

President's Post:

It has been brought to my attention that I have not updated my "post" in quite some time. This has not been by design but more out of necessity. Business at the Association has been hectic at the least. There are several different items and issues all working concurrently to include my foot injury. Again, I would like to say thank you to everyone for your support over the past months, it really has made a difference in my recovery knowing there are so many people who support you. Thank you.

Collective Bargaining:

CCPOA and the City of Corpus Christi began bargaining in January 2010 after City Council requested the Police and Fire Organizations sit with Senior City Staff in hopes of addressing serious City Budget constraints. Senior City Staff announced that the City of Corpus Christi was facing a \$6.6 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the possibility of an additional \$10 to \$12 million (maybe as high as \$18 million) budget shortfall for fiscal year 2010-2011. Given these unprecedented shortfalls the CCPOA Executive Board and Collective Bargaining Committees unanimously agreed to begin working early with the City in an attempt to "do our share". Collective Bargaining was scheduled to begin in February 2010 with our current contract set to expire July 31, 2010.

To date, CCPOA and the City have held seven (7) bargaining sessions discussing multiple aspects to include but not limited to: Salary, Pension, Health Insurance, Health & Benefit Trust, Deferred Compensation, Transfers, Promotions, Discipline, Departmental Rights, and Association Rights. Tentative Agreements (T-A's) on some non-economic issues have been negotiated with the majority of economically driven issues still waiting further discussion. The Collective Bargaining Committee has volunteered many hours to the cause and believes that there is an answer to the budget shortfall. In fact, the Collective Bargaining Committee presented the City of Corpus Christi a complete and comprehensive Contract Proposal on February 25, 2010 to include these major talking points: Salary, Pension, Health Insurance, and Health & Benefit Trust amongst others. Unfortunately, we have not been able to T-A any of the major categories mentioned above but we have gotten "closer" to common ground on most.

Collective Bargaining Ground Rules preclude me from speaking in more specific language with regard to our negotiations as we are still in negotiations with the City of Corpus Christi. It should be noted however, the Collective Bargaining Sessions are governed by the Texas Open Meetings Act and therefore are open to the public for viewing. Scheduled meetings are posted on all bulletin boards and on this WEB-page, please attend if possible. The Collective Bargaining

Committee and Executive Board will be hosting Collective Bargaining Educational Seminars to better educate the Membership when the time is appropriate. If you have any questions regarding current issues please feel free to contact me by phone (361-882-2762) or e-mail (ccpoapresident@corpuschristipolice.com). As always, I appreciate your patience and professionalism with regard to this very important issue.

Health & Benefit Trust:

As I mentioned above this issue is part of the Collective Bargaining scenario. It feels like we are trying to shoot at a moving target every time we discuss this issue. The simplest answer I have for now regarding the H&B Trust is that we know nothing when it comes to what will or won't happen. The H&B Trust is a major part of contract negotiations and frankly, it has not been addressed yet. CCPOA has made a preliminary proposal to the City but there have not been any further discussions yet, they are coming, I assure you.

What can be said with great certainty about the H&B Trust is this: The Trust is still spending more money than it is making and is in great need for repair. The Trustees met to discuss this issue in April and approved to require all current retirees to pay a monthly premium equal to that of active members (currently \$84.20 per month). The Trustees also agreed to remove all retirees who are 65 years of age or older from the Trust. Retirees Post-65 will not lose their Health Insurance Coverage, the Trust will no longer pay for the Health Insurance Premiums and it would become the retirees' responsibility. Retirees who are Post-65 are eligible for the Humana Advantage Plan (Medicare/Medic Aid), a supplemental plan that has a greatly reduced premium. The Trustees changes were shared with the CCPOA Executive Board in April and were endorsed by the Board.

Not knowing when the H&B Trust issue will be discussed during the Collective Bargaining process the Trustees are targeting a start date for the proposed changes of July or August 2010. There will be additional information to follow, please stay tuned.

Miscellaneous News:

- The regularly scheduled May General Membership Meeting that was set for May 28th has been moved to **May 21st** with a start time of 12 noon. The change was made due to the original date conflicting with Memorial Day weekend.

- CCPOA is currently selling \$5.00 raffle tickets for a stainless steel bbq-pit. The raffle proceeds will be added to the \$8300.00 previously raised during the Alexander-Thebeau Memorial Fundraiser. The bbq raffle winner will be drawn during the June General Membership Meeting.
- CCPOA will be hosting another motorcycle raffle fundraiser to benefit the General Fund. We will raffle off a 2010 Harley Davidson Dyna Super-Glide during the 2010 CCPOA Adult Christmas Party. Each CCPOA Member will be mailed a book of ten (10) raffle tickets and asked to sell them for \$10.00 each in hopes of raising in excess of \$39,000.00 for the Association. Keep your eye on your mail box and stop in to the POA Hall to see the motorcycle in person.
- CCPOA Boxing Club, 902 Park St, received a much needed face-lift in April. It now has a fresh coat of paint and a new sign announcing the club. A special thank you goes to David and Albert Leal for their assistance in making this effort a success! Boxing Club Coach Ralph Davila and ARVAK Ins. Group consultant, John DeMontel also were instrumental in seeing the project through. Thank you!
- May 10, 2010 is Police Officer Memorial Day at CCPD, please attend the 1030am ceremony at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center and show your support for Fallen Officers!

Just a few ramblings and rants, stay safe out there!

Respectfully,

Mike Staff, President