



**HOUSTON POLICE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
HPROA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**



FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Board Meeting Called to Order: 9:00 a.m.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance: Jim St.John

Present: Aldridge, Barnard, Beale, Chavez, Evans, Gaines, Kivela, Potell, Rayne, St.John, Toth, Walschburger, Zoch

Absent: Scheibe

Parliamentarian: Bill Elkin

Sergeant at Arms: Robert Crane

Determination of Quorum: A quorum was present.

Treasurer’s Report and Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion by Potell, 2nd by Beale to approve the January 14, 2021 Board Minutes and the Treasurer’s Report with the following correction: *“The Board discussed concerns from a member regarding the recent national election.”*

President – Bob Barnard

- HPROA Board of Directors met at 9:00 a.m., via telephone conference call, due to COVID-19.
- February Business Meeting cancelled due to COVID-19.
- A member’s concern over the national election and current political situation was discussed and it was determined that involvement would be out of the scope and intent of this organization. The mission statement of the HPROA is as follows:

“We are a professional and social organization of retired officers and concerned citizens dedicated to safeguarding pensions, insurance and member well-being.”

- HPOU update:
 - San Antonio Police Department referendum to retract their Collective Bargaining contract will come to a vote May 1, 2021.
 - Houston Firefighter Marty Lancton, Local 341, was fired.
 - 27 New Regular Member applications received:

Lori Bender	Andrea Burke	David Cannaday
Glen Case	Steven Cesarek	Brigido Chavez
Ivan Devitt	Christopher Eads	Norman Escobar
Cheryl Fisk	Derek Hooper	Dale Kite
Lynne Mack	Kenneth Martin	Shane McNally
Kristi McPherson	William McPherson	Edward Murphy
George R. Parker	Brian Raymond	Paul Ryza
Mailow Seto	Robert Smith	Gregory Sokoloski
Michael Thiac	Dwayne Ulrich	John Villareal

❖ *Motion by Rayne, 2nd by Potell to approve the 27 new regular member applications. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.*

- 1 New Associate Member applications approved:
 - Greg Smith – Sponsored by Anthony Kivela
 - ❖ *Motion by Rayne, 2nd by Potell to approve the 1 new associate member applications. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.*
- 1 New Associate Member application received and will be placed on the HPROA website for one month.
 - Sandra Brooks – Sponsored by M. D. Beale

Executive Director – Anthony Kivela

- Pension Update – HPOPS Financial Report:
 - Balance as of February 13, 2021: \$6.524 billion, up from \$6.406 billion in January.
 - Retirements trending upward:
 - Fiscal Year to date 2020-2021: 139
 - Fiscal Year to date 2019-2020: 93
 - Cumulative Year to date 2020: 26
 - Cumulative Year to date 2019: 20
 - **NOTE:** Medicare and health insurance are important to retirees, but pension issues in the legislature are a priority. Kivela attended the Texas Law Enforcement Committee meetings.
 - Pensions continue to be HPROA's number one priority, especially since the 87th Texas Legislature is now in session.
- Medicare:
 - The City Insurance Discount for pre-65 retirees has been approved. Beale will write an article for the Badge and Gun.
 - The Medicare Open Enrollment has had massive problems with some retirees having no insurance and some with insurance other than what they selected. The HPROA is still working with retirees and referring members to Aetna and City Directors who have the authority to resolve issues employing top-down solutions.
 - City of Houston's Medicare Plan Providers will be KelseyCare Advantage (713-442-2264), and Aetna Health Care Premium/Steerage PPO (1-800-307-4830).
 - The City of Houston Portal is the best way to submit documents to the City.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the 2021 proposed HPROA Budget line by line. On January 21, 2021 the four contract employees will receive an annual cost of living increase same as HPOPS, and a bonus based on the amount of additional work and the associations' financial condition.
 - ❖ *Motion by Potell, 2nd by Beale to approve the proposed 2021 HPROA Budget as submitted. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.*
- With the end of the 116th Federal Legislative session, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) Bills are dead. The 117th Congress began on January 4, 2021.
 - U.S. Representative Shelia Jackson Lee (D) filed HR127 bill (Sabika Sheikh Firearms Licensing and Registration Act) requiring implementation of a national registration database, psychological evaluation, and insurance of gun owners. Violation could result in fines and imprisonment.
 - U.S. Representative Rodney Davis (D) filed HR82 bill (Social Security Fairness Act of 2021) to repeal WEP and GPO.

- The difference now is President Biden supports repeal of the WEP and GPO. There are 34 Democrat and 19 Republican co-sponsors.
- Any member may refer someone facing difficult times to Houston Officer Peer Assistance (HOPA). They are a well-trained group of active and retired Houston Police Officers who are available to listen and provide support for fellow officers. Telephone #832-200-3499.
- HPROA's PAC does not contribute to Federal politicians or causes but will continue to check Federal legislation that may impact our organization or members.
- The new 'word of the day' is Equity that is being used nationally in meetings and reporting.
- Donations were received from:
 - Henry & Laura Gaas in memory of Fred Eichholtz.
 - Thank you letters were received from Judy Eichholtz, widow of Fred Eichholtz, and Pat Hanna, widow of Mart Hanna.

Old Business:

- HPROA Logo Items - St.John received two bids for HPROA logo items. Both vendors will bring samples of their logo items to the next in person board and business meetings.
- The Chief of Police declared Officer Earnest Leal's death a Line of Duty death. As his widow, Dee Leal will receive a complimentary HPROA lifetime membership.
- Kivela signed an audit confidentiality agreement with a consultant pending a future audit.
- Internet Scrubbing Privacy Insurance - Toth stated more follow up is needed with vendor and our database.
- Name Tags - Evans recommended discussion on complimentary HPROA nametags be tabled.

New Business:

- Discussion on the procedure for appointing a new board member upon the mid-term resignation of a current board member. Article 4, section 5 of the Bi-laws addresses vacancy of office. It is also possible to work without a full board until the next general election.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer Report** – Ed Aldridge
 - \$ 250,433.70 in the bank.
- **Legislative Report** – Bill Elkin
 - The 87th session of the Texas Legislature began on January 12, 2021. Representative Dade Phelan (R) was sworn in as Speaker of the House. He has named committee chairpersons, consisting of both Democrats and Republicans.
 - The Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Committee is Chaired by Representative Rafael Anchia (D), and Vice-Chair by Representative Tan Parker (R). Houston Representative Mary Ann Perez (D) serves on the committee. 6 of the 9 members are new to the committee.
 - Some Bills affect active law enforcement.
 - Most pension legislation is directed at the Teachers Retirement System and the Texas Employee Retirement System.

- Majority of the Bills are designed to restrict law enforcement's power of arrest and use of force. Senate Bill 198 by, Senator Jane Nelson (R) would affect retired officers' ability to carry firearms.
- Entrance into the Capitol building is restricted. Appointments required.
- **Website Report – Mike Gee**
 - Progress has been made migrating data to the new database. Regular members will soon have the ability to log in and change their profile information or renew membership. Working on the associate members.
 - E-mail renewal reminders will be sent out to members in the near future.
 - Working on a de-active member list for those members that did not renew.
 - E-blast notifications are sent when a new edition of the Retired Badge publication comes out.
 - Mike may be contacted at info@hproa.com.
- **Political Action Committee (PAC) Report– Jim Bollig**
 - Total PAC Fund:
 - ✓ Assets as of 1-31-2021 \$ 82,435.99
 - ✓ Assets as of 12-31-2020 \$ 78,855.99
 - ✓ Contributions Received in January \$ 3,780.00
 - ✓ Political Contributions: \$ 0
 - ✓ Administration Expense: \$ 200.00
 - December 12, 2020 was the last day on which certain legislators, statewide officers and political committees may accept contributions.
 - Each PAC contribution over \$25 receives a HPROA thank you note.
 - PAC Committee Members are Chairman/Treasurer James Bollig, Bill Elkin, Anthony Kivela, Bob Barnard and Steve Rayne, Bookkeeper Cathy Buckles and Accountants Atchley & Associates.
- **Entertainment Committee – Matt Potell**
 - Houston Reunion very uncertain at this time.
 - The next Fredericksburg Reunion will be held Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Lady Bird Park Pavilion.
 - **Host is needed** for the Fredericksburg Reunion to assist the Entertainment Committee.
- **Membership Committee – Shelly Scheibe**
 - 1,992 members as of February 10th. 27 new regular members approved today. 1 associate member approved and 1 new associate membership application received.
 - Beale's article on the benefits of HPROA membership appeared in this edition of the Badge and Gun.
- **Retired Badge – Nelson Zoch**
 - Paper is out and on the website.
 - Efforts to cross-train someone for editor is in the paper.
- **Family Assistance Committee (FAC) - Henry Chavez**
 - Updates provided on 11 members.
 - Pat McLaughlin donated 2 wheelchairs. Terry Smith, son of Gene Smith, donated a scooter. A transport chair, rolling walker, potty-chair and other miscellaneous medical equipment was delivered to members.
 - Memorial Plaque Presentations:
 - Ray Smith presented a Memorial Plaque and Presentation to Pat Hanna, widow of Mart C. Hanna.

- HPROA Board Member M. D. Beale presented a Memorial Plaque, Presentation folder and HPROA pin to Marilyn Burkhalter, widow of Roger Burkhalter.
- Barbara Cotton mailed a Memorial Plaque, Presentation folder and HPROA pin to Mary Lee, Widow of Carl T. Lee.
- Barbara Cotten and Sue Gaines delivered a Memorial Plaque, Presentation folder and HPROA pin to Judy Eichholtz, widow of Fred Eichholtz.
- Honor Guard Members Officer Gene Sealey and Sergeant James Armstrong presented a Memorial Plaque, Presentation folder and HPROA pin to Peggy Boone, widow of Charles L. Boone.
- Pat Kainer mailed a Memorial Plaque, Presentation folder and HPROA pin to Marilyn Fowler, daughter of Sam Merrill.
- Friends we lost in December were:
 - *HPROA members:* Roger Burkhalter, Carl T. Lee, Fred T. Eichholtz, Charles Boone, Sam Merrill, Thomas J. Smith, James L. Goudy and Robert E. Tessier.
 - *HPD Retirees:* Oscar Maldonado, Roberto G. Luna, John H. Smith, Paul C. Edgar, Phillip Bankston, Bruce Westbrook, Richard Sepolio, Charles Clark, Jack Hamel and Oscar W. Dubose.
 - *We also lost:* Loretta James' mother Rubbie Lewis and Corrine McDade, widow of Fisher McDade (deceased). Timothy Massey, son of Chester Massey (deceased), brother of David Massey, brother-in-law of Cindy Massey and Uncle of Chris and Rick Massey also passed away.
- Thank you letters were mailed to Bobbie J. Foster and Gary Wurl for their donations to the FAC. Letters were also sent to Pat McLaughlin and Terry Smith for the equipment donations.
- Discussion regarding the possible need to order more plaques and folders.
- Due to increased COVID-19 awareness, it has been decided to limit activities to protect volunteers and families. FAC will continue to deliver equipment to retirees in need.

Good and Welfare

- Discussion regarding donating Nelson Zoch's book "*Fallen Heroes of the Bayou City*" to HPOU's fundraiser for Active Officer Courtney Waller.
- Discussion regarding March board meeting in person at the Whitney address, HPOU building, or via teleconference.
- Anyone wishing to reserve the HPOU meeting room should contact 1st Vice-President Ken Nealy.

Adjournment:

Motion by Potell, 2nd by Beale to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

Sue Gaines
Board Secretary