The **BLUE**

torrential flood!





VOLUME 1, No. 11 www.buffalopba.com NOVEMBER 2025



From the President

John Davidson

It is no secret that with each passing day the city is a full step closer to a leadership cliff that they will spend years climbing out of if they allow themselves to go over that edge. With our most recent round of promotions to fill the trickling out of leadership, we now have only 3 eligible members on the Lieutenants Promotional list. 2 of those members have previously deferred that option to instead remain in their current assignments, so in reality the city is looking at only 1 eligible member standing between them and a leadership void unlike ever seen in this city before. If the medical MOA is not extended the current leadership trickle that we are now experiencing will turn into a

Retaining the officers that we have is a good start and a temporary fix, however the city also needs to replenish the ranks of the department starting with Patrol Officers. Last month a physical agility test was given and the city could only dredge up 20

CURRENT OFFICERS and REPLENISHING RANKS IS A PRIORITY FOR TODAY.

RETAINING

potential candidates to show up for the test. Of those 20 that arrived, 18 of them failed to successfully complete a mile and half run, a couple pushups, and a handful of sit-ups. It is safe to say that there is not a stable of candidates chomping at the bit to replace all of the potential retirees we are looking at.

This Medical MOA needs to be extended and it should not be viewed as a "win" for the members or a "loss" for management. This is a necessary need for the entire City of Buffalo. We are still struggling to recover from the "Defend the Police" movement and this will be a retention tool AND a recruitment tool. It will go a long way to ensuring that staffing numbers remain high enough to maintain public safety. The residents need this and the visitors that drive local tourism need this, and yes our department along with our members need this.

Along with myself and the Executive Board we need all of our PBA members and those that support a safe and thriving city to discuss this with their family, friends, and neighbors. The stakeholders in this city are taking notice as they become aware of this situation. Hopefully they do the reasonable thing. In the meantime we will continue to look out for one another as this job gets more dangerous due to lack of officers and the dwindling of first line supervision.

~ Stay safe and God Bless

Members from the Executive Board along with the House Chair, House Co-Chair, Sergeant at Arms, and our Public Relations Officer travelled to Syracuse for the Police Conference of New York Convention on October 6th and 7th. It was a dedicated group and the PBA is fortunate to have such a dedicated group willing to



spend the time away from their family for the continued betterment of the Buffalo PBA. It is also always nice to arrive with such a strong showing because as we know in any area of law enforcement, it is nice to have back-up.

The entire table of Buffalo PBA representation was given the fullest attention while President Davidson took to the floor and addressed the entire body regarding flaws in the political nomination process. His words were well received and this was acknowledged by the PCNY body as well as its Executive Board. A private conversation was held in the hallway shortly after and we believe that this misstep will not happen again in the future, as necessary nomination steps have been adjusted by member groups to always reach out to the municipality most directly affected by any nomination. Our membership in PCNY made it possible to address this situation in a more formal way and will more broadly effect change with political nominations from Police Unions statewide.

The conference then moved on to discussing some of the top priority bills that will be focused on in Albany in 2026. There is a bill being supported that will grant peer health and wellness position members the ability to better maintain confidentiality; banning them from being compelled to speak or testify regarding confidential conversations surrounding mental health. A bill that would grant first responders the ability to buy back 4 years, rather than 3, was very close to passing in 2025 and it is

our hope that this will be the year that it crosses the finish line. If an 18 year old can enlist in the military and give their country 4 years of service, it seems only natural that they would be eligible to buy back those 4 years.

There are some language adjustments being addressed in Albany as well. The most important of which would address how strongly the AG office avoids using the word "exonerated" for officers involved in a critical incident when the actions were then proven justified. The AG office instead uses language such as "There is not enough evidence to prove guilt in a trial." That is dangerous rhetoric and it has been used throughout the state, including here in Buffalo. Of course there was not enough evidence...turns out there was none, because the actions were justified and the officer is a Hero. Say so!

The conference finished with a presentation regarding Contract Negotiations from attorneys Davis and Ferber out of Islandia, NY. This presentation was filled with good advice, real world examples, and many notes were taken at our table. We'll be working toward finding the opportunity to use this knowledge gained in the near future.

STATION HOUSE NIGHTMARES

By ... Robert Grande

Working as a police officer now a days is a difficult task, which comes as no surprise to anyone reading this. However, beyond the obvious dangers of the profession, as a Buffalo Police officer having to come into work and start your day walking into a station house that is on its last leg is depressing. The current state of all five of our station houses is far from acceptable. Many of them are plagued with issues such as outdated plumbing, broken heating and cooling systems, and inadequate sanitation facilities i.e. only one working urinal/ toilet/shower.



There have been multiple times that I have walked into the locker room at A district and found that there are a couple of inches of sewage water on the floor creeping onto our lockers from a urinal overflowing onto the floor. There have been multiple leaks in the station house roofs that have likely caused mold that we haven't seen yet, but will eventually make people sick. The risk posed by these factors cannot be overstated and could lead to longterm health complications. Officers deserve to work in an environment that adheres to health and safety regulations. Most patrol officers are not in the station house for 10 hours a day every shift, but there are many sworn and civilian members who spend the majority of their shifts in them and it puts them at a higher risk for health complications.

I'm not foolish enough to ask for new station houses, but how about at least a facelift and general repairs so we can have functional utilities to come into and have while we work? I'm sure the city has fines/regulations that you must meet for other businesses, homes, apartment buildings in the city. These are to maintain health and safety standards, so why wouldn't we have the city address them for our own buildings to protect our officers and civilian employees?

Beyond just being a locker room and lunchroom for officers, our station houses are the face of the department for the public to see. People coming in to pick up reports, make reports, give statements, stay for shelter and safety

during a bad snowstorm, etc. Really the list can go on and on, but for those people coming in and finding the house smells like sewage or to be swarmed by sewer flies that infest many of the buildings, it is a bad look.

I don't know exact dates, but all of our stations have been in use guite some time and these are not like other city work spaces that open and close. Ours are open 24/7/365 and we use every part of each building. It is kind of a joke how bad our department looks because our district houses are falling apart. We sure don't look like the second largest department in New York state! Hell we don't even have our own range, instead opting to rent space on a weekly basis just to keep our officers up to date with the training we need to protect not only ourselves but to keep the safety of the public. That has been the case for 6 years, I wonder how many more it will be?

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- how to fund them
- Young Professionals: Enroll in work benefits, coaching on how to look at the options and considerations therein NYSDCP Planning: Much like a 4010/L the NYSDCP has many options to consider when looking at new employment
- Life, Disability Income and Long-Term Care Insurance: Helping to understand why insurance is a large part of a financial plan.
- Pension Planning: Understand how to maximize the PFRS benefit you are eligible to receive
- Pension Tier Understanding your pension tier and how it affects you
- Newly Married: Planning for financial goals together and protecting household
- Growing Family: Life insurance and college planning needs
- Divorced or Widowed: Review current situation to help ensure lifestyle remains the same
- Survivor Benefits: How the survivor benefit in PFRS works. Military Buyback: Process to buyback military senice towards your state pension
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

By ... Larry J. Baehre, BPD retired



Pictured is the BPD 24th Basic Recruit Class which is celebrating its 55th Anniversary!

In 1970, there was no Erie County CPS.

Our classes were held at the BPD academy that was located in the old Police Headquarters at 74 Franklin St.

Our firearms training took place at the Police Range, which was in the basement of headquarters.

At that time, Precinct Patrolmen worked what was known as the "long & short day" schedule and we had to purchase our own revolver for \$75!

Just like back then, please look out for one another and stay safe!





 $Prior\ Results\ Do\ Not\ Guarantee\ a\ Similar\ Outcome$



MORE OF THE SAME

By ... Andrew Moffett

Over the weekend of October 18th, we saw yet another protest in the city of Buffalo and all across Democratic cities. You would have missed it had it not been shoved down your throat by every media outlet available. What appeared to be a compilation of geriatric housing members, parents' basement dwellers and without quite possibly a single body with the ability to throw a football, it is their constitutional right to assemble and protest whatever their heart desires.

"A well informed citizenry is the best defense against tyranny."

- Thomas Jefferson

It has become increasingly confusing as to what these same people are upset about nowadays. They cannot seem to rationally and logically explain it themselves. No Kings? Already done. No Fascism? You got it. Equal Rights? We're still in agreement. Yet seemingly the same people who scream "equal rights" are adamant to keeping anyone quiet who disagrees with them.

It was only 5 years ago when we were ordered to wear masks, stand 6 feet away, shut down businesses, prevented from seeing family members and forced to take an experimental shot with the threat of being fired if we did not comply. These

same "leaders" who spoke out during these "No Kings" rally have been in government for decades (Schumer, McConnell, Pelosi) but cannot seem to grasp the irony.

Still recovering from 2020, the year of chaos, still we see the media's distorted portrayal of what actually is occurring. The pursuit of attention and profit has in

many ways replaced the commitment to integrity and balance that once defined good journalism. Instead of striving for objectivity, they reinforce the existing beliefs of their readers or viewers. This selective storytelling deepens political polarization, making it harder for people to understand perspectives different from their own. It is "clickbait" culture to keep and deepen the current supporters they have and further divide themselves with their objectors. Algorithms throughout your Facebook and Instagram reward content that generates strong emotional reactions, regardless of accuracy or importance.

This distrust weakens democracy, as a well-informed public is essential for making sound decisions about society and governance. It becomes more of a chore to sift through what information is nonsense and what is actually factual.

Regardless of what people believe, it appears there is no end to today's political polarization. If you perceive law enforcement as fascism, it becomes easier to tear down a democratic society. If you teach people that they are being oppressed, you can tear down a society. It remains to be seen what will be in store for us in the coming years as officers and as citizens, but as always continue to rely on those you trust and only concern yourself with what you can control.



Western New York Association



P.O. Thomas Dixon

DOB: 10/06/1928 Appointed: 1952 Retired: 1964

Deceased: 12/07/2024

P.O./Commissioner Rocco Diina

DOB: 11/28/1949 Appointed: 09/23/1968 Retired: 09/24/1988 Deceased: 10/04/2025

Lt. Carl P. Eberhard, Sr.

DOB: 06/03/1938 Appointed: 01/03/1963 Retired: 06/30/1986 Deceased: 10/04/2025

Det. Sgt. Melvin Lobbett

DOB: 06/09/1931 Appointed: 04/03/1961 Retired: 07/19/1993 Deceased: 10/09/2025

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