

THE BENEVOLENT BULLETIN - SPRING 2021

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVID BAER
President

TIMOTHY JONES
Vice President

MICHAEL SMITH
Treasurer

ALBIE NICOLINO
Trustee

THOMAS RAYNOR
Secretary

DONALD SMITH
Ex-Officio

Benevolent Board of Trustees Elections

The elections for the five offices of your Association will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 8:00 P.M. The elections will be held DUE TO COVID 19 VIA ZOOM MEETING, Freeport, New York. A Nominating Committee of three members has been appointed and any member who wishes to serve on the Board of Trustees should be guided by the following sections of our by-laws:

Article 4 Section 12

The president shall appoint three (3) members of the association to serve as the nominating committee at the January meeting of the board of trustees. All candidates shall submit to the nominating committee a signed, written letter of intent specifying the office sought and certifying as the qualifications of the candidate for the office pursuant to section 8 of article 5 not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting in order to appear on the written or printed ballot. Nominations shall not be made from the floor during the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall report its recommendations at the board of trustees meeting on the third (3rd) Wednesday in April and also at the annual meeting of the association on the fourth (4th) Tuesday in April.

-and-

Article 5 Section 8

No person shall be eligible for any office of the association unless and until he shall have been a member thereof in good standing for five (5) consecutive years, except the office of administrative clerk or administrative bookkeeper. Those members who seek office must submit a letter which is postmarked by twelve midnight of March 26, 2021, addressed to the Nominating Committee 416 Atlantic Ave. Freeport, N.Y. 11520

THE BENEVOLENT BULLETIN - SPRING 2021

President's Message

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Sending prayers to you and your families during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our next General Membership meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 8:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM, DUE TO CONTINUED COVID RESTRICTIONS. DETAILS FOR SIGNING IN WILL BE EMAILED TO THE MEMBERSHIP ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MEETING.** The election of the Executive Board will be held on that evening, voting on emergency bylaw changes-see attached, as well as the honoring of Life Membership to the following members:

TIMOTHY ARCHBOLD, ANTHONY MINEI, DONALD PARKS, THOMAS RAYNOR, THOMAS RAZZANO, PAUL RUSSER.

Congratulations to these members on attaining this achievement!

At this time, I wish to inform the membership, that I will not be seeking re-election for another term as president of this association. I have served on this board for nearly 28 years, and served 2 different times as president, for five years each. I have been informed that vice president Tim Jones intends to run for the office of president. I know that I will be leaving the association in excellent hands, and even though I am leaving office, I will continue to advise and assist the officers and members of the association as much as possible.

My experience these past years have been very satisfying and rewarding. In reflection of these past 28 years, I am most proud on what benefits we have provided to our members and their families. When I first came on the board, we started the vision care program at \$25.00 out of pocket expenses for eye glasses, which now is increased up to \$ 400.00 every two-year cycle-over those years we have assisted over 668 members with reimbursement to nearly \$111,000.

We have increased our death disability guidelines from \$ 4,000.00 to the present \$10,000.00 to assist members families in paying for funeral cost. We have assisted approximately 425 members with borrowed medical equipment, assistance for disabled or indigent firefighters and their families, with the figures of vision care included, we have dispensed close to \$2,000,000 the past 28 years. This past year has been a concern in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. We had to assist several members and their families, that were really hit hard, but the board never skipped a beat in providing assistance, we had to dip into our investments to provide some assistance but we were able to accomplish our most important purpose of assisting our members whenever possible. Our investments are at the moment doing very well, despite removing over \$90,000 to provide assistance, our investments are about \$600,000, that along with value of our building, we are worth over \$ 1,200,000. We also have provided the membership at years end with gifts such as planners, Pens, pins

THE BENEVOLENT BULLETIN - SPRING 2021

decals, etc. and provide Grave markers to the families of our deceased members, along with up to \$400.00 to the companies for coalitions after a member's funeral, **all with our dues non two percent monies.**

We have kept the membership updated with newsletters, website, and emails, and by having meetings with each of the company liaisons. We have continued to maintain contact with other benevolent associations by attending LONG ISLAND BENEVOLANT ASSOCIATION.F.A.S.N.Y. 2% FORUMN, all to keep us informed and updated on assisting our membership.

I want to thank all the past and present board members that I have worked with in the past 28 years, that shaped this association into the "MODEL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION IN NEW YORK STATE"- Donald Parks, Kevin Noll, Kevin Muldowney, Don McIntosh, Robert Terry. Past Presidents - Vinnie Segreto, Miguel Bermudez, Donald Smith, the present officers- VICE PRESIDENT-TIM JONES, TRUSTEE-ALBIE NICOLINO, SECRETARY TOM RAYNOR, TREASURER-MICKEY SMITH, ADMIN. ASSISTANT-BRIAN NICHOLSON. I finally want to thank our attorneys, Don Lohr, and Nick Miraglia, who provided expert advice and assistance to the officers in the running of this association, but also assisted countless members in preparing applications and other nonrelated benevolent advice. And finally, I wish to thank the entire membership and say it was with great pleasure and gratitude that you allowed me to be able to serve you all.

We will continue to work with and assist our members that are sick or that are in need, in any way possible. **I also wish to remind the members, that the board adopted a resolution to increase the guidelines for death disability effective January 1,2020 up to \$10,000 for assistance for members families in paying funeral cost to our members. I Would like to stress that the death disability is not an automatic insurance payout (by law we are not allowed to do this) but it is a way to assist the families of our members pay portion of what the New York State Comptroller classifies the "ULTIMATE DISABILITY"**

Trustee Nicolino again reminds everyone to keep us updated if you have any change in information IE. Address, phone e-mail, etc. You may contact us at our e-mail address at VEFBAFFD@aol.com, WHICH WILL BE FASED OUT.OR THE NEW EMAIL WILL BE FREEPORTFIREBENEV@GMAIL.COM

or at our updated website, **FREEPORTFIREBENEV.COM** for any

THE BENEVOLENT BULLETIN - SPRING 2021

application forms you may need, or updated news via links associated with the fire service. We have received many positive reviews about the new website and we are working with our administrator to keep our members spread across the country updated and informed of latest of what is happening with the Benevolent and the Freeport Fire Department, so if you have not logged onto the website please do so and let us know what you think.

Also, trustee Nicolino informed me, that we have 475 members living across the country, belonging to this Association.

Hope to see you at the General Membership ZOOM meeting on **April 27. 2021.**

Fraternally yours,
David Baer
David Baer
President