



HOUSTON POLICE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
HPROA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2020



Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance: Steve Toth

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

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 Minutes and the Treasurer's Report as printed. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

President – Bob Barnard

- October Business Meeting cancelled due to COVID19.
- Candidates for HPOPS Board of Trustees positions will address the HPROA Board.

Terry Bratton - HPOPS Candidate for the Retired Trustee Board Position #5

- Bratton currently serves as Chairman of the HPOPS Board of Trustees. Vows to keep our pension viable. He wants the pension to be there for past, present and future officers. Working to find unity with HPOPS members. Running for re-election.
- Working with actuaries for improvements in each pension group in a sustainable step-by-step method.
- HPOPS is recovering the financial losses due to coronavirus. The funding ratio in 2019 was 81.7 and increased to 82.4 in 2020.
- The negative return interest numbers are coming off the 5-year average return totals.
- HPOPS is in good shape. The changes made in 2017 have served us well and kept us in the corridor. Pensions and accounts are secure.
- COLAs will return in 2021. PROP interest rate would be 3.99%, same as in 2020.
- HPOPS working with Mayor's pension committee to grow our pensions. City continues to meet their financial obligations to HPOPS. The City paid HPOPS back the \$750 million, plus interest.
- Due to the Coronavirus, the best way to contact HPOPS is by email at info@hpops.org.
- Terry welcomes your text messages and emails.

Mark Montgomery – HPOPS Candidate for the Retired Trustee Position #5

- Obtained his law degree while working at HPD. Retired in 2010.
- He is running because he believes the HPOPS Board need to be held accountable for their actions or inactions.
- Believes HPOPS is going to need strong leadership in the fight to keep retiree health benefits. HPOPS interest will be his primary concern.

- Does not want pension adjustments to be made on the backs of retired or active officers.
- Feels the City has not met their financial obligation to HPOPS as stated in the Houston Chronicle.

Dwayne Ready – HPOPS Candidate for Board of Trustee Position #2

- Currently serving as HPOPS Vice-Chairman. Running for reelection.
- Unable to attend this board meeting due to car trouble.

Trey Coleman – HPOPS Board of Trustee Position #1

- As an active officer he brings a perspective for officers in pension plan #2.
- Also serves on the Burial Fund Board of Directors.

Executive Director – Anthony Kivela

- Pension Update:
HPOPS Financial Report:
 - Balance as of 10-5-2020: \$5.830 billion up from \$5.787 billion in September.
 - Retirements:
 - Fiscal Year to date 2020: 72
 - Fiscal Year 2019: 60
 - Cumulative Year to date 2020: 163
 - Cumulative Year 2019: 141
 - Pensions continue to be HPROA's Number One Priority.
 - HPOPS and HPOU provide new retirees with HPROA information and pamphlets.
- Update on "Privacy Insurance" which would scrub personal Internet history at a nominal rate as another HPROA member benefit. As of 10-5-2020, an electronic poll of HPROA members indicated 405 members interested in the service and 184 not interested. Poll will run for 2 more weeks.
- Met in person with House District 129 Representative Dennis Paul. Had a nice phone conversation with House District 148 Representative Penny Shaw Morales.
- New idea from a member who wants to address the board in November regarding financial planning as a member benefit. He felt there was lack of financial information and guidance provided officers approaching retirement. They have many questions such as applying for social security, windfall elimination act, etc. Suggested a committee be formed to research specific retirement questions in order to assist our members. No objections to the member addressing the board in November.
- Website:
 - Website Committee met at 8:15am regarding new database.
 - Web Manager Mike Gee has been building websites for 15 years and developing databases for 25 years. He is constantly updating our website.
 - On 10-5-2020 there were 4,685 bot fraud attempts on our application process. All attempts failed.
 - Due to the coronavirus the HPROA has had fewer expenditures. Discussion regarding presenting non-budgeted spending request at the November meeting.

- Donations were received and letters of acknowledgement mailed:
 - Connie Douglass, JoAnne H. Singer, Tape Products Company Gail L. Bradie Frazier, First Packaging Systems Alan Firs, Pam Jones, Cindy Massey, Jimmy Griggs, Waligura Family, Eleanor Landon, Layne Jones, Christina Lynch, Courtney Sutherland, Debbie Westfall, Pam & Ron Clark, Jane & Harry Jefferson, Herman & Judy Williams, Gary Church, Trans-Consolidated Distributor Larry Hawkins, Thomas Mannion, Carolina Tape and Supply, Vibac Canada Rino Petrella and Camille Armstrong all in memory of Donnie Bird.
 - Sandra Lee in memory of R. W. Lee.
- Thank You letters received from:
 - The family of Martin Quincy Shofner.
 - Political candidates: Representatives John Raney (Dist.14), Todd Hunter (Dist. 32), Charles Anderson (Dist. 56), Sam Harless (Dist.126), Dennis Paul (Dist. 129) and Mary Ann Perez (Dist. 144).

President – Bob Barnard

- Plaque presentation to Roy McDonald in appreciation for serving as Board Member Position 7. Roy will continue to chair the Membership Committee.
- Presentation for Jim and Dorothy Ashby tabled until November meeting.
- HPOU update:
 - President Joe Gamaldi scored #2 on sergeant’s written test. Assessment will be next. He currently serves as 2nd Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police.
 - 1st Vice President Doug Griffith may take over as president if Gamaldi leaves.
 - In current climate against police, the chance for a police pay raise doesn’t look good.
 - Chief Acevedo changed HPD policy after firing the 4 officers involved in a justified shooting and is using it against the officers. HPOU is 100% behind the officers.
 - If Kim Ogg is reelected as Harris County District Attorney it is believed more officers will be indicted.
- Fraternal Order Of Police (FOP) is working on a health insurance plan, comparable to the City’s, to cover retired officers below the age of 65.
- 19 new member applications received from:
 - James Baker
 - Barry Balthrop
 - Amy Barnette
 - Gregory Brown
 - Robert Carr
 - Betty Doss
 - Eric Fagan
 - Luis Gonzalez
 - Michelle Jimenez
 - Rachelle Justice
 - Stephen Liddle
 - Ruben Lopez

- Nicholas Matson
- Patti Mason
- Francisco Ortiz
- David C. Pali
- Cory Riggs
- Larry Tidwell
- Rickey Thomas

❖ **Motion by Potell, 2nd by Beale to approved the new members' applications. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.**

- One new associate member application received:
 - Dale Bond – Sponsor Ron Headley

HPOPS Executive Director – Pat Franey

- Actuaries finished last fiscal year tabulations.
- Funding ratio is currently at 82.4, an increase from 81.7 the previous year.

Old Business:

- St. John and Scheibe have about 400 masks left. Requests are down to a trickle. Mailed over 2,500 masks to our members.
- Evans received bids from two companies that provide name tags. Discussion. Evans and Barnard will continue to research companies for additional bids.

New Business:

- Steve Toth will chair the Resource Information Committee.
- Early Voting runs from October 13 to 30, 2020.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer Report – Ed Aldridge**
 - \$261,358.20 in the bank.
- **Website Report – Mike Gee**
 - Primary focus has been on the membership database.
 - When it is time for an associate member to renew, both the associate member and the sponsor will get a reminder.
 - Mike may be contacted at webmaster@hproa.com or cell 832-287-7375.
- **PAC Report– Bob Barnard**
 - **Total PAC Fund Assets:** \$106,762.03. Contributions Received \$3,440. Administration Expense \$200.
 - There has been a significant increase in PAC donations from our members. Donations over \$25 will receive an acknowledging thank-you card.
 - Due to the difficulty of obtaining politicians mailing address, future campaign donations will be made by the HPROA credit card.
- **Entertainment Committee – Matt Potell**
 - Fredericksburg Reunion will be held Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Lady Bird Park Pavilion. To comply with the Governor's mandate, temperatures will be taken at the door, hand sanitizer will be provided, face masks made available and social distancing guidelines followed. This will be Trade Days Weekend in Fredericksburg.

- Some of the HPROA and HPOPS logo items will be taken to the reunion. Some of the items will be saved and made available at the General Membership meetings.
- **Host is needed for the Fredericksburg Reunion to assist the Entertainment Committee.**
- **Membership Committee – Roy McDonald**
 - 1,921 members as of October 6th. 19 new regular members approved today. 1 associate membership request received. 14 members reinstated and 3 members dropped. Dropped members have been contacted.
- **Retired Badge – Nelson Zoch**
 - Paper is on the website and hard copies will be mailed today.
 - 27% voted to receive the paper on-line. Each Retired Badge cost \$1.06 to print and mail. The 247 members requesting on-line papers save the association \$261.82 on each edition. There are 6 editions each year.
 - Working with Cathy and Mike to separate the mailing list for those wanting the paper on-line and those wanting it in the mail.
 - Appeal for more contributors to the paper has been working. Four new contributors to this last issue.
- **Legislative Committee – Bill Elkin**
 - The Democratic Party is pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into Texas, supporting democratic candidates at every level of public office. According to sources, the Democratic Party is in an all out effort to take control of the Texas House of Representatives because 2021 is a Re-districting year where the lines for all districts will be drafted. According to Representative Sam Harless, his Democratic opponent was given \$500 thousand dollars in an all out effort to replace him in District 126 House seat.
 - The PAC met on September 25th and appropriated contributions to 126 candidates for the Texas House and Senate. The amount of contributions to candidates varied, but it totaled approximately \$45,000.
 - The Senate race to watch is Senate District 30 currently held by Senator Pat Fallon, who is resigning to take a federal position. Representative Drew Springer and salon owner Shelly Luther are in a runoff for that seat. Governor Abbott set December 19th as the special election runoff date.
 - The incoming 87th Texas Legislature will be an interesting one.
- **Family Assistance Committee - Henry Chavez and Forrest Turbeville**
 - FAC members contacted Ralph Blount, Doug Bostock, Betty Mason, Robert Alaniz, Ginger Hill, Monty Montgomery, Lisa Kennedy, Harold (Lee) Lawrence, and Arthur Price in September.
 - Jean Douglass, widow of J. W. Douglass, donated medical equipment.
 - Tim Dillon presented the HPROA Memorial Plaque to Raymond J. Simper's wife, Cynthia. Henry Chavez presented the Memorial Plaque to A. J. (Gus) Hruzak's daughter, Lee Blair. The Houston Police Honor Guard presented the Memorial Plaque to Martin Q. Shofner's wife, Polly.

- Friends we lost in September were Martin Q. Shofner, Benjamin C. Williams and Russel J. Pete. We also lost Ronnie Bird's brother and former officer Donnie Bird, Darrell Smith's mother Thelma A. Smith, and Norman Graham's father Norman Graham.

Good and Welfare:

- FAC Chair Henry Chavez and Barbara Cotten presented a plaque to Ron Headley for his years of service and dedication to the Family Assistance Committee and the members of the HPROA.
- Forrest Turbeville was presented a plaque in recognition of his many years of dedication and leadership to the Family Assistance Committee. Forrest was also named Chairman Emeritus of the HPROA Family Assistance Committee in recognition of the highest of distinctions in service to others.

Adjournment:

Motion by Beale, 2nd by Rayne to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 am. Voice Vote. Motion Carried.

Sue Gaines
Board Secretary