

•Don't Rush Me•



# TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION



www.tamparetiree.com

I'm Retired

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**Billy Lynn**

**Secretary**

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**P.O. BOX 280222**

**TAMPA, FL 33682-0222**

***President's Message***

It's time for the Quarterly Meeting again. The date is the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2017 at the usual location - the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church on Linebaugh Avenue and Ola Avenue. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and a BBQ dinner with all the fixins will be served.

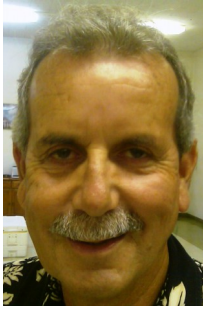
There has been little change since the last association meeting. The 13<sup>th</sup> check issue is still pending as nothing will be determined until the actuary finalizes his report in May. If a 13<sup>th</sup> check is available for the fiscal year 2016, it will be paid in June, 2017.

There are many factors to consider, such as the fact that the fund had a negative return in 2015 which must be made up. That may directly affect the eligibility for a 13<sup>th</sup> check to be paid. Additionally, there are other factors that have to be determined by the actuary to evaluate gains and losses by the fund for fiscal year 2016. Mainly, there have to be actuarial gains in 2016.

Our association was well represented at the annual Gold Shield business lunch and board members were present. Our association supports and contributes to this outstanding organization that provides educational benefits for the spouses and children of fire and police officers who lose their lives in the line of duty.

(cont on pg 4)





## Treasurer's Report:

### End of Year Financial Report

I am wishing everyone a "Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2017". As we ushered 2016 out and welcomed 2017 in, we must stop and reflect on all the events that took place in 2016.. We do not, all, experience events in the same fashion, but I truly pray that all of 2016 ended with a whimper and that 2017 is starting with a ROAR.. I will not comment on any of the events of the past year, as they are just that, the past.. We must all look forward to 2017 with energy and enthusiasm knowing that a change is coming.. Hopefully it will be great..

This is a brief report of our financial situation as of December 31, 2016...

January 1, 2016	Beginning Balance:	\$35934.05
December 31, 2016	Ending Balance:	\$35802.69
Deposits during 2016	Membership dues :	\$6.060.00
	Account Dividends	\$ 184.09

Expenses (2016)

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Postage
- Printing
- Quarterly Meeting Food and Drinks
- Hall rental
- Accounting Fee \$6744.09
- Gold Shield
- Liberty Manor Veterans
- Flowers and Hospice Tribute
- Office Supplies
- Holiday lunch/Gift Cards Pension -
- Office staff
- P.O. Box Rent
- Office Supplies

There are no outstanding debts or obligations.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

*John 'JJ' Oliva*



## From Hero's to Homeless Back to Healthy Again!!!

Not all veterans come home intact, sometimes it's their health but all too often it's their spirit. According to our "Government" the VA will help all veterans. "Liberty Manor for Veterans" is for those veterans that are broken. Sometimes they fall between the cracks for benefits, because they don't know how to apply. They need an advocate. In comes Connie Lindsay, their benefits advocate. But what do the Vets do, between the time they fall into dire need and find help? Ms. Lindsay steps up for them through Liberty Manor for Veterans, a home for transition. It has warm meals, clean clothes, clean beds. Many acts of compassion at Liberty Manor helps build their self esteem. A safe place, with kind people willing to answer the questions they don't even know to ask.

Liberty Manor, a 501c(3) tax exempt organization, has existed since 2006. Over 1000 success stories and over 85% of all donations, go directly to the recovering Vets. Ms Lindsay, helps recover long forgotten Veterans documents. She gets the correct bureaucrat to help guide the Veterans through the system, be it VA or Social Security, Food Stamps or Health needs.

As Police Officers and Firefighters, we've seen these veterans on the street. We have helped them, but when our shift ended, usually the help ended. Liberty Manor is for Short Term and in the case of terminal illness Veterans sometimes stay Long Term. Hospice comes to Liberty Manor.

On Thursday, October 27th at our Quarterly Meeting, I provided a letter of need from Liberty Manor and I provided a short presentation, which resulted in a majority of those present voting to donate \$1000.00.

On Wednesday, November 2nd. President Billy Lynn, Treasurer John J. Oliva and Webmaster Jerry Wotherspoon, met with Ms. Connie Lindsay and Ms. Junie Johnson at the Liberty Manor Home on 10015 N.9th St. in Tampa. We took a tour of the residence, met several of the Vets and we proudly presented our Association check to Ms. Lindsay.

After the tour of the residence, we asked if they would be interested in donations of slightly used items. They indicated clean clothes for men, clean linens for beds, towels and even well cared for furniture would be accepted. The residence is well maintained, clean and quiet and has 17 men who live there full time.

When the men are ready to leave and go back out on their own, Liberty Manor helps, with "nearly" new clean clothes and furniture for their new home. They leave with the knowledge they have a resource to return to if they every need it again.

I'm very happy we were able to do this for the Liberty Manor and the Veterans that live there.

*Billy Lynn, John "JJ" Oliva, Jerry Wotherspoon*





(Cont from pg 1)

At the quarterly meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, we will have guest speakers from the Liberty Manor for Veterans Association. Our association voted to make a \$1,000.00 donation to this organization. The check was presented by Billy Lynn, J.J. Oliva and Jerry Wotherspoon.

We have received correspondence from them expressing their sincere appreciation for the benevolent donation supporting our honorably discharged veterans that reside at Liberty Manor.

Just some information relating to the former public safety director and former police chief, Robert L. Smith. Chief Smith's wife passed away on November 3, 2016. They were married for 57 years and presently reside in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

Please feel free to bring a friend or co-worker to our January 26, 2017 Quarterly Meeting. We look forward to seeing old friends and sharing information.

**Respectfully,**

*Billy Lynn*

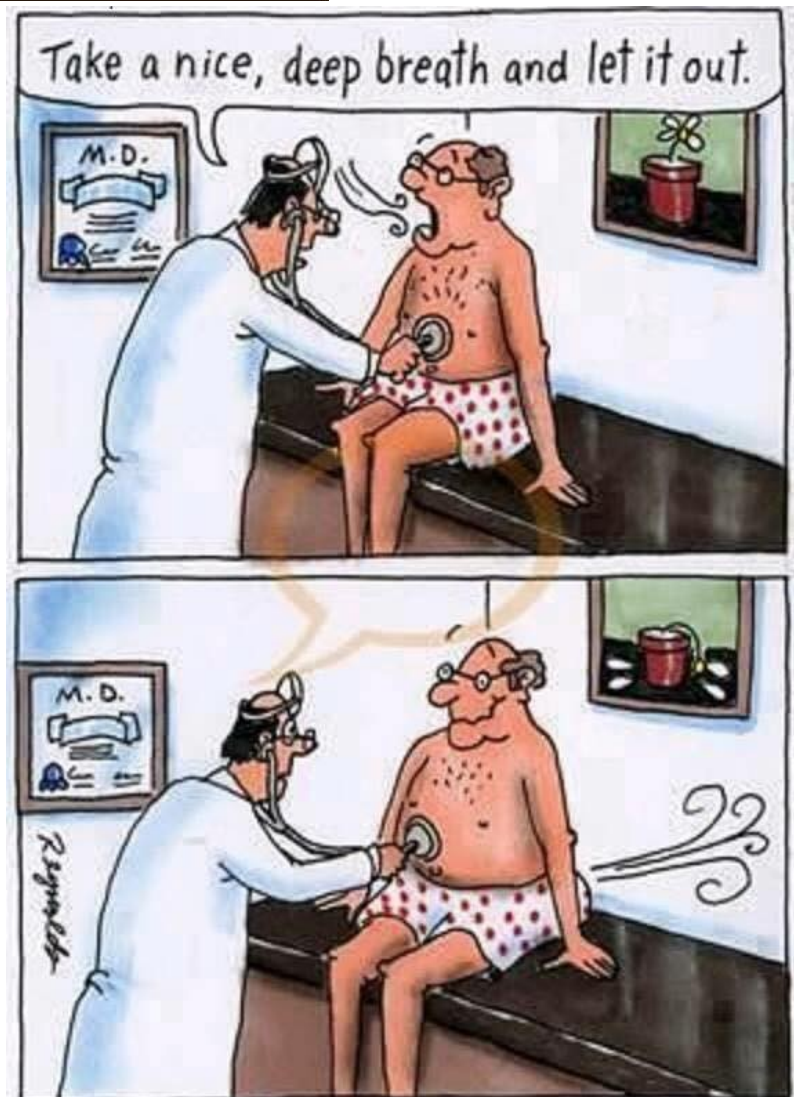






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Retirement  
is the only thing  
that will make  
you realize  
how you wasted  
all these years  
trying to  
**BE MATURE**  
when you can  
get back to  
**BEING A CHILD**  
at the end  
of it all...





## Gold Shield Foundation, Inc.

In 1981, one police officer and two fire fighters had been killed in the line of duty in Hillsborough County, leaving behind widows and dependant children. George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees, recognized a need. He organized a group of civic-minded citizens to insure the families of these, and subsequent fallen heroes, receive early financial assistance, and a guarantee of funds toward a college education. Then, through a personal donation in 1989, Mr. Steinbrenner began an expansion of the program that now includes seven nearby Florida counties.

Financial assistance in the amount of \$5,000 is immediately provided to the family, in addition to establishing a scholarship to cover tuition, books, fees, as well as room and board, towards a college education or vocational training for these families. The foundation is a 501 (c 3) organization supported by annual dues of \$100, and contributions from concerned citizens. Your retirees association maintains an annual membership with the foundation, and makes an annual contribution as well. This past December 6<sup>th</sup> the foundation held it's annual meeting and luncheon. Executive Director Joe Voskerichian reserved a table for our association, and it was well attended by your executive board.

As of the end of 2016, forty-one families have received benefits as a result of line of duty deaths of the fallen heroes. I have listed the ones who served in Hillsborough County. Never forget the sacrifice they gave, and those who have gone before them. George Steinbrenner and the Gold Shield Foundation deserve our thanks and continued support.

Gerald Rauft, TPD, 1981  
 Franz Warner, TFD 1981  
 Isaac Royal, TFD, 1981  
 Lemon Harvey, HCSO, 1981  
 Gary Pricher, TPD, 1983  
 Fred Clark, HCSO, 1987  
 Donna Miller, HCSO, 1987  
 Porfirio Soto, TPD, 1988  
 Norris Epps, TPD, 1995  
 Randy Bell, TPD, 1998  
 Ricky Childers, TPD, 1988

Jack Barker, TFD, 2001  
 Lois Marrero, TPD, 2001  
 David Abella, HCSO, 2004  
 Juan Serrano, TPD, 2006  
 Ron Harrison, HCSO, 2007  
 Mike Roberts, TPD, 2009  
 Jeff Kocab, TPD, 2010  
 Dave Curtis, TPD, 2010  
 Mark Longway, HCSO, 2010  
 John Kotfila, HCSO, 2016

*Tommy DePolis*

I wake up everyday  
planning to be productive  
and then a voice in my  
head says "Haha good  
one!" and we laugh and  
laugh and take a nap.



### **50/50 DRAWING**

Will be held at the Membership Meeting  
so bring a couple of extra bucks.

### **Pension Board Meeting**

The Pension Board will be holding their  
monthly meeting on Wednesday, January  
30th, at 1:30pm.

Location 3001 North Boulevard.  
Come on by, the pension board loves company.

### **REMINDER**

The Retirees monthly luncheon will be held on Monday, January 30th, at  
11:00am. Location is the Golden Corral at 11801 N 56th St, Temple Terrace.

All are invited. Hope to see you there.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*Some of those we recently lost....*

**Evelyn Kaplan, 6/12/16, Police Spouse**

**Frank L Swope, 8/10/16, Police**

**Katherine A Trotter, 8/10/16, Fire Spouse**

**Michele M Perez, 8/11/16, Fire**

**William L Taylor, 8/11/16, Police**

**Jennie Sanchez, 8/21/16, Police Spouse**

**Fred Arnold, 8/27/16, Police**

**James Scott, 8/28/16, Police**

**James Rogers, 9/10/16, Fire**

**James Sigmon, 9/12/16, Police**

**Peter Puleo, 9/13/16, Fire**

**Marvin T Griffin, 10/2/16, Fire**

**Pauline Phillips, 10/6/16, Fire Spouse**

**James Massaro, 10/27/16, Fire**

**Manual Solar, 10/31/16, Fire**

**Robert Hobart, 11/13/16, Fire**

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# **TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION**

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Thursday, January 26, 2017**

**BBQ Pork & all the fixins for Dinner 6:30 PM**

**Meeting To Follow.**

**FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LARRICK HALL**

**709 W. Linebaugh Ave**

**Parking Will Be On The East & West Side of the Building**

**(Bring a new retiree, they'll thank you for it!!!)**

