

THE CALL BOX



SUMMER 2009

From the Prez

By Jerry Taylor, President, RSPOA

We're Outa There! RSPOA Leaves Coalition

The Retired Seattle Police Officers' Association withdrew from the LEOFF I Coalition effective July 16, 2009.

That leaves only two active organizations left within the Coalition. Seattle Fire Fighters Local 27, representing about 30 active LEOFF 1 Seattle Fire Fighters, and the Washington State Retired Deputy Sheriff and Police Officers Association, representing an estimated 300 or so members. Technically the Washington State Law Enforcement Association still belongs but they no longer have anyone on the board as their representative.



Jerry Taylor

In the past, Don Daniels has served as the WSLEA representative. It is uncertain at this point if he remains on the board.

What started in 2000 as a unified effort of all of the major law enforcement and fire fighter groups in the state has dwindled to a mere shadow. The fault for this failure rests solely on the Coalition leadership.

They still have some money, last reported at about \$113,000, so they think they can continue to speak for all LEOFF 1 members. Unfortunately, that is simply not true and particularly so since the RSPOA, the single largest group in the mix, has resigned.

The Coalition has now deteriorated to the state of a private club. In the last round of amendments to their bylaws, the Coalition stripped the member organizations of the right to select their own representatives and increased by 600% the votes given to at large members. That means that all members of the Coalition are subject to approval by the Coalition. The RSPOA cannot continue



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membership within an organization that holds veto power over our selection of representation.

In addition to the three remaining representative organizations, six handpicked at-large members, responsible to no one except themselves, remain. Where the at-large members shared one vote, they now have six. The Coalition president has proposed increasing the number of at-large members.

It is apparent that if you do not agree with the other board members you are *persona non grata* and not welcome. I expect that in future meetings we will see them all holding hands and singing "Kum Ba Yah".

For more, please see Ringin' In, Page 3.



<http://www.wslemf.org/donate.htm>

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The Official Publication of the
Retired Seattle Police Officers
Association

5020 Brighton Place
Mukilteo WA 98275

<http://rspoa.homestead.com>

President

Jerry Taylor
206-418-6331
gtaylor@lineangle.com

Vice President

Dick Rovig
206-217-9882
drovig3@comcast.net

Secretary Treasurer

Nick Bulpin
425-349-5373
Bulpin@comcast.net

Trustees

John Nordlund
425-482-9722
j_kenneth@msn.com

Pat Munter

206-367-7709
pmunter@comcast.net

Paul Peterson
206-763-8108

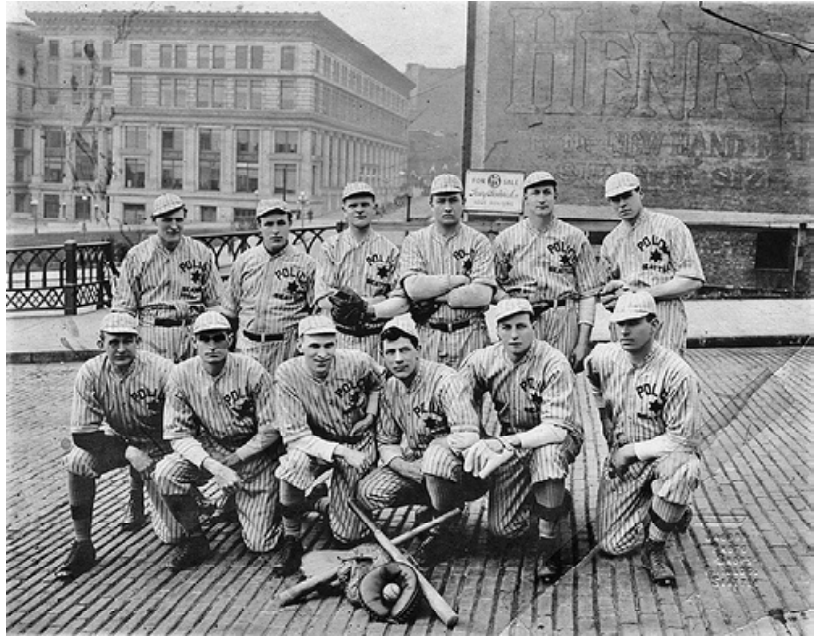
John Sullivan
425-788-1158
sullivan87@verizon.net

Mike Slessman
206-363-7246
miksless11@comcast.net

Call Box Editor

Dick Rovig
206-217-9882
retiredspd@aol.com
drovig3@comcast.net

1915 SPD Baseball Team



1915 Seattle Police baseball team, possibly taken from roof of old Yesler Way police station. Note the County/City Building in the rear. (Photo courtesy of Dan Cameron)

RETIRED OFFICERS BANQUET

Pencil in Wednesday, September 9th for the 2009 Seattle Police Retired Officers Banquet. Invitations will be in the mail soon.

Ring In

By Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer RSPOA

I am outraged at the LEOFF 1 Coalition for the treatment they have given to our President, Jerry Taylor as well as John Nordlund. They removed President Taylor from the executive board by a 7 to 1 vote at a meeting held April 16th. President Taylor only requested minutes for past meetings which was denied. President Taylor was held up to ridicule and was accused of having a personal agenda. This was not the first time the Coalition has refused requests from the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association. President Taylor has repeatedly asked for a list of contributors to the Coalition only to be denied. He refined his request to only the members of RSPOA who have contributed a sizable amount of money since joining the Coalition in 2000. Matter of fact, the members of the RSPOA have been the largest contributors in terms of the amount of money given. This request was also denied. President Taylor also requested an accounting of money being spent without board approval. The Coalition at one time had nearly \$350,000.00 which has dwindled down to \$113,000.00. This seems excessive as no one receives a salary. The Coalition state they have an annual operating budget of \$30,000.00. It seems odd to me the amount of money needed to operate when there is no lobbying efforts that we are aware of. The only expenditure being to Washington Media Services who are under contract with the Coalition which was done without board approval or discussion with member organizations.

When the Coalition was formed back in 2000 at a meeting in Yakima, its mission was to protect LEOFF 1 pension benefits as well as the reported surplus of LEOFF 1 monies which was said to be in the billions of dollars. This was met with approval of member organizations across the state. Those member organizations contributed \$1000.00 each to jump start the Coalition. The Coalition then requested individual members of LEOFF 1 for additional contributions. Seattle retired officers were collectively the largest contributors. The Retired Seattle Firefighters Association also were a large contributor to the Coalition. However their President, Dick Warbrouck, had the foresight to have his members contribute to their organization for distribution instead of the Coalition. Instead of donating money to the Coalition, please be advised the RSPOA has established a Legal Defense Fund account with the Credit Union to protect our pension benefits and we have additional resources in the event of needed legal actions.

Update: A decision to withdraw from the Coalition has been reached. At a Board meeting held April 29th a vote

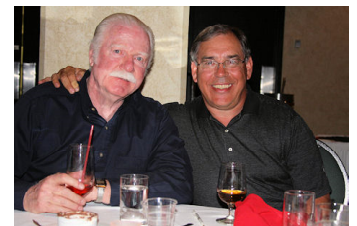
McClure wins PNWLE



Retired SPD Sgt. Charlie McClure, left, was the low gross winner of the 2009 Pacific Northwest Law Enforcement Golf Tournament held in May in Kamloops. He is shown receiving his award from Tournament Director, retired RCMP Mountie, Ron Thurston. See below for other photos of RSPOA competitors at the event (Photos courtesy of John Nordlund).



Dave Hortin and Still Working Mike Severance



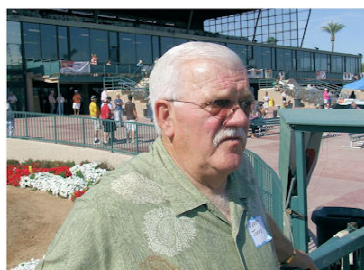
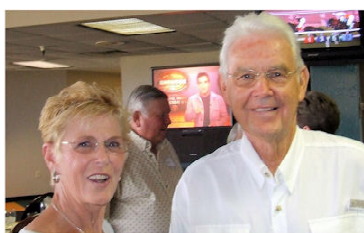
John Patrick Sullivan and McClure



Bobby Hoff & Ken Jakobsen

was taken to withdraw from the Coalition with myself being the only dissenter. I felt we had a fiduciary responsibility to retrieve monies donated to the Coalition by our members. However, since consulting with various attorneys it was apparent we would not succeed in our efforts, which would require a sizeable investment to both the Coalition as well as the RSPOA. As a result I have agreed, with the majority of the board to withdraw from the Coalition.

SCENES FROM OL' BLUE, 2009



Banquet Photos by Jon Olson

2009 OL' BLUE CLAN

March 21-22
By Pat Munter

Once again, the Ol' Blue Clan Seattle Police Reunion was held at the Turf Paradise Horse Racing Track in Phoenix, Arizona.

The betting was lively; the refreshments flowed freely; the food was tasty; the camaraderie was great.

Attendance was somewhat down this year, but everyone had a good time. The unanimous opinion was that the group is looking forward to next year's reunion and golf tournament.

Door prizes were provided by the Seattle Police Retired Officers Association and by Ted Fonis, who once again insisted on contributing even though he couldn't attend.

The most significant item of interest this year was the transition to new leadership for next year's event. In the past few years, Don and Kathy Vert, then Pat and Joanie Munter, then Jim and Vera Johnson have headed up this event. When volunteers were requested to put together next year's event, Jerry and Karen Jorve stepped up first, followed by several other individuals and couples, so it appears that the 2010 event will be a committee effort.

The date for next year's reunion has been set for March 20, 2010, with the golf tournament the following day.

The Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament was held once again at the Lakes Golf Course at Westbrook Village in Peoria. Members of the winning team were Don Henderson, Marty White, Dean Quail and team captain, Denny Jorve (Pictured below).

Long drive winners were Mike Crist and Shaun O'Kinsella. KP winners were Steve Butler and Chris Kolar.

A special note of appreciation goes to the Seattle Police Golf Association which contributed to the golf prizes.



Tournament Winners!

RSPOA Members: Interesting Job Opportunity



Safe Ride Solutions
5519 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.#159
San Diego, CA 92117
Voice: (619) 200-9444

Hello Fellow Officers

I am a Sergeant with the San Diego Police Department and work on the side for Safe Ride Solutions, the professional driver service of the NFL. Safe Ride Solutions is the professional driver service for the NFL Players Association and we will be the official safe ride program of all NFL players, including all Seahawks. Perhaps your members could benefit from some easy extra work.

I am looking for experienced law enforcement officers (active or retired) to work as professional drivers for the Seahawks and companies in Seattle. Pay starts at \$30 an hour with a 4 or 6 hour minimum, even if the ride is only 2 hours. All tips belong to the driver. If you know any cops, sheriffs or corrections officers who would like to make some money on the side, please send any qualified drivers to www.CallSRS.com and they can apply online. We plan to service the NFL during this regular season. We have been in business for three years and are now coming to Seattle. This is not security work, it is a professional driver service for VIPs.

Thank you,
Jerry Hara, Operations Director
Safe Ride Solutions
5519 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.#159
San Diego, CA 92117
Voice: (619) 200-9444
Email: JerryHara@SafeRideSolutions.net

Kicked Back E-Mails

Below are the RSPOA member e-mail addresses that were kicked back as undeliverable following the last message (7/13) sent by retiredspd@aol.com and the reason they were refused. In order to keep us up to date, please let us know your corrected address.

<edgrant@edgrantandassociatesinc.com>... Deferred:
Connection refused by edgrantandassociatesinc.com.
<veranjim@yahoo.com>:
Sorry your message to veranjim@yahoo.com cannot be delivered. This account has been disabled or discontinued)
<toyman@dishmail.net>
(reason: 550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try)
<frkjones@gmail.com>
(reason: 550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try)
<vangough@juno.com>
(reason: 550 vangough@juno.com is not a valid user)
<flatfoot1126@msn.com>
(reason: 550 Requested action not taken: mailbox unavailable)
<flynn@myhome.net>
(reason: 550-5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try)
<gwtkyk@olypen.com>
(reason: 550 OLYPEN - Could not route to that address
<gwtkyk@olypen.com>)
<gjblkwd@premier1.net>
(reason: 550 5.7.1 <gjblkwd@premier1.net>: Recipient address rejected: No such user)
<leeleemort@verizon.net>
<biggary42@comcast.net>
(reason: 550 5.1.1 Not our Customer)
<serrenite@cox.net>
(reason: 550 5.1.1 <serrenite@cox.net> recipient rejected)
<doraldean@elitel.net>
<dmatthews001@hawaii.rr.com>
(reason: 550 5.1.1 - Invalid mailbox:
<n7qlyl@juno.com>
(reason: 550 n7qlyl@juno.com is not a valid user)
<jkriney@nycap.rr.com>
(reason: 550 5.1.1 - Invalid mailbox:
jkriney@nycap.rr.com)
<SEGARHF@peoplepc.com>
(reason: 550 SEGARHF@peoplepc.com...User account is unavailable)
<Rhodes@surewest.net>
(reason: 550 <Rhodes@surewest.net>... No such mailbox)
<nelsonandnelson@wbhsi.net>
(reason: 550 sorry, no mailbox here by that name (#5.1.1 - chkusr)

(Continued on Page 8)

MY TURN REDUX

By Dick Rovig, Call Box Editor

Update:

In the last Call Box, this column provided an update on legislation to remove the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision which severely penalizes government employees including police officers who earned social security benefits. Some of our members wrote their representatives in regard to the matter. Below is a reply from Washington State Senator Patty Murray received by Ray Gonty.

Dear Mr. Gonty:

Thank you for contacting me about the federal pension legislation. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you know, the pension benefits of certain government retirees and their survivors are affected by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). As a U.S. Senator, I have heard from numerous retirees and their survivors who have had their benefits reduced by the GPO or WEP. I understand the views of retirees on this issue and am actively addressing their concerns.

During the 109th Congress, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) introduced S. 1799 the Government Pension Offset Reform Act. S. 1799 would have amended current law to allow surviving family members who receive both a government pension and Social Security benefits to be paid the full benefits if the total amount of the combined monthly benefit is less than \$1,200.

In the 110th Congress, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has introduced legislation that addresses both GPO and WEP: S. 206, which would eliminate GPO and WEP entirely. I am a co-sponsor of S. 206, and co-sponsored the Government Pension Offset Reform Act in previous Congresses. I believe that all federal employees and retirees should receive their full pay and benefits. In the 111th Congress, Congressman Berman (D-CA) has introduced H.R. 235, the Social Security Fairness Act. This legislation has yet to be reintroduced in the Senate in the 111th Congress.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, I will continue to be a strong advocate for federal workers. Rest assured, should retirement reform legislation come before the full Senate, I will certainly keep your thoughts in mind.

Again, thank you for contacting me. If I can be of assistance in the future, please be in touch.

I hope all is well in Seattle.

2009 Legislative Report

By Jerry Taylor

The legislative session is over – at least until the Governor calls it back for a special session. No bills that would impact the LEOFF 1 pension were passed or even put forward in the last session of the legislature.

There were some items of interest but they pertain to either LEOFF 2 or the prior act firefighters (RCW 41.18). After several failed attempts, the Retired Fire Fighters of Washington was finally able to get the right to remarry established for widows of prior act members. (HB 1506) The police prior act (RCW 41.20) had this right established about three or four years ago but somehow the fire pension got left out when that was done.

A major change in pension contributions for all pensions except LEOFF 1 was proposed during the legislative session. The change lowered contribution rates in order to save the State and Cities from having to pay the pension contributions due. It is “borrowing from Peter to pay Paul” as the money will have to be made up with higher contributions in the future. The bill passed but the intensive lobbying of WACOPS and others were able to exclude LEOFF 2 from the bill. This was particularly important, as the impact on LEOFF 2 members would have been more severe than for any other pension system. KUDOS to WACOPS.

WACOPS was able to get five of the eight LEOFF 2 bills passed. They almost got a sixth at the last hour, but no deal. Not bad considering they were told that they wouldn't get any at the beginning of session.

In the past, DRS always refused to let us mail to LEOFF 1 members using their mailing addresses. That changed in this session. SB 5238 was signed by Governor Gregoire and will allow the retiree groups that meet the requirements as defined in the law the opportunity to mail out information to all retired members in a particular pension plan who are receiving a retirement check from the Department of Retirement Systems. To qualify it is necessary that the organization have a system where they collect dues through a payroll deduction from the LEOFF 1 check. Currently RSPOA has the deduction made from the City check unless it is paid directly or the member has a lifetime membership. We will be moving to make the LEOFF 1 payroll deduction available to our members. It is important because it allows us to reach out to every LEOFF 1 member in the system. While not a crucial thing for RSPOA since we already have our members' addresses but a powerful way of multiplying our outreach for critical issues.

At this point, there are no issues of concern to LEOFF

1 members before the legislature. None of the issues proposed for a possible special session deal with LEOFF 1. The LEOFF 2 funding system was not impacted and we do not anticipate any other attacks there in the near term.

The LEOFF 1 Medical Benefits committee met on May 28th. The Phase One of the study has been completed and a copy can be found on our website. This is a fact book about the LEOFF 1 pension plan. It is unique in that it represents a general agreement on what the pension law is and means. Both the employers and members have reached a general agreement on these issues.

Phase Two of the study began on May 28th. This phase is designed to seek solutions to the concerns of the employers. Basically, some employers had not properly attended to the business of properly funding their LEOFF 1 medical liabilities. The goal is to find solutions that the committee might suggest and jointly support in the legislature. It has been agreed that the LEOFF 1 Pension Trust funds are off limits. The committee will be looking at such things as a dedicated taxing authority, fees, insurance pooling and the grouping of jurisdictions to spread the risk exposure. Of course no politician wants to raise taxes, so the employer groups tend to shy away from that option. We believe a significant part of the problem is the failure of the local jurisdictions to properly budget and set aside money to cover their liabilities. Most have simply paid the bills out of their General Fund.

It is important to note that Seattle and the other nine First Class Cities are not facing any funding problems. They all have sufficient revenue and have properly planned to meet their liabilities. The problem rests primarily with the small cities, counties and fire districts.

We see RSPOA's roll in this process as being supportive of solutions that do not in any way impact our medical coverage and do not in any way attempt to tap the LEOFF 1 Pension Trust.

As of May 31, 2009 the LEOFF 1 system had \$4,398,270,322. That is up about \$200 million from March so the fund is recovering. Still the fund is at about the breakeven point. I estimate the “surplus” to be in the range of \$300 to \$400 million. The fund is down from \$6,033,913,107 at the end of 2008. I urge you not to be concerned about these numbers. Remember we are a defined benefit plan. It is contractual and has to be paid. In fact, in the event of a state bankruptcy we are number two in line. By the same token, I would not count on seeing any distribution of the surplus for quite a long time.

Kicked Back E-Mails

<caryandsandra@westernbroadband>
(reason: 550 Host unknown)
<<male@windireless.net>
(reason: 550 Host unknown)
<swede1354@yahoo.com>:
Sorry your message to swede1354@yahoo.com cannot
be delivered. This account has been disabled or
discontinued [#102].
<pasch@cablespeed.com>
mailbox is full
<dwherley@comcast.net>
(reason: 550 5.1.1 <dwherley@comcast.net> Account
not available)
<rgtnow1@estremezone.com>
(reason: 550 Host unknown)
<henryv@sginet.com>: Recipient address rejected:
Address does not exist or is not deliverable.)
<jeyoshlda@verizon.net>
(reason: 550 5.1.1 unknown or illegal alias:
<wilding@rockisland.com>: permission denied. Command
output: maildrop: maildir over quota.

(Continued from Page 7)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Retired Officers Banquet

Wednesday, September 9, 6:00

SPAA Range

RSPOA Luncheon Meetings

**Every second Wednesday, October
through August, 11:00 AM, Four Seas Res-
taurant, 8th S. and S. King Street**

RAP (Retired and Active Police) Club

**Every Thursday, 11:00 AM, throughout
the year, Lake City Elks.**

RAP Picnic,

Thursday, August 9,

SPAA Range

SPROA
c/o Nick Bulpin
5020 Brighton Place
Mukilteo WA 98275



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