

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings to all active and associate members of Lodge 997 as we approach the Summer to Fall transition. I am happy to report that our Spring Luncheon Reunion Meeting on June 2nd, 2026 was a tremendous success and was well attended with about 100 members, family and friends. The family of Past President Bob Nero were also present and we honored his legacy by presenting a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol Building to Barbara Nero his wife on behalf of our Lodge. I further wish to thank the NYPD PBA, Wonton Food Inc., and Lodge members who made donations or volunteered their services to support this event. Special thanks is noted re: Director Bill Menendez and Chief Charlie Kammerdener for the great door prizes they donated, as well as Associate Member Chair Karen Xie for recruiting the most new members to our Lodge. The delicious food and camaraderie were enjoyed by all, and a wonderful time was recorded. New York City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, 48th District, honored us with her presence and presented a New York City Council Citation to our lodge in recognition of our service. (Continued top of page 6)

PRESENTATIONS AT OUR SPRING LUNCHEON JUNE 2ND 2026



NYC Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, 48th District, presents President Fong with a City Council Citation for outstanding community service.



President Fong presents Barbara Nero and Monique Nero, wife and daughter respectively, of President Robert Nero, with the American flag that was flown over the US Capitol in his honor.

visit our website at www.fop997.org

DEWEY FONG
PRESIDENT

FRANK REID
1st VICE PRESIDENT

BRUCE RAHEB
2nd VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM MENENDEZ
DIRECTOR

GORDON NASH
DIRECTOR

NICHOLAS CAPEZZA
DIRECTOR

MICHELLE MALANGA
DIRECTOR

DENISE MOORE
NYS LODGE TRUSTEE

ANNA TORTORICI
TREASURER

PASQUALE CIRINCIONE
SECRETARY

JOHN DOHERTY
RECORDING SECRETARY

A. RICHARD AGOSTA
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

KAREN JY XIE
ASSOCIATE MEMBER
CHAIR

JAMES OSGOOD
FACEBOOK
ADMINISTRATOR

EDWARD IP
CHIEF TECHNICAL
ADVISOR

RUDY TOOLASPRASHAD
SPECIAL ADVISOR

LEROY HENDRICKS
SPECIAL ADVISOR

ROBERT V NERO *
IMMEDIATE
PAST PRESIDENT

RABBI LEONARD BLANK
CHAPLAIN

BARTON L. SLAVIN
LODGE COUNSEL

*Deceased



IMPORTANT - DUES INCREASE FOR 2027

Brothers and Sisters, please be advised that our annual renewal dues will be increased by \$5.00 for both Active and Associate Membership starting with our dues for 2027. The new schedule will be \$50.00 for Active Members, and \$55.00 for Associate Members.

These rates will be for members who submit their renewal dues by October 31st, 2026. For those members (Active & Associate) who renew after October 31st, there will be an additional \$5.00 administrative fee. New membership fees will also increase by \$5.00 – new Active - \$55.00, and new Associate - \$60.00.

We do not initiate these increases lightly. (Note: our last dues increase was in the Fall of 2021 for the 2022 membership – 5 years ago.) As you know, we try to keep our expenses as low as possible, but the State FOP, due to increased operating costs for our Headquarters building, has had to raise the dues by \$5.00 per member and we cannot absorb the increase with our current dues structure.

We have a loyal membership, and we hope that you understand and support our position in this matter.

Fraternally, The Executive Board

COSTCO RENEWAL 2026

For our current Costco Club membership and anyone else contemplating joining our Costco Club, our current club membership expires at the end of October 2026. If you are renewing your membership, or interested in joining our club, the membership cost is **\$71.00 (\$65 for membership + tax)** for 2 cards at the same address. (Note: The names on the cards can be different, but the individuals must be from the same household and use the same mailing address.) Costco will ask you for ID before issuing a card.

Some additional info for prospective members – Costco does not allow for single membership. That's why you get 2 cards. If you're interested, please legibly PRINT the names and address that you wish to use and submit with your check or money order, made payable to FOP LODGE #997, and mail it to FOP Lodge #997 at 5 Rita Crescent, Commack, NY, 11725. All payments must be received by October 16th, 2026. If you have any questions contact me at patcfop997@aol.com. Good luck – Fraternaly, Pat Cirincione.



**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
NYC HOUSING POLICE SILVER AND GOLD LODGE #997
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION**

<http://fop997.org>



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The New York State Fraternal Order of Police By-Laws requires that we set October 1st as the date for payment of membership renewal dues. Renewal is \$50 for Active Members and \$55 for Associate Members. Please make your check or money order payable to "FOP Lodge 997". We will accept dues up to October 31st without penalty. Thereafter, all late payments will be subject to an additional \$5 administrative fee. We will make every effort to register any late dues payers with the State Lodge in time for the State to forward your dues to the Grand Lodge, but we cannot be responsible if late dues are not received at the National office on time. If that happens, you will not be able to "renew" your membership. You will have to "rejoin" the FOP as a "new member" which means the loss of some benefits until the subsequent calendar quarter after the dues are received.

If you are currently eligible for survivor or accidental death benefits and have since reached 63 years of age, you must pay your dues on time or you will become permanently ineligible for those benefits. Further, we are obligated to report to the State all those who do not renew their membership. If you have FOP license plates and you do not renew, your FOP plates may be revoked. We know that you filled out an application with personal information when you joined the lodge. However, a review of our records indicates that in many cases this information is outdated and inaccurate. For us to better serve you we need the most current information available.

THEREFORE, WE ARE REQUESTING THAT EVERYONE PLEASE FILL OUT THE BELOW RENEWAL COUPON, AND SIGN AND DATE IT, and return it in the enclosed envelope together with your dues check. Thank you.

**ACTIVE MEMBERS MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR DEPARTMENT IDENTIFICATION CARD (includes retirees)
IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO**

Please make your remittance payable to "FOP LODGE 997"



FOP LODGE #997 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



NAME _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____ TEL# _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BENEFICIARY _____ RELATIONSHIP _____

(Members who joined at age 63 or older are ineligible for survivor benefits.)

E-MAIL: _____ DUES: Pay BY/BEFORE October 31st ☐ \$50 (\$55 after 10/31) ☐ \$55 (\$60 after 10/31)

ACTIVE

ASSOCIATE

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ ☐ COPY of ID CARD INCLUDED

Please Print, Sign & Mail WITH YOUR DUES CHECK payable to "FOP Lodge 997" to:

**Fraternal Order of Police
5 Rita Crescent, Commack, N.Y. 11725**

STATE FOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Each year, on the first Saturday in May, the NYS FOP has its annual Law Enforcement Officer Memorial ceremony at State FOP Headquarters. This year 54 additional names have been added to the Memorial Wall. Of the 54 officers being honored this year 1 lost his life in The Line Of Duty, and 53 succumbed to 9-11 related illnesses. Below find the names of the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice serving the citizens of NYS:

PAVLOS D. PALLAS, KEVIN D. NUCKEL, JAMES G. BECKER, DENISE A. JONES, JEFFREY I. MONTENEGRO, JOSEPH J. PANARESE, WILLIM G. KRUPA, DENNIS P. GALLAGHER, PHILIP A. CAMMARATA, DAVID PORTALATIN, ROBERT A. NOBILE, WILLIAM G. McNAUGHTON, JOSEPH J. ESPOSITO, STEVEN RINGE, MARUJA CLARK, BRET W. MARTIN, ALBERT MORABITO, VINCENT N. CARNEY, ALFREDO VARELA, MARC F. LOTTER, RICHARD M. TEEMSMA, WILLIAM T. McCABE, ROBERT T. RANNO, MICHAEL A. PISANO, VINCENT J. CARUANA, ROBERT S. FAWCETT, CLARENCE E. WORD III, MICHAEL O. McENTEE, NORMAN J. KUNZE, GERALD CONNORS, KEVIN G. HANLEY, DAVID P. MILLER JR, FRANK J. DeBENEDETTO, ANNMARIE SMITH, SANDRO J. RIZZOTTI, DAVID E. LaJOLIE, ERCAN AYDIN, RICHARD T. HANDIBODE JR, JAMES J. MOTTO SR, DENNIS VITELLI, ABRAHAM CRUZ III, JOSEPH F. MURRAY JR, RAYMOND R. NEWCOMB, JAMES R. VANACORE, ROBERT G. PORFERT, THOMAS K. HERRICK, KATHLEEN M. RADZIUNAS, MICHAEL E. SNELL, TIMOTHY J. KEANE, DIDARUL ISLAM, FREDERICK W. SCHEIDT JR, PATRICK W. FRANZONE, MARK A. ONDUS, STEVEN W. GREENE.

THEIR NAMES ENSHRINED ON OUR MEMORIAL WALL, AND ON THE MEMORIALWALL IN WASHINGTON, DC. MAY THEY REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET!!!



ITEMS OF INTEREST

NEW WEBSITE –Brothers and Sisters, we would like to inform you that our Chief Technical Advisor Edward Ip, and his team, Mike Huang, and Daniel Yi, have updated our website. Much of the old and outdated material has been removed or updated. But we're not finished – the website is still a work in progress. The website should be a dynamic entity that should be used to convey information of interest to our Membership. We're going to do our best to keep it up to date with pertinent information. Please take a few minutes to visit the website (fop997.org) and let us know what you think. Our email address for the website is fop997ny@gmail.com.

ABOVE AND BEYOND –When we have individuals, both members and non-members, who go beyond what is normally expected of them to support law enforcement and/or our Lodge, we think that they should be recognized. Toward this end we would like to recognize the following individuals: Rich Diana, Patrick Hendry, and the NYPD PBA for taking 20 seats at our Spring Luncheon. A great display of respect and brotherhood.

Bill Menendez donated a case of liquor and wine for our door prizes at the Luncheon.

Charlie Kammerdener for the donation of a commemorative hockey puck also for a door prize.

Denise Moore and Edward Ip who won prizes in our 50/50 raffle and then donated their prize money back to the Lodge.

Mr. Norman Wong of the Wonton Food Company for his generous donation to our Lodge.

To all of those mentioned above, we say **THANK YOU** for your generosity and support of law enforcement and our Lodge. The Executive Board and the entire Membership of Lodge #997.

APPLIANCE BUYERS ADVANTAGE PROGRAM – P.C. Richard and Sons is offering a discount program for the purchase of appliances and electronics to members of the FOP. It's called the PC Richard & Sons Buyers Advantage Program. Visit their website (pcrichard.com) or visit one of their showrooms to view the product you're interested in. Then call them at 800 377 3700 or email them at nyfop@pcrichard.com. ID yourself as a member of the FOP and use the special account code #80735-4 to check the price of the item you're interested in. If you're satisfied with the price make your purchase and save some money. For more info visit our website (fop997.org). Special thanks to our 2nd VP Bruce Raheb for the info.

NYC ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE RETIREES – As you know, there was an attempt by the City of New York to have all retirees taken out of our Medicare health plan and placed in a Medicare Advantage Program for our medical coverage. After many court cases the City has decided that this change in medical benefits would not apply to older retirees. Several groups fought this change and the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees was in the forefront of the fight. When you can, visit their website (nycretirees.org) to learn the latest updates on what the City is contemplating regarding our medical benefits. This organization deserves all the support you can give. Frat. Pat

RENEWAL COUPON

Brothers and Sisters, as stated in the information section of the renewal notice, we know that when you joined, or with your last renewal, you included your personal info. However, we know that some of that info has changed. You may have moved, changed your phone number, or email address. In some cases, your beneficiary info may have changed. Please, when you send in your renewal coupon, make sure it is filled out completely including the beneficiary info. We have had instances where members have passed away and either no beneficiary was indicated on their paperwork, or in some cases, the listed beneficiary had pre-deceased the member. In these cases we have had to have any eligible survivor aid sent to the estate of the member concerned, causing the member's family inconvenience in securing the funds. We appreciate your cooperation and attention in this matter. Fraternally, the Executive Board.

visit our website at www.fop997.org

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She then administered the oath of office to our new Executive Board Members. Our Lodge is now in the digital era, our website FOP997.ORG has been updated with the help of Chief Technical Advisor Edward Ip and is in service. This is a work in progress, in the near future, Lodge announcements, newsletters, new applications, membership renewals and payment option will be available online. There will also be a secure section where sensitive information will be accessible only via login.

On Thursday, August 13th, 2026, a Lodge General Membership Meeting was held at the VFW Post #1896 Meeting Hall. As a result of this meeting the following were elected as Lodge Delegates with Lodge Trustee Denise Moore to attend the upcoming New York State FOP 20th Conference in Albany NY October 2026: Frank Reid, Steve Epps, Ronald Miles, Leroy Hendricks and Rudy Toolasprashad.

Our Lodge is vibrant and providing service to our members. Please provide any feedback or suggestions via our email FOP997NY@gmail.com for any matters needing attention. Enjoy your summertime activities and be safe.

Fraternally,
Dewey Fong, President Lodge 997



Spring Luncheon 2026

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visit our website at www.fop997.org

