

SAVE THE DATE

2009
Tuesday & Thursday,
September 15 & 17
Defensive Driving Course

Wednesday, September 16
Gen. Membership Mtg.
5:30 p.m., Location TBD

October 2*, 5**, 9***,
Benefits Bash
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
* Family Court
** District Court
*** Mineola Court Complex

Friday, October 30
Annual Awards Dinner Dance
Chateau Briand

Friday, December 18
Holiday Party

RECOGNIZING MORE THAN *750 Years of Service*

The Board of Directors, on behalf of the membership, congratulates those listed below on their retirement. These individuals have collectively served the Nassau County Courts for more than 750 years, averaging 25 years of dedicated service and commitment.

"We thank them for their loyalty and service and wish them health and happiness in their retirement," stated COBANC President Patrick G. Cribbin.

Betty Allen
Joanne Cagen
Patricia Carbone
Vincent Carter
Anthony Chirico
Russell Derner
Edward Ege
Salvatore Franco
Matthew Fusillo
Virginia Gallo
Thomas Goertler
Gwendolyn Harris
Kenneth Lambert
Diane LaMonica
Ann Lohwasser

Sheryl Mackie
Nancy MacIntosh
Herbert McIntyre
Kevin McSwiggan
Doris Natoli
Dolores O'Connor
Barbara Ortolani
Ricardo Reluzco
Karen Reynolds
David Ross
Debra Schoenholz
MaryRose Stenson
Lucy Tomasini
Larry Walton
Denise Waters

SAVE THE DATE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2009

The Association will celebrate its 35th Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner Dance on Friday, October 30, 2009 at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place. During this annual event outstanding members of the Association, who you have nominated for exemplary performance of their duties, and/or outside the workplace, will be recognized with the following awards:

- **Medal for Merit** – Awarded for outstanding professionalism in the performance of duty, or for outstanding contributions to the community.
- **Medals for Meritorious Service** – Awarded for acts performed in the line of duty, indicating extreme alertness, initiative or exceptionally good judgment.
- **Medal of Medical Life Saving** – Awarded for acts, which provided direct life-saving aid for persons in medical distress.

Please save the date and join your colleagues at this special event. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Raber at (516) 794-0600.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Please note that the Healthplex designated phone number for all COBANC members is 1-888-468-5178.

PLAN TO ATTEND FALL BENEFITS BASH

In an effort to ensure that members are aware of the benefits and services available to them, the Association will be hosting a "Benefits Bash." The event will serve as an opportunity for members to review firsthand the benefits and discounts which are available to them as New York State employees working in Nassau County and as members of COBANC.

State and local representatives, as well as vendors who provide services to the Association, will be available to discuss their services and answer questions. Because this is such an important event and to make it convenient for all members to attend, this event will be held in each of the court complexes as follows: Family Court – October 2, 2009; District Court – October 5, 2009, Mineola Court Complex – October 9, 2009. The time for all three events is 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served. Any member (and/or their dependent) interested in vision screening (eye exam) on those days: October 2 – Family Court; October 5 – District Court (van is not available on this date); October 9 – Supreme Court, please contact COBANC and schedule a time. Please note we need a minimum of 25 appointments scheduled in order for GVS to provide the mobile van. Please send an e-mail to cbohanan2vp@cobanc.org or call the COBANC office at (516) 794-0600.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Anyone interested in the AMPUTEEVETS/ AMERICANVET DOG FOUNDATION may contact Lisa Siano at lsianoesq@optonline.net. The website for the Amputee Vet program is www.nationalamputation.org.

Stay Informed

For the latest news and information, be sure to visit the Association's website at www.cobanc.org.



C.O.B.A.N.C.
Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County

Representing Nassau Court Employees

VOLUME II 2009

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SURROGATES COURT
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Message from the President

PATRICK G. CRIBBIN



I hope that the summer months provided an opportunity for you to spend time with your family and friends doing the things that you enjoy the most. The members of the Board of Directors have been working on your behalf to ensure and improve the services and benefits provided to our membership. We

have been carefully monitoring the progress of our country's economic recovery, and are very pleased to report to our membership that none of our COBANC members have experienced a reduction in wages or benefits during these difficult economic times, unlike many of those working in the private sector or those who are members of other New York State unions. We are very fortunate not to have to negotiate in this economic climate, as our current contract expires on March 31, 2011, and is in full force and effect until then.

We have also been examining our Health and Welfare Fund and have made changes, which we anticipate will bolster and strengthen the Fund. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and congratulate the two newest Trustees of the Health and Welfare Fund, Donald Vetter and Kathleen Holland. Both Donald and Kathleen work in the County Courthouse and both possess the knowledge and open-minded thinking skills that are important criteria for their new positions.

In the near future, I am planning to meet with Michael V. Coccoma who was appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside of New York City in May 2009. Among the topics to be discussed is the importance of securing equal pay for equal job titles when compared with New York City. I will keep you updated on the outcome of that meeting.

On the back page of this newsletter, please take a moment to review several important dates and upcoming events. Lastly, I encourage all members to attend our next General Membership meeting on September 16, and to remember those family members and friends who were lost on September 11, 2001.

Fraternally,

Patrick G. Cribbin

We Want to Hear From You...

Whether you're new to retirement or have been retired for years, the Association wants to hear from you. Newfound hobbies, travel experiences, a second career, or extra time with family and friends are what retirement is all about. Please share what you've been doing by contacting gwhite@cobanc.org.



In The Know

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.



Under New Administration

As of July 1, 2009, Maloney Associates was no longer the administrator for the Association's health & welfare benefits. After approximately 24 months of extensive research and presentations, the Trustees unanimously decided to hire Healthplex. Dental/vision benefits remain the same, however there are more dentists to choose from. Please visit our website at www.cobanc.org for a complete breakdown of benefits for both active and retired members.

WHO'S THE NEXT 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 of the Association in good standing **AND**
- Be active in the Court community **OR**
- Be active in outside community **OR**
- Consistently demonstrate a desire and ability to represent the highest standard of all COBANC 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:

COBANC 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. Delegates Sworn in to Serve Membership

Following the Association's annual election, the reelected and newly elected Delegates were sworn in during the Board of Directors/Delegates meeting. Joining the reelected Delegates are newly elected County Court Delegates Corey Hill and Karen Holmgaard, and Family Court Delegate Margaret Mausberg. "Congratulations to our newest Delegates as well as our reelected Delegates," stated COBANC President Patrick G. Cribbin. "On behalf of the Board of Directors and our membership, thank you for your willingness to serve and represent the interests of our members."

During the meeting, COBANC's legal counsel, Harry Greenberg, facilitated a presentation focusing on the role of the Delegates and their commitment and responsibility to represent the COBANC membership to the best of their abilities. Following the presentation, Mr. Greenberg and Mr. Cribbin led a discussion session, which included an opportunity for the Delegates to ask questions and clarify information relative to their responsibilities.

For a complete list of Delegates, visit COBANC's website at www.cobanc.org.



Newly sworn in Delegates of the Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County participated in a presentation and discussion group focusing on their responsibilities to service COBANC's membership.



Show Me and I'll Learn

The hallways of Family Court were bustling with more children than usual on "Take Your Children to Work Day." Honorable Robin M. Kent assembled a committee to facilitate the day's activities and employees were invited to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to see firsthand the various services provided by our members at Family Court.

To ensure a successful start to the day, the morning began with a breakfast in Judge Kent's courtroom. Acting Supervising Judge John G. Marks described the functions of Family Court and answered numerous inquisitive and interesting questions. Court Reporter Dorothy London explained the role and responsibilities of a court reporter and demonstrated her skills on a court-reporting machine. COBANC Treasurer and Court Officer Matt Raber explained the multifaceted responsibilities of the Uniformed Court Officers. He also demonstrated the proper use of a defibrillator and reinforced the importance of having such lifesaving equipment available in the courthouse.

Mr. Raber then led the children on a tour of the courthouse, where someone in every department greeted them and explained that department's purpose. After the always startling "walk through the tunnel," the children were also able to view the Juvenile Detention Center and observe a Family Court proceeding in action. With the

assistance of Deputy County Attorney Greg Roth and Law Guardian John Zenir, Esq., a "mock trial" reenactment of a juvenile delinquency trial was held, presided over by Honorable Judge G. Marks. The children were very interested in the proceeding and Judge Marks elicited their thoughts and opinions on the case while explaining certain laws and procedures.

At the day's end, after enjoying lunch in Judge Kent's courtroom, each child was invited to sit on the bench with the Judge for a photo. Special packets were distributed which included a gavel pencil, educational puzzles, a lanyard for their photo, as well as a certificate of participation. A record number of children participated and all agreed it was both educational and enjoyable. Thanks to all Family Court personnel who planned and cooperated in making this event a success. Special thanks to WE CARE who, along with COBANC, provided funding for this event.

