

RETIRED SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION, INC. OF THE NYC POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE CHEVRON

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION - SEPTEMBER 2024

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS BEGG: PDNY SQUAD ROOM

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2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Retired Sergeants Association (RSA) was formed in 1995 under the leadership of Harold Kamien. This year is our 30th Year of "keeping retirees informed" The RSA, which started with a handful of members, has grown into the thousands. Our members reside in 49 states, as well as Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Sweden, Ireland, New Zealand, and Thailand.


The RSA is dedicated to keeping our membership informed via phone, emails, and our website. We provide many services and communicate with the membership on a daily basis. We are at the forefront of providing current and accurate information to our members. We are proud to offer a one on one service.

Each year, the RSA publishes a quarterly informative newsletter and holds four general meetings in the metropolitan NYC area and Florida. The Executive Board of the Sergeants Benevolent Association attends each of our general membership meetings and answers all our members concerns and questions.

On behalf of the RSA Executive Board, I want to personally thank you for your membership. Your interest strengthens our organization and further helps to provide a forum for new ideas. The RSA Cruise, trainings and golf outing gives us a chance to give back and meet our membership. As we move forward, we will continue to work closely with both active and retired law enforcement groups. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us with questions and concerns.

PLEASE, PLEASE! Submit your application, print clearly, make sure you provide an email address, and don't forget to send in your scholarship raffles. We have enclosed two separate envelopes for your convenience, to be used as marked, **APPLICATION** and **50/50 RAFFLES**. Last year we were able to provide three (3) **\$5,000.00** scholarships to children or grandchildren of our members. The 50/50 Raffle also rewarded the 1st Place winner with **\$11,250.00** and 2nd Prize winner with **\$3,750.00**. This year we have enclosed two raffles for your convenience. Feel free to pass them along to family members. If you would like more raffle tickets, please contact us.


Stay safe and may God bless you all and your families.



2025

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - RETIRED SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

PO BOX 7466 WANTAGH, NY 11793 • (718) 605-0272
EMAIL: RSA@RSANYPD.ORG • WEBSITE: WWW.RSANYPD.ORG



NAME _____ DOB ____/____/____ TAX # _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY _____ HOME # (____) _____ CELL# (____) _____

EMAIL (Please print clearly) _____

LAST COMMAND _____ DATE PROMOTED ____/____/____ DATE RETIRED ____/____/____

CHECK BOX IF ANY INFORMATION HAS CHANGED NEW MEMBER RENEWAL
 \$25.00 DUES \$5.00 VOLUNTARY DONATION

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO RETIRED SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION
 TO PAY BY PAYPAL OR CREDIT CARD, VISIT OUR WEBSITE

OFFICE USE ONLY: DATE ____/____/____
 CHECK # _____ AMOUNT _____



From the desk of

the President



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GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jason Siegel

Fall is here, I hope that you all enjoyed the beautiful summer. The June General Membership Meeting held at the NYPD Police Academy was a huge success and YES, we have been invited back. I would like to thank Inspector Mark Wachter, Commanding Officer of Heath & Wellness Division for offering the Retired Sergeants Association many useful resources for us retirees. As always, we were joined by the SBA Board; SBA Health & Welfare Secretary Donald Kipp and SBA Fund Administrator Eroll Ogman were on hand to answer our member's questions. CCWSAFE Self Defense protection providers did a brief presentation on the special offer to the RSA. I was honored to have several past RSA & SBA Board members present at the meeting, Joseph DiGennero, former RSA Vice President, Barney Cohen, former RSA Director, and Jim McCann, former RSA Trustee as well as Jerry Leary, former SBA Health & Welfare Secretary and Pete Baglio, former SBA Retired Representative. Lunch then was served, and a tour was given to our members of the new and improved NYPD Academy. As requested by many members who were not able to attend, we provided a summary of the June meeting via email blast.

The RSA Board has been very busy over the summer months, we attended the SBA Picnic on June 28th in Staten Island, which was attended by many of our members. On July 15th we had Christmas in July at The Ronald McDonald House, we were joined by the SBA, Police Women's Endowment Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Lifevac and EJ's PJs. On July 25th we offered Comprehensive Wellness Physicals, conducted by Baseline Health. It was nice to see our members and their families take advantage of this service. I personally attended along with Jeanette Dice, Director

of Health and Wellness where we were able to speak with our members and share some time together.

I'm proud to announce our first RSA travel event, a 4-night Canada Cruise with Royal Caribbean onboard the "Liberty of the Seas". Please take advantage of our RSA Cruise offer found on Pg. 6. Due to popular demand, our Golf Outing being held on September 23rd is SOLD OUT. However, there is still availability for the luncheon portion of the outing. On September 25th we will hold our September General Membership Meeting at The Hartigan House in Bethpage at 6:30PM. It is a more spacious location with ample parking to accommodate or growing membership. I hope to see you all there.

As we start our 2025 Membership campaign, I would like to remind the membership that our dues have remained at \$25.00. With rising prices, including the cost of postage, it is making efforts difficult, however, we as a board have worked hard to keep our dues the same. We have implemented many events to help offset our operational costs. Please consider taking advantage of these event offers. We are also asking you to consider paying your dues as soon as possible. We have made available the convenience and opportunity of paying via PayPal. We have redesigned our website to facilitate this process. This will help reduce the cost of maintaining membership.

I can't tell you how proud I am of being part of this organization. I just want to say "Thank You" to each and every one of you. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Fraternally,
Bobby

JUNE MEETING RECAP AT NYPD ACADEMY

On June 26th we held our General Membership meeting in the NYPD Police Academy. We had many informative guest speakers who spoke to a full house. I would have never imagined speaking to a group of retired Sergeants in the NYPD Police Academy. We had four original RSA Board members on hand, and they were asked "Could you ever imagine the RSA having a meeting of 140 members in the academy?" When the organization was founded in 1995, it was started in a basement and had a handful of members. Today we boasts close to 4000 members and growing. To quote Steve Jobs "If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you." The RSA board has worked hard to achieve all we have done in recent months. The event was photographed by the NYPD Photo Unit.

Also in attendance was member Retired Sergeant Kenneth Paek NY

State Assembly District 25 who thanked us for our support. Remember to support member Retired Sergeant Steve Chan NY State Senate District 17, it is important to show support for our members, who will work hard to restore law and order. Please get out and vote in November!!!

The new NYPD Police Academy, located at 130-30 28th Avenue in Queens, was officially opened on August 24, 2014. This state-of-the-art facility replaced an aging building. It was designed to accommodate the growing needs of the New York City Police Department. The new academy features cutting-edge training environment, including advanced simulation technology and modern classrooms, aimed at providing recruits with the most effective and realistic training experiences. A tour of the building was given to our members who wished to experience some of the technology. For those members who could not attend, we found RMP's, Holding Cell, Court Room and a Precinct Desk to mention a few.

We are meeting the needs of our membership by listening to their requests. Members have been asking us to video record our meetings because they can't attend. We will be emailing a summary of our meeting to the membership. The first summary was emailed to the membership after our June meeting, this was met with many "Thanks" for responding to your needs of being kept informed. Thanks to the NYPD for making us a welcomed group of retirees.





COLA: COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

- Age 62 or older and retired for 5 or more years
- Age 55 or older and retired 10 or more years
- A disability retiree retired for 5 or more years
- The spouse of a deceased retiree receiving a lifetime benefit under an option elected by the retiree at retirement

The Cost of Living Adjustment for September 2024 for eligible retirees and beneficiaries is 1.8% which is an annual increase of \$324.00 or a monthly increase of \$27.00 before taxes.

This increase will be reflected in your September 30, 2024 pension deposit.



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RETIRED NYPD SERGEANT

In Memoriam

SGT. MICHAEL P. FORBELL

End of Watch - 04.30.24

SGT. JOSEPH M. LOPES

End of Watch - 06.21.24

SGT. ROOSEVELT CAPERS

End of Watch - 05.06.24

SGT. DANIEL C. KLEIN

End of Watch - 06.22.24

SGT. PAUL F. MENNELLA

End of Watch - 05.08.24

SGT. JOHN T. TEGELMAN

End of Watch - 07.04.24

SGT. HOWARD D. SASSMAN

End of Watch - 05.14.24

SGT. THOMAS P. MCNAMARA

End of Watch - 07.05.24

SGT. CHARLES A. PEARSON

End of Watch - 05.17.24

SGT. MICHAEL A. SANTIAGO

End of Watch - 07.16.24

SGT. ROSARIO S. BUNONE

End of Watch - 05.31.24

SGT. PETER P. DUNNE

End of Watch - 07.21.24

SGT. LEONARD SCHNITZER

End of Watch - 06.08.24

SGT. ANTHONY C. MESSINA

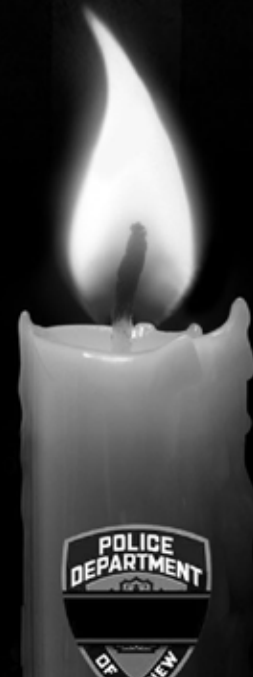
End of Watch - 07.22.24

SGT. GERALD O. CULLEN

End of Watch - 06.13.24

SGT. RICHARD BUSHROD

End of Watch - 08.03.24



HAROLD KAMIEN SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

The RSA has been committed to helping our members' children and grandchildren with their higher education. All of this is possible because of your generosity of purchasing the RSA Scholarship Raffles.

The scholarship is in honor of our founder Harold Kamien, this is our 30th Year Anniversary, so we have enclosed an extra raffle ticket. Please consider purchasing the raffles and you may be the recipient of one of the 50/50 cash prizes.

The RSA has disbursed over 49 Scholarships totaling approximately \$ 179,000 since 2007.

The RSA has distributed over 28 Prizes totaling approximately \$110,000 since 2010.

This year the RSA awarded three \$5000 scholarships to three students of RSA members.

The winners are as follows:

**Brendan O'Keefe, son of John O'Keefe,
University of Albany**

**Hayden Riggio, grandson of Martin Landa,
University of Vermont**

**Jake Torre, son of Michael Torre, Brookdale
College**

The RSA sponsors a Scholarship raffle during the year to help fund the scholarship awards.

This year the two lucky winners of the 50/50 raffle are as follows:

**1st Prize- \$11,250.00, winner, Luis Torres
2nd Prize-\$3750.00, winner, Frank Wenz**

In this newsletter you will find (2) raffle tickets to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. The cost of the tickets are as follows: \$10 each, 3 for \$15 and 6 for \$25.

Please return it in the proper envelopes as marked.

Remember this Scholarship fund is for your children's and grandchildren's higher education.

The RSA BOARD of DIRECTORS appreciates each and every year the generosity of the RSA membership.



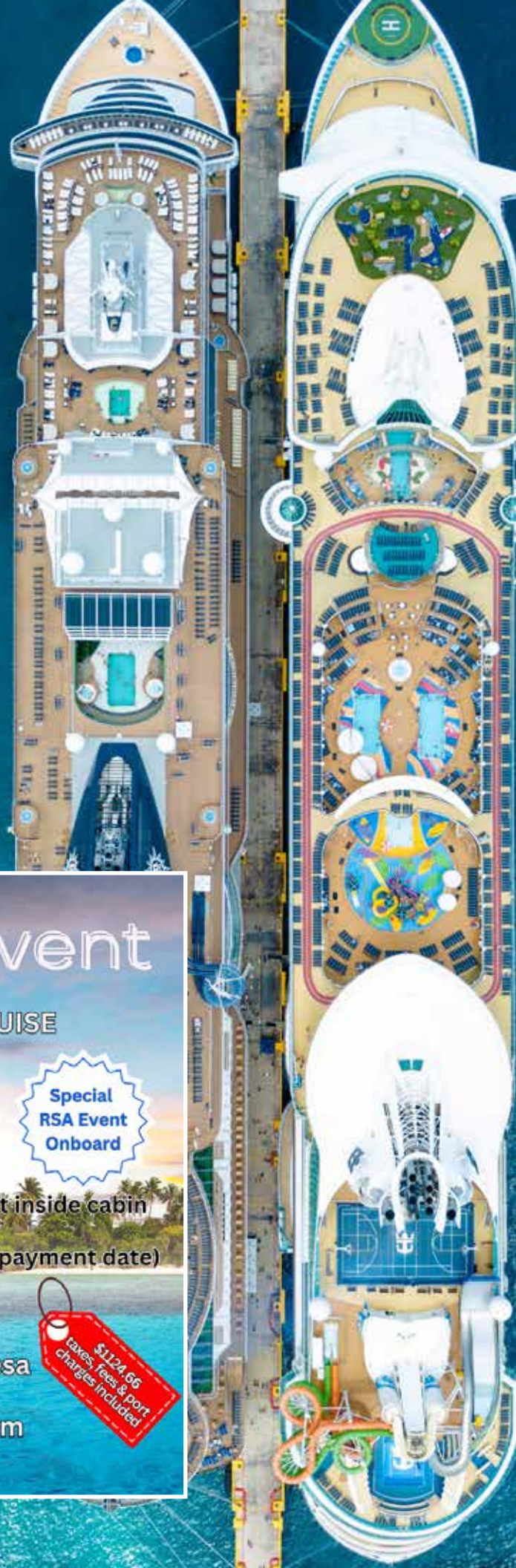
RSA cruise deal with "Travel Theresa".

The travel event is a 4-night Canada Cruise with Royal Caribbean aboard the "Liberty of the Seas".

Details as follows:

Departs: Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Departing Port: Cape Liberty, New Jersey
Destination: Halifax, Nova Scotia
Return Date: Saturday, June 21, 2025
Return Port: Cape Liberty, New Jersey

Please see below flyer for details. The price on the flyer is for double occupancy (2 people) for Forward or AFT inside cabin and includes all fees (taxes, fees and port charge). Other cabin types are available at an additional charge. If you are interested in booking or have any questions, please contact **Theresa (Travel Theresa) at 718-986-7250**. Be sure to mention **RSA Group Booking**. When leaving a message, please include your name, call back number, and that you are calling regarding the RSA Group Booking cruise. Family and friends are welcome to utilize our RSA Group Booking.



RSATravel Event

4 NIGHT CANADA-NEW ENGLAND CRUISE
LIBERTY OF THE SEAS
JUNE 17TH 2025
CAPE LIBERTY, NJ
HALIFAX, CANADA

Special RSA Event Onboard

\$1124.66 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (2 ppl) Forward or Aft inside cabin
CABIN UPGRADES AVAILABLE

\$200 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT (if canceled before final payment date)
Deposit due by March 1 2025
Final Payment due by March 25 2025

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CONGRATULATIONS

to our jetBlue raffle winner:

DANTE DEMARCO

A big thank you to jetBlue
for your support!



Photo by Javier Vermaas on Unsplash



Legislative CORNER



Hi all, hope you and yours
enjoyed your summer.

As you know the Health
Protection bill received a lot of
support by many retirement
groups and active unions.
Among those unions was our
SBA. The list of supporters also
included the PBA, DEA, LBA,
and CEA. The bills made it out

of committee and were headed to the floors of
the Senate and Assembly after a stop in Ways
and Means. That is where it stalled. The stall was
caused by opposition from the AFLCIO. We are
working with the NYC Public Service Retiree
Organization to get support from the AFLCIO, it is
ridiculous that they would not support the bills in
the first place. UFT President Mulgrew withdrew
his support for the NYC Medicare Advantage plan
and a group of retired UFT members, supporting
the health protection bill, won an election for seat
at the UFT table.

The election is coming up and the organization
will be sending out a list of support in time for the
vote.

The bills will be reintroduced and numbered for
the next session soon. We will be sending out
political action requests and I hope that you can
help to make these bills law.

God Bless you and yours,

Mike Fahy



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NYPD History @ Patrol Borough Queens South Museum

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday

October 20th, 2024

12 P.M. to 4 P.M.



3 Floors of Historical Displays

Firearms - Uniforms
Equipment
Housing - Transit
& More...



Vintage NYPD RMPs & Additional Displays



- M.O.S. in vintage uniforms
- NYPD Historians to tell the story
- History packets with vintage Spring 3100s (first 100 people)

Where? PBQS /107 Precinct
71-01 Parsons Boulevard
Fresh Meadows, Queens

Questions?  NYPD Museum at PBQS



FLORIDA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 22, 2025 AT 12:00 PM
CHARLOTTE HARBOR CONFERENCE CENTER
75 TAYLOR ST, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

PLEASE BOOK IMMEDIATELY, WE HAVE SOLD OUT THE PAST 3 YEARS.

The SBA will be in attendance to address the membership

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 RAFFLE. It would be fantastic if our winners were present!

1st prize = 75% of winners portion | 2nd Prize = 25% of winners portion

Last year, 1st prize winner received \$11,250.00

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING ID CARDS RENEWALS & 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 WILL BE A LUNCHEON, WE URGE ALL TO ATTEND. **OUR RSA WIDOWS/WIDOWERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE WELCOME AS OUR SPECIAL GUESTS.** AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR MEETING, LUNCH AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED .

For those members looking to stay over, Four Points by Sheraton has offered our RSA membership a discounted rate of \$189.00/night which includes breakfast.

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS CALL (941) 637-6770 AND STATE THAT YOU ARE BOOKING FOR **“RETIRED SERGEANTS ASSN”** OR SAY CODE **RE1809** TO SECURE RATE.

BE SURE TO BOOK NO LATER THAN SATURDAY - JANUARY 18, 2025.

BOOKING LINK:

[HTTPS://WWW.MARRIOTT.COM/EVENT-RESERVATIONS/RESERVATION-LINK.MI?ID=1706633995041&KEY=GRP&APP=RESVLINK](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1706633995041&key=grp&app=resvlink)

THERE ARE NUMEROUS AMENITIES AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL INCLUDING:

- Free Parking • Complimentary Hi-Speed Internet • Fitness Center • Outdoor Pool • Tiki Bar Overlooking Peace River • Mini Fridges • Flat Screen TVs • Complimentary Breakfast
-

RSA BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE AT HOTEL AND AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ATTENDEES

RSA general meetings are open to dues paid members, RSA widows/widowers, and guests approved by the board. Non-member retired Sergeants are welcome to join the RSA at the reception desk outside the meeting room. During the meeting, no video, recordings or photography except those authorized by the Board. There shall be no written materials or promotional items distributed before, during, or after the meeting without prior permission granted by the Board.

PICKLEBALL

BY GUSTAVE KARAGROZIS AND JEANETTE DICE



Now is the time to take care of yourself and continue staying healthy. The word “healthy” has many aspects to it. What comes to mind first for most is Physical Health. But we cannot forget about the other parts of our health, social, mental, emotional and spiritual.

All those dimensions of health are interrelated. This means one part can impact the others. Pickleball can be the answer to your total health picture.

You have probably heard about this sport and how quickly it gained popularity during Covid and now is the fastest growing sport in America. More recently, celebrities have been buying professional teams and even playing the game themselves. This is boosting its growth and shows no signs of slowing down.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Pickleball is a paddle sport that has a mixture of ping-pong, tennis and badminton. It is played on a smaller court than tennis, the exact size of a badminton court. You could play the game as singles or as a doubles team. Scoring is very simple, you only score a point when your team is serving. Some Professional organizations are adopting rally scoring but for the recreational player simple scoring is still commonplace at the park.

Pickleball is great for your physical health in many ways. It is a low impact cardiovascular endurance workout. The game will strengthen your ability to move in your front and back and side to side range of motion. The game is very easy to learn, many older individuals are able to compete with and/or even beat the younger players.

Pickleball's community is very supportive of one another. Many of the people who play, play consistently week after week. It is great seeing the same faces and building bonds with them on and off the court. The court, not like tennis, is much more warming to conversations between you and your partners and opponents. You also will find that Pickleball courts are packed! There will be players waiting off the court for their turn, which is a good way to hone your social skills, watch the games played and gossip to the group about your successes on the court the day before, possibly how you beat someone 20 years younger than you!

Fresh-air, sunshine, moving around being active and talking to people will totally relieve some stress you may have in your life. Your body is pumping dopamine out and serotonin which both will boost your feelings and mental state. Sometimes being home around the house everyday gives you no sense of purpose ...this leads to our last dimension Spiritual!

Being part of a community, a sports team, or a group adds value in your life and purpose. As a group, you all abide by the rules, morals, and have common interests this will increase your spiritual health. Having something you value in replacement of that job you worked for 30+ years will be good for you and your motivation.

Pickleball can improve every dimension of health. It can bring physical activity, socialization, positive feelings, and a sense of purpose to your life. What else needs to be said? So get off the couch, and get outside and head down to your local park and take that first swing into a new passion for your life!



Coffee For the Finest
By the Finest

A portion of the profits from every bag will be donated to Law Enforcement and First responder Charities and Worthy Causes.

We are affiliated with **NYPD With Arms Wide Open** the charity serves NYC Finest Families with special needs children. Support **With Arms Wide Open** at <https://nypdwawo.org>

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

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Update regarding the pending litigation of the \$15 co-pay for the GHI/Anthem Senior Care Plan.

By: Tony Amato - Vice President

We have received information that OLR has amended the contract terms stating the member pays a \$15.00 co-pay and OLR pays “any” balance over \$15.00.

Unfortunately, this action turned the tide on the basis of the injunction. We were informed that because of this amendment of the contract, the Courts lifted the “Preliminary Injunction” (stay) from imposing a \$15 co-payment fee for the GHI/Anthem Senior Care plan.

The actual merits of the Co-pay case haven’t been heard in court yet and the Class Action status of the lawsuit hasn’t changed. The \$15.00 co-pay case is not dead, just suffered a major setback to retirees.

Regardless of this decision further appeals are still available in the future, but the \$15.00 co-pay implementation can go forward and is anticipated to take effect in January 2025.

As of this article, OLR has not updated their website regarding the Medicare Supplement GHI/Anthem Senior Care plan. It is anticipated that the \$15 co-pay wording will be added into the NYC Health Benefits Program’s 2025 Summary Plan Description (SPD).

We will keep you informed of any updates.



Reminder:

Empire BlueCross BlueShield Name Change

We are still receiving inquiries regarding the name change of Empire BlueCross BlueShield.

Effective January 1, 2024, Empire BlueCross BlueShield has changed their name to **Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield**. This is for both Medical and SBA Dental.

There is no change to your benefits coverage!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT W/ OFFICIAL RSA MERCHANDISE!



RSA METAL PLATE DECAL

\$10 PER

+\$3.00 FOR SHIPPING



RSA METAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

\$10 PER

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\$12 PER

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RSA LIMITED EDITION 30TH ANNIVERSARY COINS

\$12 PER

+\$3.00 FOR SHIPPING

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

FIGHTING FOR RETIREES AGAINST FORCED MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Marianne Pizzitola has been carrying the torch for NYC retirees in the court room, the media, and coordinating to fight the city with fundraisers to finance the costly lawsuits. She's fighting against OLR/MLC decision to force NYC retirees into Medicare Advantage Plan (MAP), eliminating choices for retirees. If you would like to learn more you can follow them on Facebook at, NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees for Benefit Preservation. To make donations go to

www.nycretirees.org

Some of the disadvantages to a Medicare Advantage Plan:

- They have a smaller network than Medicare
- Many hospitals and doctors don't accept Medicare Advantage Plans
- These plans need prior authorization for care, will delay and even deny the care.



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Retired NYPD Sergeant

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

69 cancers and many respiratory illnesses have been linked to 9/11 toxins. Anyone who participated in the rescue and recovery operations in Lower Manhattan on 9/11, or during any part of the eight months that followed, may be eligible for **compensation and free lifetime health care.**



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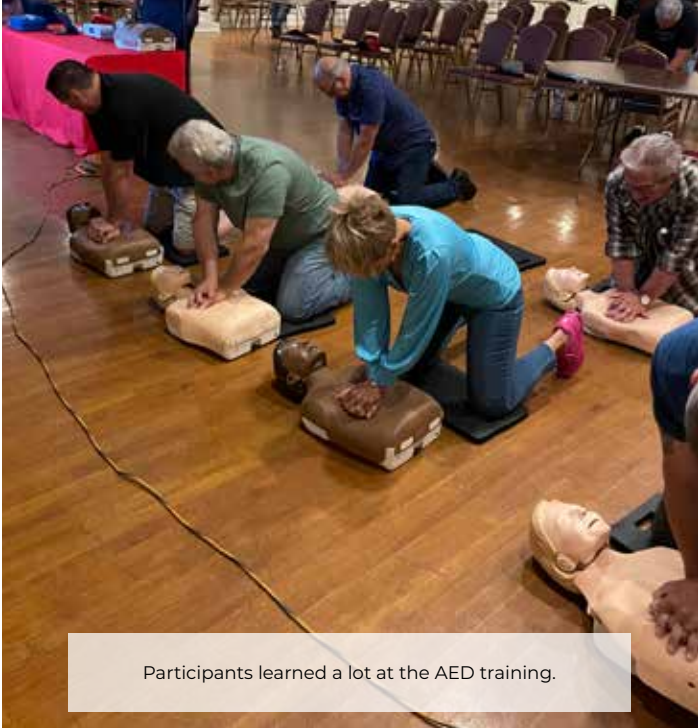
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Mobile Heart Screening - July 25th, 2024.



The RSA Board having a great time at the SBA Picnic on Friday - June 28 at Nansen Park in Staten Island.



Participants learned a lot at the AED training.



Christmas in July!

RSA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY 9/25/2024 | 6:30 PM

THE HARTIGAN HOUSE
519 CENTRAL AVENUE, BETHPAGE, NY 11714 | (516) 790-4992

THE SBA FRONTLINE TEAM, REPRESENTATIVES FROM OPTUM RX AND ROLAND GRANT FROM SAFETY QUEST WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE. WE WILL ALSO BE HAVING VENDOR NIGHT, ALL OUR SUPPORTERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

RSA General Membership Meeting are open to Paid Members, RSA Widows/Widowers, and Guests approved by the Board. During the meeting, all electronic devices must be turned off. No video, photography or recordings of meeting except authorized by the Board. There shall be no written materials or promotional items distributed before, during, or after meeting, without prior permission of the Board.