



FOP/USCP LABOR COMMITTEE

THE CAPITOL WATCH

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Inside this issue:

1st Vice Chairman's Column	2
Exe. Chief Steward's Column	2
FOP/USCP Scholarship	2
When to Call the Lodge	3
It's Okay to Quit	3
Legal Corner	4
FRU Steward's Column	5
What Do My Dues Pay For?	6

Chairman's Column - Legislative Update

While the policy makers in Washington, DC tackle the numerous challenges with the economy we cannot lose sight of our main legislative goal. I wanted to take the time to update you on our activities last Congress and what our plans are for the 111th Congress. As a reminder, we are seeking enactment of legislation that changes the pension accrual rates to 3% per year for the first twenty years and 2% per year for the next ten years. Under this legislative construct the Social Security Supplemental Pay would be eliminated.

The second session

of the 110th Congress presented significant challenges for us. I had hoped that some of those challenges would present opportunities for us but ultimately legislative and congressional oversight addressed other issues impacting the Capitol Police. During the second session I testified before the house Committee on Administration; the House Appropriations subcommittee on the Legislative Branch. In the Senate, I appeared before the Committee on Rules and Administration. I raised our retirement during each appearance and met with congressional staff over

half a dozen times only to have our principal legislative issue be eclipsed by some other pending matter.

Until now, the general plan of action has been to follow protocol and focus on the committees of jurisdiction which are the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and House Committee on Administration. We met with the relevant staff and members of Congress to educate them on our retirement. We responded to numerous but significant misinformation regarding the current retirement plan; recruitment,

continued on Page 3



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Contract Negotiations Update

On Wednesday, March 4, 2009, Chairman Matt Tighe and Gary Hankins met with Chief Morse and Assistant Chief Nichols to resume contract negotiations. The session was cordial and professional as both sides agreed that they share the goals of completing the negotiations quickly while producing improvements on the existing contract that will benefit the

members of the Department and support the Department's mission. It marked the resumption of negotiations following many weeks of hiatus.

The meeting took place in the Chief's conference room and lasted nearly two hours as the parties explained their positions and goals for the negotiations. It was agreed to meet weekly.

Due to the confidential nature of labor negotiations we cannot report more details at this time. "I am very encouraged by this first meeting. I believe we will move forward more quickly in the atmosphere of trust and good faith that has already been established", said Chairman Tighe.