mark at 313-319-1604.

**WANTED**—Police call boxes, parts, phones, locks and street posts; Detroit Police memorabilia. Email roccoc@juno.com or call 313-839-9042.

**WANTED**—Old coins, post-cards, photographs, comic books. Call 313-580-2393.

**DETROIT POLICE FIRE-ARMS** wanted. Any make, model or caliber firearms or long guns marked DPD or Detroit Police. Please contact Sgt. Corsetti at roccoc5255@g-mail.com or call 313-410-3197.

**CHALLENGE COINS**—2 inch Detroit Police Mobile Field Force Challenge Coin for sale; \$15.00 per coin plus \$3.50 shipping per coin unless picked up in person; see Maureen Whitten at DDC Platoon 2 or call 313-445-3593.

## The next TRADING POST ad deadline is Dec. 30!

Ads may be dropped off at the DPOA office or emailed to

**tuebordetroit@yahoo.com\***

**Only written and signed requests accepted**

*\*Trading Post ads cannot be accepted by phone*

### **Save the date!**

Our final General Membership Meeting of the year is Nov. 12. Doors open at 4 p.m. for 5 p.m. meeting at Sacred Heart Church Activities Building.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FALL ISSUE ADVERTISERS!

Chiropractic Works-Dr. Duncan Mukeku  
Clear Hearing-Dr. Tali Sowalsky  
Colonial Life Michigan Premier District  
Diversified Members Credit Union  
Lyons Financial Group  
Michigan Financial-Michael Monette  
New Era Investments-Rico Camerone  
Parkside Dental-Dr. Steve Cohen  
Pinnacle Wealth Strategies-Luke Nowacki  
State Farm-Kawana Smith Agency  
Steven Azoury

Know someone who would benefit from advertising in Tuebor? Have them call 734-558-6955 for details.

### Still a few left!



Purchase yours at the DPOA office for \$10 each

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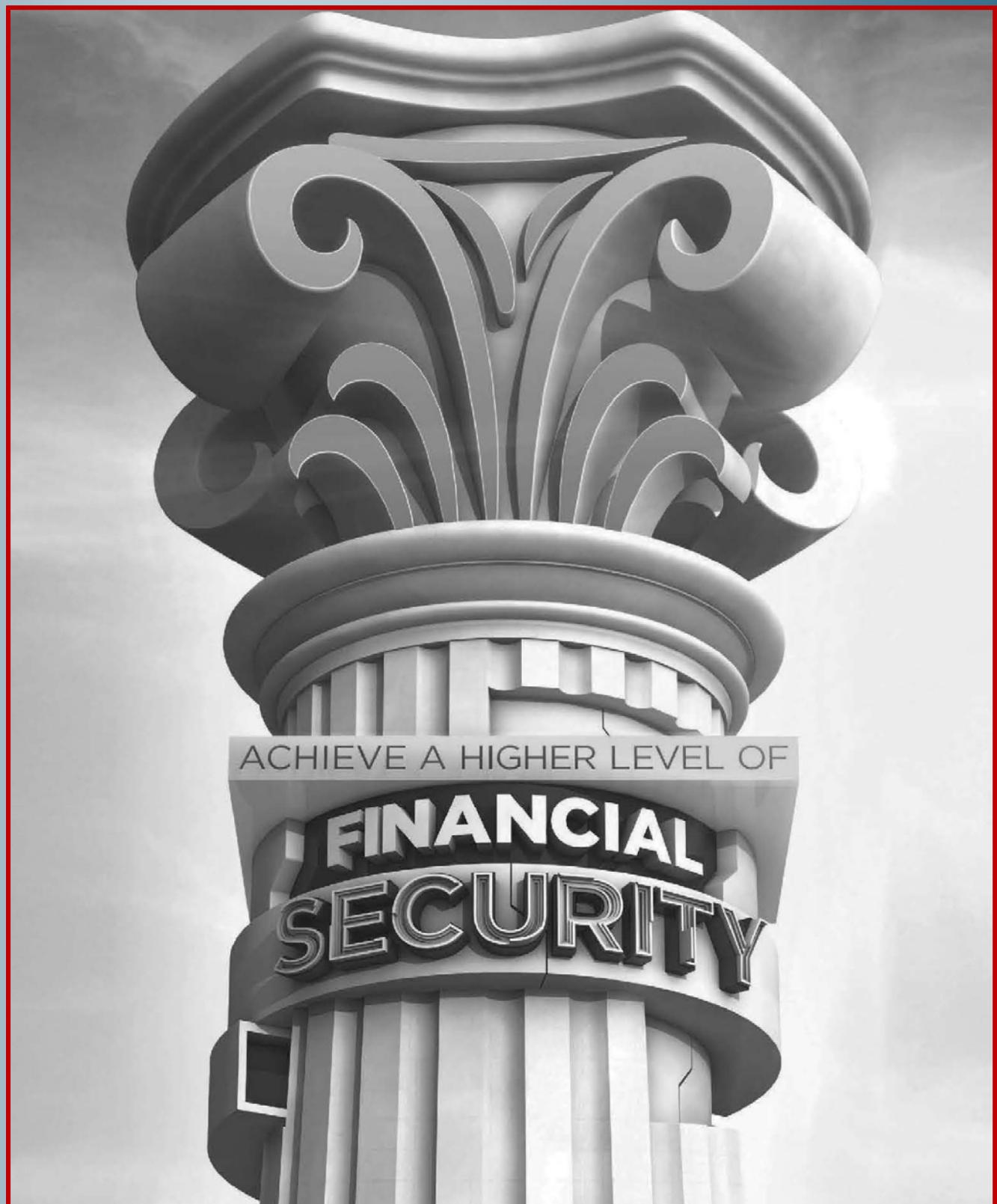
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