



MTA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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POINT BLANK

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 3



REMEMBERING SGT. KURKNO HENRY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Member news, union updates, recent events
and important information from the MTA PBA

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IN MEMORIAM —

REMEMBERING MTA POLICE SERGEANT KURKNO HENRY

We were saddened to announce the passing of MTA Police Sergeant Kurkno Henry, who served the MTA Police Department and the public with honor and dedication for 19 years.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Henry remained committed to protecting others and serving the communities that rely on the MTA Police Department every day.

His professionalism, dedication, and service will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him and working alongside him.

His unwavering positivity throughout his journey, even in the face of adversity, was an inspiration to all who knew him and will be remembered as part of his lasting legacy.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, loved ones, and the entire MTA Police family during this difficult time.

Rest in Peace, Sergeant Kurkno Henry.

End of Watch: June 18, 2026.





A CAREER OF SERVICE —

HONORING TONY SPANO'S 28 YEARS OF SERVICE

Our dear friend Anthony Spano, a valued member of the MTA PBA board for so long, has decided to retire. Tony's journey with the MTAPD began in 1998, and he quickly became a key figure in the PBA as a Trustee in District 5, GCT. In 2007, he took on the role of Northern Region Area Vice President, a position he has proudly held ever since. Tony's commitment to the PBA has been evident throughout his career. Whether it was IAB hearings or arbitrations, Tony was always there to lend a hand. His efforts were crucial in our successful complaint to the NYS Department of Labor regarding our antiquated radio system, and we can't forget the impact it had. This complaint forced the MTA to invest \$90 million in a brand-new radio system.



Tony comes from a family of dedicated public servants, and I also want to thank the Spano Family for their consistent support over the years. Thank you, Senator Nick and Mayor Mike!

Please join me as we thank Tony for his years of service and we wish him a very happy, healthy, and long retirement. You will be greatly missed.



MEMBERS FIRST

Legislative Goals Achieved and Enacted in 2026

We worked with the Governor's Office and the Legislature and we are proud to say that our efforts were a resounding success, putting money into our members' pockets and enriching their future by bolstering their permanent pension benefits for life.

Amended the retirement and social security law, in relation to the limitation of overtime compensation in final average salary calculations for Tiers 5 and 6 members by raising the 15% overtime limitation to 25%.

Enacted laws for our Tier 6 members to reduce their current contributions as follows:

- Reducing contributions for all Wages earned \$75,000 or less to be 3%
- Reducing contributions for Wages \$75,000-\$100,000 to 5.25%
- Reducing contributions for Wages \$125,000 and above to 5.75%
- Excluding overtime from wages when determining the calculations of the contribution rate in Tier 6. This causes lower contribution rates and puts money back in your pockets.





MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

The PBA Executive Board would like to congratulate the below listed members for these special milestones

BIRTHS

Bret Paul	Brandon Roggio	Alejandro Chusan	Mack Logan	Amanda Moore
Ryan Moskowitz	Kelvin Hernandez	Timothy Hoehmann	Daniel Bradbury	Christopher Canonico
Brendan Barnes	Keith Marro	Stephanie Blaskovic	Bryan Gomez	Connor Kelly
Jasmine Garcia	Robert Cooper	Brian Mermelstein	Steve O'Connor	Johnathon Ruby
Christopher Capozzoli	Chelsea Christonikos	TJ Boyle	Joseph Casale	Carlos Castillo
Chris Batista	Matthew Marulis	Nicholas Pasco	Chris Kopiske	Patrick Hannon
Michael Waszczuk	Sean Seemangal	Michael Quintiliano	Jesse Slavin	Christopher Okula
Carnold Dorismond	Michael Rupolo	Anthony Vento	Francesco De Lorenzo	Vincent Dove
David Cole	Emily Brucato	Matthew Buckel	Andre Bond	Amanda Nilsen
Richard Cubink	Brad Bonasia	Sergio Santos	Kenneth Shields	Lauren Moscarelli
Stephen Provenzano	Kelly O'Brien	Ryan Moore	Daniel Napolionello	Frank Blais

RETIREMENTS

Brian Wellbrock	Christopher Nutter	Michelle Ortiz	Fortunatina Graziano
George Orthnor	Troy Hedman	Eloise Broderick	Mark Lehman
Luis Gonell	Antonio Jennings	Michael Kelly	Charles Spahr
Rhiannon Savage	Shavett Venable	David Fehling	Joseph Terracciano
Kristyana Laubis	Jason Romaniello	Pete Connolly	Shevinna Ling
		Tony Spano	Samuel Thomas

PROMOTIONS

DETECTIVE

Jack Cleary
Nicholas Paschitti
Christopher West
Christopher Murphy
Stephen Geniale
Alejandro Chusan
Jonathan Thangavelu
Lawrence Vetter
Marsaysha Neufville
Evens Nelson
Moleek Loper
Rori Brewster

SERGEANT

Anthony Gallo
Jennifer McCormick
Kyle Hansen
Jesse Berkoh
Raquel Cacace
Brandon Bottoni
Nicholas Tush
Richard Gunther
Peter Lee
Ashley Zhao
Liridon Ademaj
Richard Gomez
Warren Vaas

DETECTIVE SERGEANT

Melanie O'Brien

LIEUTENANT

Jonathan Frohnhoefer
Christian Geraldino
Sam Chen
Michael Shaw
Benjamin Barton
Conor Doherty
Brendon Dion
Alexis Gomera

DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT

Ryan McHale



TOP COPS

January 2025

PO Georgios Tzanakis, PO Charles Drabik, PO Jesus Tapia-Martinez, PO Justin LI, and PO Suraj Manuel arrested a subject after stabbing a victim at Grand Central Terminal. A knife was recovered on scene. Case # 25-206

February 2025

PO Mohamad Salim, PO Stephen Geniale, PO Umair Saqib, and PO Dagoberto Mederos observed a juvenile engage in a drug transaction. The juvenile was arrested and a loaded firearm was recovered. Case # 25-2105

Det Sgt. Douglas Hurlbert, Det. Philip Carroll, Det. Christopher Kopske, Det. Patrick Molloy and Det Philip Gauthier located and apprehended an adult male suspect who was wanted for menacing with a firearm at Laurelton station. Detectives apprehended the subject and recovered a loaded firearm with an extended magazine. Case # 25-782

March 2025

PO Christopher Capozzoli and PO Scott Gullick were on train patrol and applied a tourniquet to a stabbed victim. Officers also apprehended the subject and placed him under arrest. Case # 25-5678

April 2025

PO Benjamin Farber and Sgt. Joseph Casale assisted Westchester County Police Department in safely apprehending a vehicle in a high-speed vehicle pursuit on the Throgsneck Bridge. Case # 25-6872.

May 2025

PO Benjamin Farber, PO Anthony Maggiotta, PO Joseph Nicosia, and PO Eric Li witnessed Sgt. David Fehling experiencing a medical episode and took immediate life-saving measures to save his life. Case # 25-8569

June 2025

Sgt. Joseph Casale, PO Darren Pryce, PO Nicholas Macchia, PO Jesse Slavin, PO Maximus Chow, and PO Alfred Espotio recovered a stolen vehicle with stolen plates and a large sum of narcotics, cash, and loaded firearm. Case # 25-12862



TOP COPS

July 2025

PO Jonathan Zito, PO Nicholas Pasco, PO Bryan Gallucci, PO Ryan Autz, and PO Jake Saltzman took a male subject into custody who flashed a knife at two juveniles. Case# 25- 15621 and 25-15624

August 2025

PO Michael Damiani, PO James Volpe, PO Christopher Stemke, and PO Michael Osmundsen were on patrol at Penn station when a female victim stated a man tried to grab her luggage and put his hands around her neck. Officers were able to successfully arrest the male for robbery and obstruction of breathing. Case # 25-17831

September 2025

Det Johnathan Ruby, Det Sgt. McHale, Det. Healy, and Det Lt. Christopher Guastamacchia were able to identify and locate a subject who discharged a firearm at the LIRR Lynbrook station. Det Sgt. Ryan McHale and Det. Johnathan Ruby flew to Atlanta to take the subject into custody. Case # 25-17108

October 2025

PO Matthew Tully and PO Frank Porcelli received a call for a suicidal EDP and safely removed the woman from the tracks without incident. Case # 25- 23289

November 2025

PO Giancarlo Valdez, PO Brett Iggoe, and PO Tarmanpreet Singh took a suicidal male who was overlooking the edge of the Throgs Neck bridge into custody and safely removed him to the hospital. Case # 25-27340

December 2025

PO Mark Lehman and PO Ramos were on train patrol and provided the "Heimlich maneuver" on an individual that was showing signs of choking. Officers were able to dislodge the object, saving the individual's life. Case # 25-27876

COP OF THE YEAR 2025

PO Benjamin Farber, PO Anthony Maggiotta, PO Joseph Nicosia, and PO Eric Li witnessed Sgt. David Fehling experiencing a medical episode and took immediate life-saving measures to save his life. Case # 25-8569



A UNITED FRONT

MTA PBA JOINS LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS IN NYC



The MTA PBA was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sister in law enforcement from across the State of New York on the steps of City Hall in support of state legislation that would add critical protections for law enforcement officers.





NATIONAL RECOGNITION —

MTA PBA EXEC BOARD ATTENDS NAPO TOP COPS AWARDS



The MTA PBA Executive Board attended NAPO's 33rd Annual TOP COPS Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C., during National Police Week.

The event brought together law enforcement leaders from across the country to recognize officers whose courage and service went above and beyond the call of duty.



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE —

MTA OFFICERS HONORED AT GUN AND SHIELD AWARDS



MTA PBA President Joseph Pugliese, Executive Vice President Michael LoVerdi, and North Area Vice President Anthony Spano attended the MTA Police Department Gun and Shield Awards Ceremony, where they had the honor of presenting awards to several outstanding officers in recognition of their dedication and performance.

Congratulations to Police Officer John P. Pistone, recipient of the Firearm Award; Police Officer Sarah J. Kutzma, recipient of the Female Gym Award; and Police Officer Brendan M. Syrop, recipient of the Male Gym Award. The MTA PBA is proud to recognize these officers for their hard work and commitment!





HONORING DEDICATION

MTA POLICE OFFICERS HONORED AT 2026 AWARDS CEREMONY



On June 8, the MTA PBA attended the MTA Police Department's 2026 Awards and Medal Ceremony to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our members.

Each medal and commendation recognized a story of courage, teamwork, professionalism and dedication to public service. The MTA PBA was proud to celebrate this year's recipients and the difference they make throughout the communities they serve.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE —

OFFICERS RESCUE WOMAN IN CRISIS ON WHITESTONE BRIDGE



The MTA PBA is proud to recognize MTA Police Officers R. Uddin and J. Fernandez for their heroic actions on the Whitestone Bridge.

Responding to a distressed woman in crisis, who was attempting to jump from the Whitestone Bridge, these officers demonstrated incredible composure and patience to de-escalate a life threatening situation.

Through their quick thinking and teamwork, they successfully pulled her to safety and ensured she received the care she needed.

Please join us in congratulating Police Officers Uddin and Fernandez on being honored with the TBTA President's Award for their heroic actions in the call of duty.



QUICK ACTION —

OFFICER SULLIVAN ACTS DURING QUEENS HOUSE FIRE



While on patrol near the Cross Bay Bridge, MTA Police Officer R. Sullivan was flagged down about heavy smoke coming from a nearby residential block. He quickly responded and found a house heavily engulfed in fire.

After notifying central, he ran to the home, ensured all occupants made it out safely, and confirmed no one remained inside before moving them to a safe location.

The MTA PBA proudly recognizes Police Officer Sullivan for his quick response and commitment to public safety!



PROACTIVE POLICING —

RECOVERY OF FIREARM



While investigating a reported altercation at Bridgeport Station, MTA Police officers identified and located the individuals involved with the assistance of station security and surveillance footage. When the suspects attempted to flee, officers quickly took them into custody after a brief foot pursuit.

During the arrest, officers recovered a loaded handgun and more than 60 rounds of ammunition, preventing a dangerous weapon from remaining in the transit system.

Outstanding work by our members and another example of proactive police work keeping our riders and communities safe!



LIFE SAVING RESPONSE



OFFICER SHAKARIAN

Hybrid Threat Unit

MTA Police Officer Shakarian of the Hybrid Threat Unit assisted Suffolk County officers following the near drowning of a two-year-old child in Brentwood in July. Working alongside members of the Suffolk County PBA, Officer Shakarian helped save the child's life.

The child was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital and is expected to make a full recovery. Please join the MTA PBA in recognizing Officer Shakarian for his heroic actions, quick response, and decisive action when every second mattered!



RAPID RESPONSE

OFFICERS RESCUE FOUR FROM OVERTURNED VEHICLE



The MTA PBA proudly recognizes Officers J. Arroyo and J. Goodwin, who were first on the scene of an overturned vehicle on the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge. Acting swiftly, they safely extracted all four occupants from the vehicle before additional emergency personnel arrived.

Thanks to their decisive response and the teamwork of fellow MTA Police Officers and the MTA Police ESU Unit, all four occupants escaped without injury. Please join us in recognizing Officers Arroyo and Goodwin for their outstanding work!



LIFE SAVING MEASURES

OFFICERS PREVENT TRAGEDY ON BROOKLYN BRIDGE



MTA Officers Dilorenzo and Zwecker were flagged down on the Brooklyn Bridge and alerted to a woman attempting to jump from the upper roadway. Without hesitation, they moved through oncoming traffic, reached her, and safely stopped her before she could jump nearly 75 feet to the roadway below.

The MTA PBA is proud to recognize Officers Dilorenzo and Zwecker for their quick thinking, courage, and commitment to protecting others. Their actions that day made the difference and helped save a life.



SAFE RESOLUTION — OFFICERS BRING INCIDENT ON BRIDGE TO SAFE END



Officers Valdez and Fernandez responded to a report of an individual on the ledge of a bridge and quickly worked to make contact and safely remove him from the area.

Their calm response brought the incident to a safe conclusion, and the follow-up investigation ultimately resulted in a DWI arrest. The MTA PBA is proud to recognize Officers Valdez and Fernandez for their professionalism and sound judgment throughout the incident.



SUPPORTING OUR OWN — HELPING THE MEJIA FAMILY REBUILD AFTER HOUSE FIRE



Support Eduardo Mejia During House Fire

The MTA PBA stands with MTA Police Officer Eduardo Mejia and his family following the devastating fire that destroyed their home.

During an incredibly difficult time, the Mejia family has the full support of the MTA PBA and the entire law enforcement community. We will continue standing beside them as they recover and begin rebuilding their home and their lives.



NEVER FORGOTTEN —

MTA PBA HONORS OUR FALLEN AT REMEMBRANCE DAY



On May 11, members of the MTA PBA attended the MTA Police Department Remembrance Day ceremony and stood in support of the families of our fallen officers.

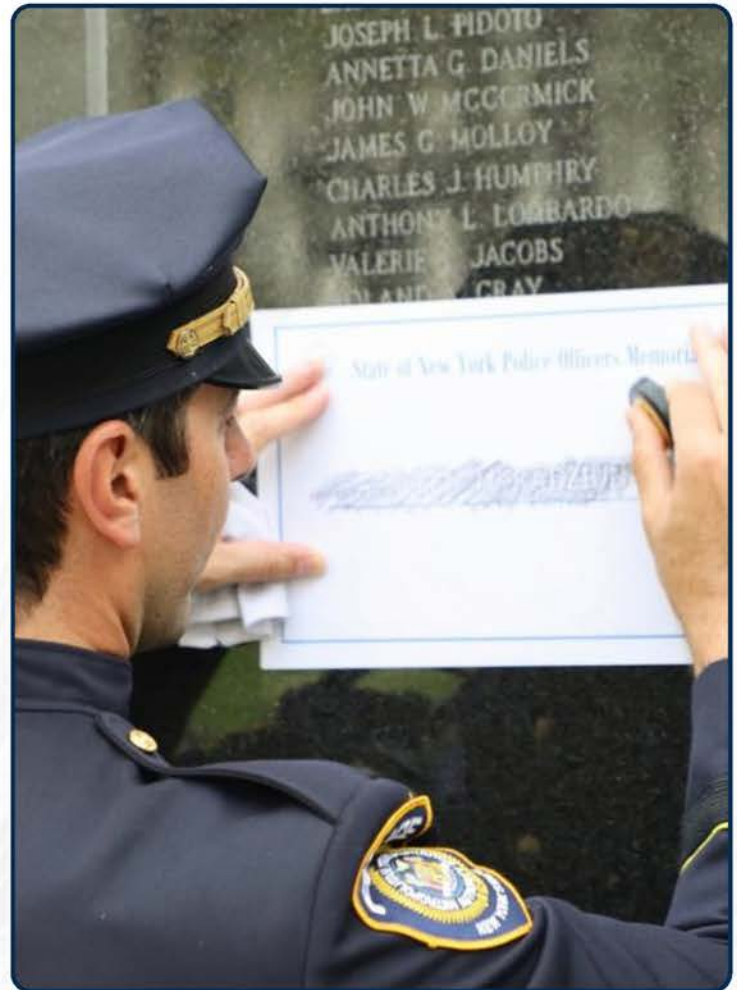
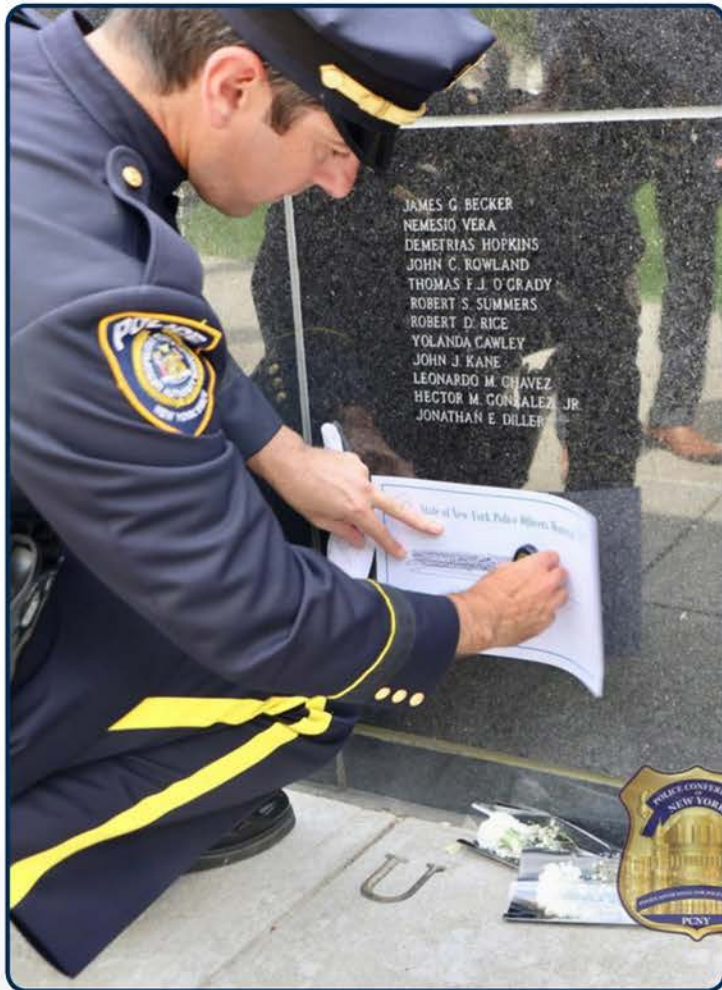
The MTA PBA was honored to stand alongside the Jenkins, Radziunas, Silva and Lore families as we remembered their loved ones, honored their service and reflected on the legacies they left behind.

We will always remember our fallen and continue standing with the families who carry their memories forward.





HONORING THE FALLEN — NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL



A member of the PBA Board traces Detective Jamie Atkinson's (Retired) name on a special paper to bring back to the office. Jamie passed away on June 27, 2025 at the age 43 after battling a rare cancer tied to his response at the World Trade Center following the September 11 terrorist attacks.

*Picture used with permission
by The Police Conference of
New York / Jeffrey S. Gross*





PLAYING FOR A CAUSE —

MTA HEROES TOOK THE FIELD AT FAIRFIELD BALLPARK



On August 16, the MTA PBA proudly supported the 2nd Annual Heroes on the Diamond Charity Softball Game between the Port Authority Police Twins and the MTA NY Express.

Members, families and law enforcement partners gathered at Fairfield Properties Ballpark to support the first responder community and charity, with the MTA PBA Canteen serving everyone in attendance.





MEMBER APPRECIATION —

MTA PBA AND YONKERS PBA TEAM UP AT YANKEE STADIUM



The MTA PBA was proud to partner with the Yonkers PBA and host a tailgate for our members and their families before the Yankees game in June. It was a great day of food, music, and fellowship.

Thank you to the Yonkers PBA for their partnership. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this event every year!





WELCOME TO THE PBA —

MTA PBA MEETS WITH OUR NEWEST MEMBERS





EXPANDED MEMBER BENEFITS —

NEW LIFE AND CRITICAL ILLNESS COVERAGE

Dear Fellow Members,

In response to recent tragic events within our department, the PBA Board has taken proactive steps to enhance the life insurance coverage available to our members. I am pleased to announce that we have partnered with Acrisure to provide a guaranteed issue basic life plan. The plan will be underwritten by Amalgamated Life, and the PBA will assume all costs. The highlights of the plan are as follows:

- \$50,000 of Basic Life guaranteed issue – no underwriting or medical screenings for active members.
- \$15,000 Basic Life for retirees who retired on or after June 1, 2025.
- Critical Illness coverage for active members – the member can receive up to 50% (\$25,000) of the face value of the plan.
- Critical illnesses include cancer, heart attack, stroke, end-stage renal disease, major organ transplant, or paralysis.

The PBA Board felt it was essential to provide an even greater benefit for you, our members. This plan will help both the beneficiaries in the event of a member's death, or a member who is diagnosed with one of the qualifying critical illnesses. The Board recognizes our duty not only to support our members, but also to support their families in their most trying times. We feel this benefit helps provide that.

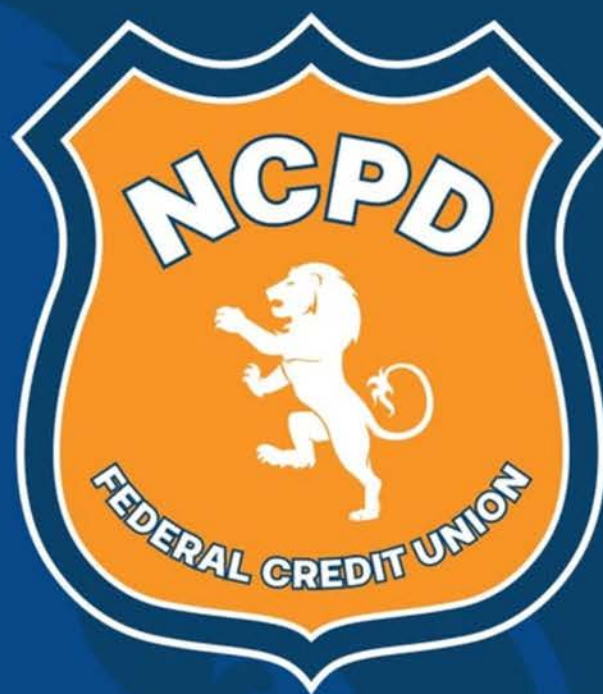
Unfortunately, no insurance company would insure members who retired before June 1, 2025. We will be sending out more information in the future. Please update your beneficiary information on our website. Any questions, please contact us at support@mtapba.org.



FINANCIAL BENEFITS

NCPD CREDIT UNION NOW OPEN TO MTA PBA MEMBERS

Banking anywhere else
would be a crime!



The PBA Board is excited to announce that the NCPD (Nassau County Police Department) Federal Credit Union has expanded its services to all members of the PBA.

This credit union offers support to law enforcement officers and provides a range of services and benefits, including receiving \$50.00 when opening an account, auto loans, and mortgage rates as low as 5.25%.

Visit www.ncpdfcu.org to join or for more information.



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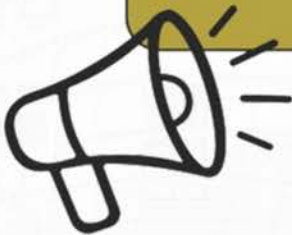
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