

RETIRED SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION, INC. OF THE NYC POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE CHEVRON

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION - DECEMBER '22

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

holiday issue 2022

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Keeping Retirees Informed

PO BOX 7466 WANTAGH, NY 11793 | WWW.RSANYPD.ORG | (718) 605-0272



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Jason Siegel

From the desk of

the President



This time of the year, I like to wish our members and their families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I would also like to remind you of the SBA Holiday Luncheon, which is being held at Russo's on the Bay, on December 16, 2022, at 12:00PM.

If you have not paid your 2023 dues, please do so at your earliest convenience. As we all know, there are a lot of issues which may negatively affect retirees. The City is trying to change our Health/Hospital coverage as well as issues relating to Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) policies/laws. We are working very closely with the SBA and political leaders regarding these and other issues and will continue to keep our members informed. However, starting January 2023, you must be an active (paid) member of the RSA to receive our informative email blasts and Chevron newsletters. You can pay your dues by mail or via Pay-Pal, please visit our website at WWW.RSANYPD.ORG.

The Scholarship enhancement 50/50 raffle is currently available and at a record high. So, if you would like to help a child or grandchild of a deserving member, and possibly win some money, please send in your raffles. Additional raffles are still available by contacting the RSA at (718) 605-0272 or by email at: rsa@rsanypd.org. The drawing will be held at our Florida General Meeting. The 2023 Florida General Meeting will be held at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport Hotel, on January 25, 2023. We will have many guest speakers, and the SBA will be on hand and available to answer any questions you may have. The RSA has secured a very reasonable room rate, so please see the centerfold for additional information. BOOK NOW! Rooms are filling up quickly. The RSA board will be available at the hotel to assist members. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:00PM, so try to arrive early to allow time for checking in. As always, dinner will follow the meeting. If you reside in Florida or are a snowbird,

please come and joins us, we are looking forward to seeing you there.

The September General Meeting was the largest attended meeting the RSA has ever held. The SBA Frontline team was in attendance. Guest Speakers, Donald Kipp, SBA Health and Welfare Secretary, and Errol Ogman, SBA Health and Welfare Fund Administrator, addressed the large crowd in regards to health benefits, Dental Plan and Eye Glass coverage. Marianne Pizzitola, President of NYC Organization of Public Retirees, updated the membership on the status of the City Medicare Advantage Plan. RSA member Theresa Garofalo spoke briefly on behalf of gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin and the importance of the November election. September's meeting was also our Election Meeting. The Board was re-elected, and happy to have the opportunity to serve you for another 4 years. Thank you for your confidence!

The RSA is very proud of our affiliation with many fraternal organizations. Through these relationships, we were able to secure the assistance of Neil O'Connor, President of the SW Florida 10-13, in supporting the RSA in supplying our members who were impacted by Hurricane Ian with much needed supplies, including drinks and nonperishable food. In addition, RSA member Edward Schneider showed the true meaning of brotherhood by making a large donation to our organization, for the members affected by Ian. I am proud to have a member such as Ed, the RSA thanks you. And thank you to all the other members who offered their assistance. As an FYI, member Frank Capogrosso Jr. is starting a NYPD 10-13 in Charleston, SC. If interested please contact him at FCAPOJR@GMAIL.COM for more details.

I would like to take this time to explain to our members the mission of the RSA. Some members believe that we are a "Union", this is not true. We are a fraternal organization, made up of retired

Sergeants. Our mission is "Keeping Retirees Informed". We are here to protect and improve the conditions which are related to retired Sergeants. We have worked very hard to develop a "partnership" with the SBA. We are very fortunate and thankful for having a voice regarding changes and improvements to the Health & Welfare programs for retirees. The RSA is very active politically. We have endorsed many candidates and constantly lobby the Albany legislators, on behalf of bills which may benefit our membership. We are also thankful of the support that SBA President Vinny Vallelong and Vice President Edmund Small have shown us. Together we are 13000 strong. Once again, thank you for your continued support and for the pleasure to serve you.

Fraternally,

Bobby



2023 MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP

Please remember to pay your 2023 dues to insure your continued receipt of this Newsletter, email blasts, and schedule of events. Below is the membership form. Thank you for your membership.

Mail To:

Retired Sergeants Association, Inc.
Police Department, City of New York
P.O. Box 7466, Wantagh N.Y. 11793

Telephone: (718) 605-0272

E-mail: nypdrsa@optonline.net • rsa@rsanypd.org
www.rsanypd.org

2023

OFFICIAL USE ONLY	WINTER
Application received: _____	_____
Check #: _____	_____
Amount: _____	_____
Officer's initials: _____	_____
Year credited: _____	_____

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ E-mail (print clearly): _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____ TAX ID #: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____ DATE PROMOTED: _____ DATE RETIRED: _____

() NEW MEMBER • () RENEWAL () Please check if any information has changed

() \$25 DUES ENCLOSED () \$5 VOLUNTARY

Make Checks payable to Retired Sergeants Association. For PayPal or credit card payment go to website.

check box if you wish to have \$1.00 of dues earmarked for political action.



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RETIRED NYPD SERGEANT



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bradford.hanes@elliman.com

THANK YOU JETBLUE!

ENTER TO WIN



JetBlue Airlines has generously donated two (2) Round-trip vouchers to anywhere JetBlue flies. The tickets are one (1) for \$10.00 or three (3) for \$25.00. If you wish to participate in this raffle, cut out and return with a check or money order made out to the Retired Sergeants Association and mail to:
P.O. BOX 2507 Riverview, FL 33569

For additional raffles, please copy this page and follow the above directions. The raffle drawing will be held in June of 2023.

jetBlue
RAFFLE TICKETS

1 FOR \$10
3 FOR \$25

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DRAWING: JUNE 2023

Winner need not be present to win.
Vouchers donated by JetBlue

jetBlue
RAFFLE TICKETS

1 FOR \$10
3 FOR \$25

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DRAWING: JUNE 2023

Winner need not be present to win.
Vouchers donated by JetBlue

jetBlue
RAFFLE TICKETS

1 FOR \$10
3 FOR \$25

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DRAWING: JUNE 2023

Winner need not be present to win.
Vouchers donated by JetBlue

In Memoriam



SGT. EDWARD HOJNACKI

End of Watch - 08.01.22

SGT. THOMAS MISTRETTA

End of Watch - 09.18.22

SGT. GERALD MCINTYRE

End of Watch - 08.11.22

SGT. UMBERTO SALERNO

End of Watch - 09.20.22

SGT. WILLIAM FINAN

End of Watch - 08.15.22

SGT. STEPHEN BAYMACK

End of Watch - 09.22.22

SGT. JOHN LANGELL

End of Watch - 08.16.22

SGT. GLYNE GRIFFITH

End of Watch - 09.22.22

SGT. THEODORE FONDA

End of Watch - 08.20.22

SGT. JOHN MORIARTY

End of Watch - 09.27.22

SGT. THOMAS HALLINAN

End of Watch - 08.24.22

SGT. KEVIN PILIERE

End of Watch - 09.30.22

SGT. NORBERT HILSENRATH

End of Watch - 08.26.22

SGT. RICHARD ARTHUR

End of Watch - 10.03.22

SGT. ANTHONY IANNUZZI

End of Watch - 09.02.22

SGT. ROBERT THOMPSON

End of Watch - 10.24.22

SGT. EDWARD WHALEN

End of Watch - 09.05.22

SGT. WILLIAM BACCI

End of Watch - 10.27.22

SGT. ROBERT MEISSNER

End of Watch - 09.09.22

SGT. RICHARD CUSACK

End of Watch - 11.04.22





In 2006, POPPA started its Retiree Program. The program began with 26 retired NYPD uniformed members dedicated to helping meet the needs of fellow retired uniformed members of the service. The mental health and other unique needs of this group are often overlooked. Retired UMOS can use POPPA services for a variety of stress/mental health issues, relationship problems, substance use, or if they feel suicidal. Sometimes, retirees just need to reconnect with a person who can identify as a law enforcement peer.

“

“Your support and genuine concern helped me to get through one of the darkest storms of my life.”

- NYPD Sergeant -

”

POPPA is a safe and confidential support system for retired NYPD officers that can help to identify appropriate local resources within various communities.

The Retiree Program has grown to more than 100 volunteers spanning several states across the country in addition to New York.

POPPA's Retiree Helpline is staffed by fellow retired UMOS who stand ready to speak with and assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

POPPA Retiree Helpline - 1 (800) 599-1085

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tzanata3270@gmail.com

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PoliceJewelry.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



16
DEC

SBA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

RUSSO'S ON THE BAY
162-45 CROSS BAY BOULEVARD
HOWARD BEACH, NY 11414
12:00PM

Please visit us at our table in the vendor area.



25
JAN

FLORIDA RSA MEETING

THE HILTON PALM BEACH AIRPORT
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406
5:00PM

Please book early at (561) 684-9000
Group Name: Ser23

Special room rate of \$199.00/night

Dinner & drinks to follow in ballroom



On September 23rd, 2022, the Honor Flight Long Island took place. The mission of the Honor Flight is to celebrate America's Veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our Nation's memorials. Our RSA Secretary, John Foster was aboard the flight. John served in the Korean War from 1951 to 1955 on the USS North Hampton. He was called back to service for the Berlin Crisis for 1961 and 1962. We are proud to call John our friend.

To all our RSA brave men and women who have served this country proudly. We salute your accomplishments and thank you for the freedom you provided. We as a nation would like to show our gratitude and honor. This comes from a community that would like to show you the support that you all deserve. GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!!!!!!!!!!



L.E.O.S.A. HR 218 WEEKLY QUALIFICATIONS ON STATEN ISLAND

———— COURSES TAUGHT BY ————

NYS CERTIFIED POLICE FIREARMS
INSTRUCTOR/ACTIVE MOS

RECEIVE A PHOTO ID CARD
WITH 24HR. CONTACT INFO.



ARTHUR KILL
SPORTS

ARTHURKILLSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

CONTACT BERNIE NOVINS

347.552.0903

ARTHURKILLSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

NYS CONCEALED CARRY LAWS

Roland M. Grant
Director of Training - Safety Quest Limited

As of September 1st, 2022, New York State changed their concealed carry regulations for handguns through-out the state. In Nassau County, Suffolk County, Westchester, and New York City (including the boroughs) a person who wants to carry a concealed weapon must first take an NYS 18-Hour Concealed Carry Program and then apply for a Concealed Carry License. The state did not exempt anyone in these jurisdictions including retired law enforcement. Active Police Officers and Active Peace Officers are exempt from taking the program. Retired Peace Officers are not exempt from the regulations and must take the 18-hour course to be in compliance. They did allow the issuing agency (i.e., Suffolk County, Nassau County, Westchester, and NYC) to waive those requirement for prior training (Police Officers only).

- Suffolk County will waive the 18-hour program training for training that a Retired Police Officer completed while he or she was an active officer.
- Nassau County will waive the training if the Retired Police Officer has a current HR-218 LEOSA Qualification
- New York City and Westchester County will waive the training if before September 1st, 2022, the retired Police Officer possessed a current HR-218 LEOSA Qualification card and has completed HR-218 Qualification in the subsequence year. If not, then the retired Police Officer must take the 18-Hour program and complete it successfully.

SENSITIVE AREAS:

- Government buildings or property used for government administration (i.e., courts, City Hall, city agencies)
- Hospitals, doctor's offices, health clinics, urgent care facilities, substance abuse or mental health screening and treatment centers, or other behavior health services
- Places of worship
- Public libraries, parks, playgrounds, and zoos
- Facilities where childcare, daycare, after-school programs, or foster care are administered
- All public and private schools, including college and university buildings and campuses, as well as preschools, nursery schools, and summer camps
- All shelters for homeless, youth or domestic violence victims, or areas where domestic violence services are provided
- Adult care, nursing homes or assisted living facilities, veteran homes, or schoolbased health centers - On public transportation and in public transportation facilities including buses, bus terminals, subways, subway stations, trains, train stations, ferries, ferry terminals, airports, etc.
- Any establishment where on-premises consumption of alcohol or cannabis is authorized, such as a bar, restaurant or cannabis lounge
- In or on the grounds of performing arts centers, theaters, stadiums, arenas, racetracks, museums, art galleries, amusement parks, banquet and catering halls, and casinos
- Any location being used as a polling location
- Any public sidewalk or public area that is restricted from general public access by a government entity for a limited time or for an authorized event such as a parade or outdoor concert (signs must be posted alerting the public that the area is temporarily a sensitive location)
- Protests, demonstrations, marches, or any assembly where individuals are gathered to collectively express their constitutional rights of free speech
- Times Square, as the area will be designated by signage



Photo by Garrett Sitz on Unsplash

RESTRICTED AREAS:

- All residential property
- All commercial property including stores and businesses which are not on the sensitive location list noted above

In sensitive locations, active Police and Peace officers and retired Police Officers may bring their firearms concealed as long as they are lawfully carrying the firearm. In Restrictive areas, off-duty, Active Police Officers and Retired Police Officers may bring their concealed firearms without getting permission from the property owner so long as they are carrying lawfully. However, if the property owner expressly prohibits all firearms on the property, they may not bring them on to that owners' property. There are no restrictions on on-duty Police and Peace officer carrying their weapons into a sensitive or restricted area. Owners may not prohibit on-duty law enforcement from carrying a firearms on their property.

Eventually, all concealed carry licenses will not have any identifier on them such as "Retired Law Enforcement" or "Business carry", they will just read concealed carry. Concealed carry licenses will renew every three years. In-order for a Retired Police Officer with a Nassau County, Suffolk County, or Westchester Concealed Carry License to enter New York City or the boroughs, they will be required to have a NYC license or have a current HR-218 LEOSA Qualification Card. If, as a retired Police Officer, you did not want to take the 18-hour Concealed Carry program, you could convert your NYS carry license to a "premise" or "Sportsman's" License. This license would be good for a five-year period. If you still wanted to carry concealed, you would then have to keep your HR-218 LEOSA Qualification current. This would entitle you to carry in New York City, the boroughs or anywhere in NYS, all fifty states, territories, or commonwealths within the US. These new regulations are going to evolve through lawsuits, and legislature actions in the future. The laws and regulations are changing as this article is being published. Updates to come!



*Professional Training Consultants servicing
New York and surrounding areas.
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Nassau County/Uniondale and Suffolk County/Smithtown**



CCWSAFE

NYPDRSA PROTECTOR BASIC

- \$500,000 Bail Coverage
- 24-hour emergency hotline patched through to attorney
- Critical Response Team on site for all deadly force incidents
- Appeals/Mistrials/Retrials
- Vetting of hired Attorneys by National Trial Counsel
- No caps on Attorney Retainer/fees
- No caps on Investigators costs/fees
- No caps on Expert Witnesses expenses
- All trial fees and costs covered up front
- Firearm Replacement during trial/Loss of Primary CCW Weapon Covered
- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (\$150 each) for a licensed counselor
- \$3k crime scene clean-up (home)
- Criminal Record expungements

* Spouses that are also LE Officers can be added through support@ccwsafe.com

\$134 ANNUALLY

NYPDRSA PROTECTOR PLUS

- DEDICATED \$1MM CIVIL LIABILITY COVERAGE

- \$500,000 Bail Coverage
- 24-hour emergency hotline patched through to attorney
- Critical Response Team on site for all deadly force incidents
- Appeals/Mistrials/Retrials
- Vetting of hired Attorneys by National Trial Counsel
- No caps on Attorney Retainer/fees
- No caps on Investigators costs/fees
- No caps on Expert Witnesses expenses
- All trial fees and costs covered up front
- Firearm Replacement during trial/Loss of Primary CCW Weapon Covered
- Spouse and children under 18 covered in home only
- Up to \$250 a day work loss while in criminal or civil trial
- Up to 10 sessions (\$150 each) for a licensed counselor
- \$3k crime scene clean-up (home)
- Criminal Record expungements

* Spouses that are also LE Officers can be added through support@ccwsafe.com

\$335 ANNUALLY

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\$12.00 PER COIN
 +\$3.00 FOR SHIPPING

Mail request to:
 RSA - Att: QuarterMaster
 PO Box 7466, Wantagh, NY 11793

Scholarship ENHANCEMENT raffle

We are happy to report that this years returns for the Scholarship Enhancement Raffle are coming in at a record pace. We anticipate the 1st Price to be higher then last years \$6700.00.



If you are holding tickets, please mail them in and if you need additional tickets, please contact us. Remember, this raffle helps our members' child or grandchild attend their college of choice. Thanks for the great response.

SEE BACK COVER FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND APPLICATION



Photo by Caleb Holden on Unsplash

HURRICANE IAN RELIEF

Lending a helping hand. The RSA Board saw a need to help our membership and other NYPD retirees in South West Florida after hurricane Ian hit and devastated Ft Myers, and neighboring towns. Having two Board members living in the Tampa area and dealing with the effects of Ian themselves, made the decision easy. With the board approved spending, the Treasurer, Maria Valdez and the Director of Operations, Herb Valdez purchased nonperishable items and water to bring to South West Florida. They were able to communicate with SW Florida 10-13 President Neil O'Connor, who was delighted to help. The RSA would bring the nonperishables and water to the SW Florida 10-13 who would then distribute the items in Cape Coral, which was also devastated, and located just North of Ft Myers.

On October 5 Maria and Herb headed down to South Florida to meet Neil O'Connor and Anthony Perrone in a closed Gas Station off I-75. There the four of them unloaded Herb's truck and filled the two vehicles of Neil and Anthony. Neil graciously used his own home as the distribution location. The RSA sent an e-mail blast informing our members. We have received a positive response thanking us in our efforts to help SW Florida.

It was an awesome opportunity to work with another Police organization to help others in their time of need. The RSA heard the call of an 10-85, and gladly responded, along with the SW FI 10-13. It is in our blood to help our brothers and sisters no matter where they may be! Continued prayers to our fellow members and the people who are still recovering from Ian.



background photo by Marlene Leppänen

FLORIDA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 25, 2023 AT 5:00 PM
THE HILTON PALM BEACH AIRPORT HOTEL
150 AUSTRALIAN AVE, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST DETAILS

The SBA will be in attendance in the form of our very special guests and good friends

SBA PRESIDENT VINCENT VALLELONG | **SBA VP EDMUND SMALL**

Along with members of their Front Line Team

Once again, we will draw the two (2) winners for our 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP ENHANCEMENT RAFFLE. It would be fantastic if our winners were present!

1st prize = 75% of winners portion

2nd Prize = 25% of winners portion

In recent years, first prize was in excess of \$6,900.00

WE ARE IN TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS HEALTH PLANS AND WE HOPE THEY WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST ATTENDEES WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES THEY MAY HAVE.

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING ID CARDS FOR RENEWAL & WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FORMS.
You will need a check in the amount of \$9.90 to cover priority mail return of the card.



OUR MEETING IS A FAMILY EVENT, SPOUSES & SIGNIFICANT OTHERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND AND ENJOY. **OUR RSA WIDOWS/WIDOWERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE WELCOME AS SPECIAL GUESTS.** AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR MEETING, DINNER AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED IN THE BALLROOM.

For those wishing to stay over, which is encouraged, Hilton has offered our RSA attendees a special rate of \$199.00/night. The hotel is located near the Palm Beach International Airport.

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS CALL (561) 684-9400 AND STATE THAT YOU ARE BOOKING FOR “RETIRED SERGEANTS NY” | **GROUP NAME: Ser23**
YOU MAY ALSO USE OUR PERSONALIZED WEB PAGE: [bit.ly/ 3QzR0iN](https://bit.ly/3QzR0iN)

BE SURE TO BOOK NO LATER THAN MONDAY - JANUARY 9, 2023
After that date, rooms will be released and subject to availability at regular price.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS AMENITIES AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL INCLUDING:

- Complimentary parking • Complimentary hi-speed internet • No resort fee • Complimentary fitness center
- Complimentary shuttle to and from Palm Beach International Airport • Complimentary shuttle to Rosemary Square • Outdoor Tiki bar overlooking Lake Cloud • Tony Romas restaurant • Veranda Restaurant
- 20% discount on guest meals in our property outlets (Tony Romas, The Grind, and Tiki bar) • RSA Board members will be at the hotel and available to assist attendees.

RSA general meetings are open to dues paid members, RSA widows/widowers, and guests approved by the President only. Non-member retired Sergeants are welcome to join the RSA at the reception desk outside the meeting room.



NYPD ID CARD RENEWAL

FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEBSITE

In 2016, the RSA reached an agreement on an NYPD ID Card renewal procedure for our "out-of-town" members. This procedure needs to be followed exactly as presented below:

- Proxy renewal is available **ONLY** to members living outside the five (5) boroughs of New York City and the six (6) counties in which active members are permitted to live.
- **ONLY** cards issued after November 1, 2002 can be renewed this way. In all other circumstances, members will have to personally visit 1 P.P. Prior to November 2, 2002, cards were not digital and therefore photos cannot be reproduced.
- Cards may be renewed within six (6) months of expiration.
- A completed PD form **MUST** accompany the card. The form also be downloaded on our website.

Additionally, the expiration date will be increased from five (5) years to eight (8) years.

THE RSA IS AUTHORIZED TO DELIVER MEMBERS' CARDS TO 1 P.P. AND RETURN SAME TO MEMBERS.

To insure security in the transfer of cards to and from members, the following procedure **MUST** be adhered to:

- Item **MUST** be sent to the RSA in a USPS Flat Rate Priority Mail envelope. You will receive a tracking number from the post office. **DO NOT REQUEST SIGNATURE OF RECIPIENT.** The postage is \$9.90.
- In the envelope, place your PD ID card, the complete PD form and a check in the amount of \$9.90 made out to Retired Sergeants Association (to cover the cost of priority mail return of your new card) and address the package to:

**RSA ID CARD DESK
392 COLON AVE., STATEN ISLAND, NY 10308**

Please allow for up to a thirty (30) day turnaround time and please do not deviate from the above instructions. Please note that this RSA service is available **ONLY** to dues paid RSA members.

9/11 DIDN'T END ON 9/11SM

WERE YOU THERE ON 9/11 OR DURING THE 8 MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED?

Retired NYPD Sergeants

Did you miss the 2021 registration deadline? It may not be too late! There may be "extenuating circumstances" that will allow the VCF Special Master to find your claim eligible.

If you or anyone you know had cancer or lost a family member more than two years ago, you can still register.

If you were in Lower Manhattan on or after 9/11, you likely qualify for free health care and significant compensation. Take advantage of the benefits to which you are entitled:

- \$90,000-\$250,000 awards for skin cancers
- \$200,000-\$340,000 awards for other cancers
- \$20,000-\$90,000 for respiratory illnesses
- Additional compensation for lost income
- \$250,000+ for families who lost a loved one

**CALL 212-385-8000
OR VISIT 911VICTIMS.ORG**

TWO PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM (WTCHP)

A federal program that offers **free** nationwide health care to anyone who was in the exposure zone **anytime between September 11, 2001, and May 30, 2002.**

VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND (VCF)

A \$10+ billion federal program permanently extended and fully funded by the U.S. government which offers **tax-free** compensation to anyone who is certified with **any of the 68 cancers or respiratory illnesses linked to the World Trade Center toxins.**



Now Available Over the Counter Hearing Aids

by: Don Kipp - SBA Health and Welfare Secretary

On August 16, 2022, the FDA finalized a rule that allowed for OTC hearing aids. The final rule allows hearing aids, within this category, to be sold directly to consumers in stores or online without a medical exam or a fitting by an audiologist. Hearing aids for more severe hearing loss or for users younger than age 18 remain prescription devices.

This change leads to “self-care solutions” to hearing loss.

An appointment with an audiologist may no longer be required. Audiologists are licensed hearing health care providers specializing in the non-medical assessment and treatment of hearing loss. Additionally, they are trained to recognize ear-related symptoms or conditions requiring medical assessment or intervention.

For consumers, price predictions for these devices seem to range from \$300 to \$1,000 per pair. This is about 10% of the price that patients currently pay for hearing aid devices and services provided by a licensed audiologist.

- OTC hearing aids are intended for adults, age 18 and above, who self-perceive mild to moderate hearing loss. There is no requirement to verify age and no requirement for medical clearance or hearing test, prior to purchase.

- OTC hearing aids provide a self-care treatment option for hearing loss. This includes self-managed customization for both physical and acoustic fit, which may involve the patient’s use of software, smart phone, internet, or other accessory.

- Hearing loss can result from a very wide array of etiologies, many of which are medically treatable. In many cases, patients will not be aware of a possible underlying medical cause for their hearing loss. OTC hearing aids will be labeled with “Red Flag” conditions that should be considered exclusions to self-care.

- It can be confusing to differentiate actual OTC Hearing Aids from unregulated Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs). PSAPs are sound amplifiers which are intended to enhance specific listening situations (e.g., birdwatching, hunting) for listeners with normal hearing. FDA labeling will require outside packaging to clearly contain “OTC” and “hearing aid” to avoid potential product confusion.

- FDA regulations do not require a manufacturer return policy, so policies of individual suppliers should be considered.
- Hearing aids are not an instant solution to hearing loss. Unlike eyeglasses, there is a slow period of adjustment as the brain adapts to new input from the ears. Adjustment to amplified hearing can require patience and persistence.

RED FLAG HEARING LOSS WARNINGS

The FDA has recognized a list of “red flag” conditions that require referral to hearing health care providers, including otolaryngologists, in certain circumstances. These conditions are listed below:

- 1 Deformity or injury to the ear
- 2 Ear drainage in the past 6 months
- 3 Ear pain or discomfort
- 4 Earwax or foreign body in ear
- 5 Dizziness or vertigo
- 6 Sudden onset, change, or fluctuation in hearing loss, in past 6 mos.
- 7 Difference in hearing between ears
- 8 Ringing or buzzing in ear

Please review the S.B.A. Health & Welfare Fund Guidelines on the next page for Hearing Aid Reimbursement



**SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
HEALTH AND WELFARE FUND
155 FRANKLIN STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013**

Hearing Aid Reimbursement Guidelines

Active and Retired Sergeants, Member Spouses, and Registered Domestic Partners

\$500.00 stipend per device
Maximum Benefit \$1000.00
Every four (4) years

Eligible Dependent Children

\$1,000.00 stipend per device
Maximum Benefit \$2000.00
Every two (2) years.

BENEFIT GUIDELINES

Initial medical evaluation and approval for a hearing aid must be performed by a Board-Certified Otolaryngologist.

Member must submit a signed letter from their Otolaryngologist on official letterhead outlining the detailed diagnosis and need for hearing aid. Members must also submit all test results including all Audiometric tests.

Requesting member must provide a paid itemized bill that reflects the qualified product purchased.

The claim must be submitted within one year of the purchase date.

All claims are subject to review for duplication, coordination of benefits, worker's compensation etc. At no time will the fund reimburse more than 100% of the claim cost.

The benefit does not cover the exam, repairs, batteries, accessories, and service contracts.

The fund will reimburse for ear molds, for children only, in lieu of a new device, under the same two-year guidelines.

Complete the SBA Hearing Aid Reimbursement Claim Form (available on the SBA website: sbanyc.org).

All documentation along with the completed SBA Hearing Aid Reimbursement Claim Form should be forwarded to:

Attn: Alyssa Carr (healthandwelfare@sbanyc.org)
S.B.A. Health and Welfare Office.

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ARE YOU OR YOUR SPOUSE TURNING 65 OR MEDICARE ELIGIBLE?

by: Tony Amato, RSA Vice President

When a member/spouse becomes Medicare Part B eligible, the following notifications must be made:

NOTIFICATION TO OLR (OFFICE OF LABOR RELATIONS) HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

The member/spouse must complete the "Notification of Your Medicare Part B Enrollment Application" form (available on the OLR website at: www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/healthhome.page, and click on the "Retiree" tab, "Forms and Downloads") and submit it along with a copy of your Medicare card. Instructions for submission is on the application form. Once you submit this application, you will be enrolled in the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Program and will not have to resubmit an application every year. Please read the application carefully, it contains information regarding eligibility and requirements/conditions that must be met.

NOTIFICATION TO SBA HEALTH & WELFARE FUND OFFICE.

The member/spouse must complete the SBA "Medicare Eligible Informational Datasheet" form (available on the SBA website at: www.sbanyc.org, under the "Benefits" Tab "Forms") and submit it along with a copy their Medicare card to: healthandwelfare@sbanyc.org. If submitting for your spouse, it is imperative that you enter your spouse's SSN on the form. Failure to submit this form along with a copy of their Medicare card can lead to your spouse being terminated from the SBA Medicare Creditable prescription plan. Once received, a notification to CMS (The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) will be made that you have Medicare Part D Creditable prescription coverage under the SBA, as required by CMS.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Once you are on Medicare Part B, you will no longer have PICA prescription coverage. If you are on an injectable, other than insulin, or other medications which are covered under the PICA Program, you may consider obtaining Medicare Part D coverage (www.medicare.gov) on the "outside". The SBA does not cover injectables, other than insulin. If you choose to join a Medicare Part D Plan, you must notify the SBA Health and Welfare Fund. CMS does not allow you to have multiple Part D prescription plans. The SBA will need to notify CMS that you will no longer be covered under the SBA's Part D Creditable prescription plan, for you to be able to join one on the "outside". You can always contact Belkis (bmwillaruel@sbanyc.org), the

SBA Health & Welfare prescription representative, if you have any questions or concerns.

You may be entitled to receive IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) reimbursement or Medicare Part B Differential reimbursement. Please visit the OLR website at: www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/healthhome.page, and click on the "Retiree" tab, "Medicare Part B & IRMAA". Here, you will find all the information, requirements, and applications needed regarding IRMAA and Differential reimbursement, as well as the Medicare Part B reimbursement.



Legislative CORNER

with Mike Fahy

Hope all is well with you and your families. The 2022 elections are over and were certainly a roller coaster ride. The following is a list of the winning candidates that were endorsed by the RSA. I would like to thank Bob and Tony for their insight and time in promulgating the endorsement list and getting out the letters.

Nicholas LaLota	Congress	NY 01
Anthony D'Esposito	Congress	NY 04
Mike Lawler	Congress	NY 17
Nicole Malliotakis	Congress	NY 11
Robert Jackson	NYS Senate	Senate 31
Jessica Carcella-Spanton	NYS Senate	Senate 23
Alexis Weik	NYS Senate	Senate 08
Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick	NYS Senate	Senate 09
Andrew J. Lanza	NYS Senate	Senate 24
Michael Peilly	NYS Assembly	Assembly 62
Ken Zebrowski	NYS Assembly	Assembly 96
Phil Steck	NYS Assembly	Assembly 110

The legislative session is around the corner and we have some heavy and crucial issues to attend to. Enjoy your holidays.

Thank you – Mike



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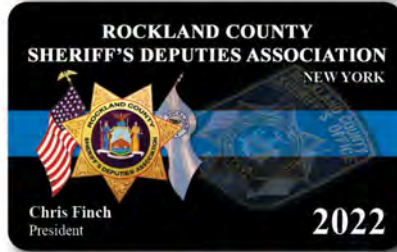
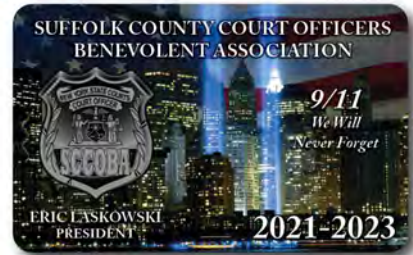
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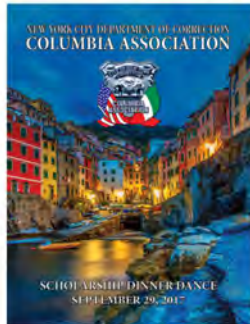
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To be eligible, candidate must be a child, stepchild or grandchild of an RSA member in good standing for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Candidate must be a 2023 High School graduate who is enrolled in an institution of further education (i.e. College, University, Trade School). The course of study must be for a minimum of one (1) year. Sergeants who retire in 2022 and 2023 and join the RSA in the same year are also eligible. Please complete the application below and forward it with a copy of the letter of acceptance from the school, to: **Second VP Anthony Nostramo 6 Redwood Drive, Dix Hills, NY 11746**

Please do not send certified, we will not pick it up at the post office. Regular U.S. mail reaches us. Winners drawn by lot in June 2023. Questions should be directed to Second VP Anthony Nostramo at 917-750-6486.

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City/State/Zip: _____

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College/School: _____

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