



C.O.B.A.N.C.

Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County
Representing Nassau Court Employees

SPRING 2009

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Message from the President

PATRICK G. CRIBBIN



I welcome this opportunity to communicate with the entire membership using our new newsletter. It is our intent to use this newsletter to keep you up-to-date on important issues that will affect your salary, benefits and working conditions.

I am sure everyone is aware of the economic downturn throughout the State, nation and world. Banks are failing at an alarming rate. Corporations and individuals are filing for bankruptcy more than ever before. We all know someone who has lost his job, may soon or has already lost his home, or cannot afford some of life's basic needs. Economic forecasters have described what we are going through as a financial tsunami. Our 457s and the private sector employees' 401ks have been reduced between 40% and 50% since the last quarter of 2008. No one can accurately predict when this financial crisis will end. This clearly is the worst economic slump in our lifetime.

We now know that while Wall Street and big corporate executives were paying themselves high salaries and million-dollar bonuses each year, they failed to watch the store. The banks were issuing loans and approving mortgages they knew (or should have known) customers could not afford to repay. Our Federal and State government oversight was nowhere to be found. What resulted is that we, the taxpayers, are left with the bill to clean up this mess, a mess which we did not create.

As a result of this economic crisis, President Obama signed into law an Economic Stimulus Bill that will hopefully begin to put us back on track. It is not clear how soon we will see the effects of this Stimulus package.

Unfortunately, local and State governments are using this sad set of circumstances to try to reduce our hard-earned wages and benefits. Just last month the Governor proposed reducing pension benefits for future employees and asked the State Legislature to adopt other draconian measures that will reduce the money we take home. As a member of the Public Employees Conference, we are closely reviewing bills upstate and are trying to ensure none of our benefits are reduced or lost.

I am sure you do not have to be reminded that, as public employees, we are not in the group that got rich during that time of false economic boom.

Our current contract expires on March 31, 2011. It is in full force and effect. We are very lucky not to have to negotiate in this economic climate. Unlike what is happening in Nassau and Suffolk counties, New York City, and New York State - where government officials are asking for reductions in pay and/or benefits to close budget gaps - OCA has, at least as of the time I write this message, not asked for any givebacks.

It is our intent to act in a responsible fashion to protect your contractual rights. We have had meetings with other OCA unions on how to best address potential budget problems in the event we are also asked to help close an OCA budget gap in the future. If there are going to be any sacrifices, it is our position that such sacrifices will not only come from us, but the "pain" is to be shared by management and the public as well. In closing, let me assure you we will do everything possible to ensure the best possible outcome in these terrible economic times.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families best wishes for the upcoming holidays of Easter and Passover.

Fraternally,

Patrick G. Cribbin

SAVE THE DANCE

**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 8, 2009**

General Membership Mtg.
County Court 5:30 p.m.
(Delegate Nominations)

**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 15, 2009**

Prescription-Co-pay
Reimbursements
Check mailed on or after
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21 &
THURSDAY, APRIL 23,
2009**

Defensive Driving Classes for
C.O.B.A.N.C. members and
families at C.O.B.A.N.C. office
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 30, 2009**
AWARDS DINNER AND
DANCE

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2009**
HOLIDAY PARTY

Nominate a Delegate

There shall be one (1) Delegate in each court or court-related agency for every fifty (50) members in good standing in the Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County. A court or court-related agency shall be eligible for one (1) new Delegate for every twenty-six (26) additional members over the last block of fifty (50) members. Any court or court-related agency, which shall have less than fifty (50) members of C.O.B.A.N.C. in such unit shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate from that unit. For the purposes of Article V Section 4 only, the Matrimonial Center shall be considered a separate court.

The number of Delegates eligible for election in a regular election shall be determined by the number of members in any given unit at the time of nominations. The Secretary shall announce the number of members by unit and the number of delegates each unit is entitled to nominate at the regular general membership meeting in April in odd-numbered calendar years.

To nominate a member in good standing please plan to attend the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at the County Court starting at 5:30 p.m.

C.O.B.A.N.C. REPRESENTED at National Conference

C.O.B.A.N.C. 2nd Vice President Cynthia L. Bohanan, on behalf of the Association, attended the 32nd annual National Labor and Management Conference held February 12 through February 17, 2009 in Hollywood, Fla.

The format of the conference was designed to be both interesting and informative, with the goal of enhancing attendees' professional knowledge and qualifications. Topics addressed during the conference included Health & Welfare, Pension Funds, Investments, Regulatory Statutes and Labor/Management Strategies. These topics, while important at any time, were especially relevant given the current Federal and State economic situation. Following the formal presentations, those in attendance had the opportunity to participate in panel discussions, as well as small-group meetings with the individual presenters/sponsors who were available to answer more specific questions.

Anyone interested in additional information regarding the conference should contact Cynthia L. Bohanan at (516) 794-0600. Cynthia is usually in the C.O.B.A.N.C. office on Fridays.

Calling All Retirees Keep in Touch

The Association would like to invite all retirees to let us know what you've been up to. All retirees are encouraged to share what's been happening in your lives since you retired.

To Better Serve You

The members of the Executive Board strongly believe that communication is the foundation of success. To better serve the membership, C.O.B.A.N.C. will soon be launching a redesigned website that will serve as a reliable up-to-date source of information for all members and anyone interested in knowing more about the Association.

Once the website is launched in April, you are encouraged to visit it often for up-to-date information on Association activities, and to access important members-only information. The members of the Executive Board believe you will find the new website both informative and interesting. The web address is www.cobanc.org





News Worth Noting

C.O.B.A.N.C. Mission Statement

The objective and purpose of the Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County (C.O.B.A.N.C.) is to develop a stronger union and a more complete organization of Court Employees; to protect and promote the health and welfare of its members; to foster the advancement of the professional skills of its members; to negotiate and bargain collectively for all terms and conditions of employment; and to uphold the highest standards of the court service.

It's Official

On Monday, November 3, 2008, C.O.B.A.N.C. officially opened the doors to its new headquarters located at 2545 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 105, East Meadow, New York 11554.

INTRODUCING C.O.B.A.N.C.

Member of the Month

Every day, the members of the Association serve the Nassau County Court System with pride and professionalism. The members of the Executive Board and Delegates would like to publicly recognize and reward those members who demonstrate a higher level of commitment and dedication, and serve as role models within the Association. To be nominated, the person must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member in good standing
- Be active in the Court Community
- Be active in outside community volunteer work
- Consistently demonstrate a desire and ability to represent the highest standard of all C.O.B.A.N.C. members

If you would like to nominate a member for this distinction, please submit a written application including why you believe this nominee is worthy of recognition, to:

C.O.B.A.N.C. Employee of the Month
2545 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 105
East Meadow New York 11554

Winners will be selected and contacted at the end of each month. All nominations received will be held for future consideration.

C.O.B.A.N.C. represented at PEC Conference

On February 3, 2009, C.O.B.A.N.C. President and member of the New York State Public Employee Conference Board of Directors (PEC) Patrick G. Cribbin, 1st Vice President John Clancy and 2nd Vice President Cynthia L. Bohanan represented the Association at the 32nd Annual New York State Public Employee Conference in Albany, New York.

The Conference was formed in 1977 with 13 participating unions and has now grown to 60 unions. This year, the single most important issue addressed at the conference was the current fiscal crisis and its impact on the participating unions' membership, both present and retired. It is the continued goal of PEC to ensure that a balanced state budget is not achieved at the expense of the unions' membership participating in this conference, who are both hard-working and dedicated to serving the best interests of the State of New York.

The following legislative proposals were developed and unanimously approved by all unions represented by the Public Employee Conference. Representatives of PEC will now take these proposals to the State Legislature, where they will vigorously encourage their support:

- Workers' Compensation Reform
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
- Pension Re-Openers
- Ensuring Safe Nurse Staffing
- Physically Taxing Legislation for New York City RNs
- Retiree Health Benefits Guarantee
- Military Buyback for Veterans
- Competitive Exams for Appointments and Promotions
- Independent Hearing Officer
- Retirement for State University Police Officers
- Tier Equity
- Tier III and IV Additional Retirement Benefits
- Allow Inclusion of Credit for Accumulated Vacation Time
- Elimination of Caps or Limitations
- Permanent Heart Bill
- Heart Bill Clarification
- Revision of the Taylor Law
- Statewide Variable Supplements Fund
- Pension Guarantee

And the Winners Are.....

For the past several years, the Association has offered scholarship opportunities to students nominated by its members. This year's recipients were selected from a very competitive pool of applicants who both met and exceeded the criteria established. Congratulations to this year's C.O.B.A.N.C. Scholarship winners, who each received \$1,000 to help defray their college expenses:

\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP:
Christopher Farkas's daughter Carrie (awarded at Dinner Dance)

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP:
Kenneth Little's daughter Samitra (awarded at Holiday Party)
Joan La Serna's son Thomas (awarded at Holiday Party)
Catherine Doyle's son Robert (awarded at Dinner Dance)
Catherine Duguid's son Andrew (awarded at Dinner Dance)

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP:
Pete Piciulo's spouse Heather (awarded at Holiday Party)

