

# SearchLight

CCPOA Benefit Trust Fund | Lighting The Darkness. Keeping You Covered.

Fall/Winter 2023

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@ccpoabtf

Visit the links on our home page.

We present this issue of SearchLight for your education and enjoyment. We produce this publication three or four times a year, as the whim strikes us. If you have any benefit questions, please call the Trust. Don't count on your buddy, because he got his information from some guy in a van parked outside the wall.

## CCPOA Benefit Trust Fund

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A pdf version of this SearchLight can be found on our website under "Mailings." All source articles can be viewed as links.

Content of the SearchLight is written, designed and edited by Steven Hall, Communications Designer for the Benefit Trust Fund. If you like what you read, please let us know. If you find any typos, mistakes or things you just don't like—Steven is responsible for that as well.  
steven@ccpoabtf.org

## The Savings are Tru

### Save on Hearing Aids with TruHearing

No one expects to experience hearing loss, but it happens to hundreds of thousands of Americans every year. As a VSP® member, you have a hearing aid program available through TruHearing®.

TruHearing is with you at every step of your journey to treat hearing loss—so you can reclaim your life, reconnect with loved ones, and rediscover the world around you.

#### PRESCRIPTION HEARING AIDS

TruHearing helps you get substantial savings on top-of-the-line prescription hearing aids and professional care.

- Save up to 60% off hearing aids from the top 6 manufacturers
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- The most advanced technology, tailored to your needs by a hearing care provider
- Includes a 60-day risk-free trial period and a three-year manufacturer warranty
- For people of any age with any level of hearing loss

#### OVER-THE-COUNTER HEARING AIDS

Besides prescription hearing aids, TruHearing also offers savings on new over-the-counter hearing aids.

- Save up to 20% on brand name, over-the-counter hearing aids
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- Basic fitting and adjustments at your fingertips through a user-friendly app.

#### GREAT BATTERIES. LOW PRICES. FREE DELIVERY.

Download this coupon to save on hearing aid batteries—120 batteries for only \$39. Plus, your batteries will be shipped straight to your door.

This offer is available to VSP members and their extended family, even if you purchased your hearing aids elsewhere!

Continued on page 7

Special Offer!  
Exp. 12/31/2023

# 120

## Hearing Aid Batteries

# Only \$39!

VSP® members and their extended family members get hearing aid batteries for less with TruHearing®

**Call today: 1-844-300-1673**

Batteries shipped straight to your door

Use promo code: VSPB

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# SHIELD TALK

## Sick Leave, Annual Leave and the Big Lie

We sat down with our senior Field Rep, Joe Gonsalves, and talked about the things he and his team do and see when they go out to the Institutions. It only took one question to get things rolling, "What should we tell our members about Gold Shield?" What follows is Joe's response.

### THE BIG LIE

One of the plans that is offered through the Benefit Trust Fund is called the Disability Benefit Program. You guys know it as Gold Shield. It is a plan that's misunderstood in a lot of ways. I still get Members that call me up saying, "You know, yeah, I'd like to get that Gold Shield, but to be honest, my buddy told me I need to burn all my leave credits. I have 900 hours of vacation time though. I just don't see where there's a need for me to get that plan."

And that statement right there has never been true. That rumor is still being spread to this day—have any of you heard that? Every time I ask it, the hands go up.

Because of that, I need your help. I don't want any of you to get into a fight with your coworkers over this, but if you hear somebody say that, please do this. Do us a favor and correct them because that has never been true.

### SICK LEAVE

I'm going to split our members into two groups: people that burn and accumulate Sick Leave, and people that burn and accumulate Annual Leave. For the Sick Leave group, as long as I've been working with you 20 some years now, the truth is – you are required to burn all of your available sick leave hours. But none of your PLP or Vacation hours. So that guy that called me up saying, "Hey, I got 900 hours of vacation. There's no need for me to get Gold Shield", he was told incorrect information and he has made a poor decision for all those years based on inaccurate information.

And I've discovered one thing, we have seven field reps and by themselves they are not going to correct this problem. We need your help. We need this group to start speaking to each other properly, and to be sharing accurate information so that all of you are making good decisions.

And with Gold Shield, the one thing that everybody needs to understand is that this product is not through an insurance company, it's self insured by the Benefit Trust Fund. The 27,000 members in this organization insure themselves on this product and primarily it's for two reasons: One—it gives us the ability to design this program for Correctional Officers by Correctional Officers, and Two— it allows for us to price this product at a price point that you would never get if you were to buy this on the streets.

**"My group has been doing this for many years, and if you don't know who we are, we're the ones that are out at the entrance handing out the pens, the pads, and the Correctional Bear."**  
Joe Gonsalves



If you were to buy a program that pays you 67% of your base income tax free (if you don't write off the premium) for up to two years, and sometimes even a working lifetime up to age 65, you would literally be paying \$300, \$400, \$500 a month for the same product you're paying \$55 a month for now.

**Off-The-Job.** Let's talk about how it works. It pays 67% of your Base pay off-the-job after 30 days or whenever your sick leave is used up, whichever is longest. And it pays that for a period of up to 24 months.

**On-The-Job.** If workers comp is paying you, it pays the minimum benefit after 30 days of \$300 a month whether you burn sick leave or not, and it pays for that 24 month period of time.

If workers comp denies your case and is not paying you, then Gold Shield kicks in as if you were hurt Off-The-Job, and it pays you that 67%—after you burn your sick leave or 30 days—whichever is longest. And it pays for up to 24 months while you're off work.

Talk benefits in a virtual 1-On-1 with Joe and his team. Scan the code now!



Now with that said, if six months later workers comp settles your case and they send you a check for all that back-pay that they've not been paying you, *do not go out and buy a boat*, because the money that Gold Shield has been paying you is not free money—it's an advancement of benefits for living expenses, and you have to pay it back. Contact your Gold Shield specialist and confirm the next steps.

As long as you pay it back in full right away you don't pay a penny interest on that advance.

### ANNUAL LEAVE

Lets talk to the Annual Leave population. With Annual Leave you don't have to burn any of you leave credits unless you rolled over sick leave. Do you have any sick leave in your annual leave bank? If you do, then you must burn 100% of your Sick Leave, but you don't have to burn any of your annual leave credits!

Before the Sick Leavers get upset about that—Annual Leavers work differently.

Remember, I told you with Sick Leave, Gold Shield kicks in 67% after 30 days, or whenever you're sick leave is used up, and most of you don't carry very much Sick Leave anymore.

With Annual Leave, Gold Shield only pays 17% in months 2-6, because you get 50% of your check through NDI. So altogether it still comes out to 67%. If you're out for more than six months, that 50% from NDI goes away and then Gold Shield will kick in the full 67% in months 7-24, just like your Sick Leave.

And then it has a additional benefit. This is for Sick Leave and Annually Leave people, it's got what I call a working lifetime benefit. If you're ever permanently disabled and unable to ever work again\*, not just as a C/O, Sergeant, Counselor or Parole person, but literally can never work a job again—maybe you get paralyzed chest down from a car accident, or contract terminal cancer, but with today's technology, you live for seven or eight years before you pass away—that 67% check extends up from 24 months and pays you all the way to age 65.

# STORIES FROM THE BLUE SHIELD HEALTH LIBRARY

## What is Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)?

**Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)** is an enlarged prostate gland. The prostate gland surrounds the urethra, the tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the body. As the prostate gets bigger, it may squeeze or partly block the urethra. This often causes problems with urinating.

BPH occurs in almost all men as they age. It is a common problem in older men. BPH is not cancer. But an enlarged prostate can cause urinary symptoms that need treatment.

- In a small number of cases, BPH may cause the bladder to be blocked. This makes it impossible or extremely hard to urinate. This problem may cause backed-up urine (urinary retention), leading to bladder infections, bladder stones, or kidney damage.

### HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your doctor can diagnose BPH by asking about your symptoms and health and by doing a physical exam. Tests may include a urine test and a digital rectal exam. This lets

can cause some of the same symptoms.)

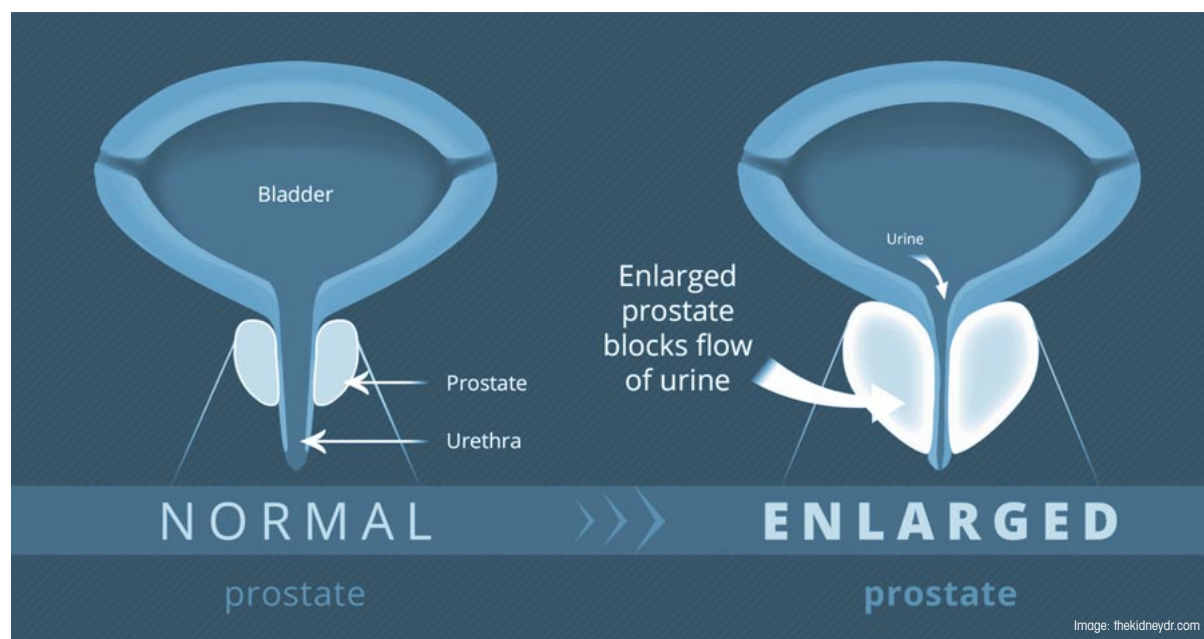
Your doctor may do other tests to check things such as your kidney and bladder function.

### WATCHFUL WAITING

If urinary symptoms are minor or they don't bother you too much, and you don't have prostate cancer or a prostate infection, it may be okay to try watchful waiting or home treatment. Call a doctor if your symptoms change or get worse or if you change your mind about treatment.

### CALL YOUR DOCTOR NOW IF:

- You can't urinate at all.
- Urination is painful and you have a fever, chills, or body aches.
- You have pain in your lower back, just below your rib cage (flank pain), that is not related to an injury or physical effort.
- There is blood or pus in your urine or semen.
- Call your doctor if you have painful urination and any of the following signs of a possible urinary tract infection or prostate infection that last longer than 24 hours:
  - A burning sensation while urinating
  - Painful ejaculation
  - Problems controlling your urination during the day or at night



### WHAT CAUSES IT?

BPH is probably a normal part of aging in men, caused by changes in hormones and cell growth. Genetics may play a role, especially for severe BPH in men younger than 60. Men older than 50 have higher chances of developing BPH. Experts don't know why some men have more severe symptoms than others.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

BPH causes urinary problems such as trouble starting and stopping the flow of urine, needing to urinate often, or feeling like your bladder isn't completely empty after you urinate. BPH does not cause prostate cancer and does not affect a man's ability to father children. It does not cause erection problems.

- Many men with BPH have no symptoms.

your doctor feel the size of your prostate. Sometimes a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test is done to help rule out prostate cancer.

### HOW IS BPH TREATED?

In most cases, you don't need treatment unless symptoms bother you or you have problems such as backed-up urine, bladder infections, or bladder stones. Medicines may help reduce symptoms. Home treatment, such as avoiding alcohol, may also help. Sometimes surgery is done to remove part of your prostate.

Tests may include a urine test (urinalysis) and a digital rectal exam. The exam lets your doctor feel the size of your prostate. In some cases, a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test is done to help rule out prostate cancer. (Prostate cancer and BPH are not related, but they

### SURGERY

Surgery is done to decrease urinary symptoms and improve urine flow. Most surgeries do this by removing prostate tissue that is pressing on the urethra.

You may need surgery for BPH if you:

- Can't urinate.
- Have a partial blockage in your urethra.
- Keep having blood in your urine.
- Have kidney damage.

Your options for surgery will depend on many things, like the size of your prostate, your symptoms, concerns about complications, and your surgeon's experience.

# WORLD-WIDE-WEIRD

Found online. That makes it true.

## The Hidden City of Death Valley

### Giants, Treasure and Other Mysteries

#### Giants Found in Desert

The year is 1931. This is the tale of Dr. F. Bruce Russell, a retired Cincinnati, Ohio physician, and a colleague named Dr. Daniel S. Bovee, who he had worked with on archaeological excavations in Mexico several years earlier. Russell, who had reportedly moved west for his health, decided to check out mining opportunities. According to the tale, while Russell was sinking a shaft for a mining claim, he fell into a cave when the soil gave



way and discovered a catacomb of tunnels leading off into different directions.

When Russell and Bovee began to explore the caverns, they followed one tunnel where they were extremely surprised to find the mummified remains of three gigantic men 8-9 feet tall. The giants were clothed in garments consisting of a medium-length jacket and trousers extending slightly below the knees. The material's texture resembled gray dyed sheepskin, but they believed it to be taken from an animal unknown today. The room also held several artifacts that resembled Egyptian and American Indian designs, and hieroglyphics were chiseled on carefully polished granite.

Following another tunnel, they came across what they described as a "ritual hall" of these ancient people. Here, they once again found artifacts and marking and the well-preserved remains of animals, including dinosaurs, elephants, and tigers. Later, it was suggested that perhaps these bones belonged to ancient saber-tooth tigers and mammoths.

Further, Russell described that he and Bovee had only scratched the surface of this amazing discovery. Russell said that there were at least 32 tunnels which ran across 180

square miles across Death Valley and parts of southern Nevada.

Professional archaeologists were skeptical of the story, but no one in the professional world of archaeology was interested enough in the story to check it out personally.

Despite scientists' disinterest, Dr. Russell and a group of investors created a corporation called "Amazing Explorations, Inc" to handle the release, and hopefully profit, from this remarkable find.

#### MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED

But, in the constantly shifting sands of the deceiving desert, Russell could not find the site the next time he tried to show his friends. Afterward, Russell disappeared. Months later, Russell's car was found abandoned with a burst radiator in a remote area of Death Valley. His suitcase and other belongings were still in the car. Neither he nor Bovee were ever heard of again.



#### The Devils Hole

A notch in the rock reveals an oasis of ancient groundwater in the otherwise brutally dry desert landscape. The cave opening is unusual, the water level responds to seismic events around the world, the underground passageways are complex and its depth is unknown.

The water in the hole stays at a relatively constant salinity and temperature. It is warmed by the geothermal heat to about 92 degrees year-round.

A very spooky aspect of the pool is that it reacts to large earthquakes very far away. Earthquakes in Mexico, Japan, Indonesia and Chile have caused the water to 'slosh' around the like water in a bathtub. Waves may splash as high as two meters up the walls.

#### Here's Charlie

Legends of an ancient civilization hidden in the caverns under Death Valley may have prompted infamous cult-leader Charles Manson to seek them out for himself. He became obsessed with finding a mysterious hole that would that would lead his "family" to water and a safe place to live in the desert. He wandered the wastelands for days on end looking for this place—and finally found it at Devil's Hole. He believed this was a bottomless pit as mentioned in Revelation where he could escape the coming "Helter Skelter."

#### Living Stones

Its strangest feature of all is the mysterious Racetrack Playa. Here, rocks drift across the flat desert landscape, seemingly propelled by no power other than their own!

Known as "sailing stones," the rocks vary in size from a few ounces to hundreds of pounds. Though no one has ever seen them actually move in person, the trails left behind the stones and periodic changes in their location make it clear that they do. Some of the stones remain motionless for a decade or more before moving.



# BUSTED

Off-beat news stories about crime and such...

## Howdy Marshal?

There was no emergency - but there was an emergency siren. And it was not quite right.

The Marion County Sheriff's Deputy was getting gas, when he "heard an unfamiliar emergency siren and observed a black pickup truck, equipped with flashing red and blue emergency lights, driving around cars and through a red light." The deputy followed the truck, and after it went through a red-light, the deputy made the stop.

The driver was wearing a black hat with "Police U.S. Marshal" and a Department of Justice seal on it. He was also holding a gold badge with "U.S. Marshal Service" on it. When questioned, the driver claimed that he was investigating a shooting, "but there were no reported shootings in the area," the sheriff's office said.

The driver, 52-year-old Derry Lambert, claimed he worked in Texas "but they got me



down at Florida right now." The deputy knew how to sort this out- he called the US Marshal's Liaison, and put Lambert on the phone. Lambert told the liaison officer that he was investigating "two gang members, two gangs out there that are riding on a four-wheeler with a pole on it, busting into people's houses."

The Marshal's Liaison asked Lambert what district he was a US Marshal in, to which he replied "Dallas." A short time later the liaison showed up at the scene in person

and asked the same question. Lambert responded, "District? What do you mean?" Lambert was unable to provide answers to basic questions that a U.S. Marshal should know, like where he's assigned and his current job assignment.

Lambert was placed under arrest for false impersonation of a law enforcement officer, unlawful use of a badge, and unlawful use of blue lights.

Deputies say they also found a .380 caliber pistol in Lambert's truck, leading to another charge of possession of a firearm while committing a felony.

After Lambert was booked into jail, deputies also found a hidden compartment in his wallet containing seven pills later identified as the anti-anxiety drug diazepam. For that, Lambert was also charged with possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and smuggling contraband into a prison.

*newser.com*

## Assume the Position

The Seascapes Cafe in Lincolnshire, England, was raided by police due to the mass killing.

The cafe, like many trendy coffee-houses, is also a community space, art gallery and exercise studio. At about 9 p.m. a couple out dog walking, peered in the window and observed the horrifying scene... a person lit only by candles and wearing a robe was moving through a room strewn with dead people lying all over the floor in what only could be a cult-type mass death.

Police rushed to the scene, only to discover that the corpses were were corpse-posers, and that their yoga class was now over.

It seems a concerned onlooker took the corpse pose a little too literally. The final resting pose, also known as corpse pose, typically occurs at the end of a yoga class, in which people lie on their backs with their eyes closed in order to sink into a meditative state.

The unidentified witnesses "reported a mass killing in our building. Having seen several people laying on the floor," the Seascapes Cafe Facebook post reads. "Which actually turned out to be the Yoga Class in meditation."

Millie Laws, who taught the yoga class, said that seven students were lying on their backs for about 30 minutes as she banged on a shamanic drum in a dark room lit by just candles during the hour-and-half restorative yoga class. She told the newspaper that she was also wearing a flowing top that could have resembled a robe. *buffpost*

## Ho-Ho-Ha-Ha

A 20-year-old college student booked into a Washington jail for underage drinking was seen on surveillance video attempting to steal packages from beneath the Christmas tree at the Pullman (WA) Police Department as he left the building.

According to Fox News, he soon discovered that one box was empty, one was a tissue box, and the third contained women's hygiene products.

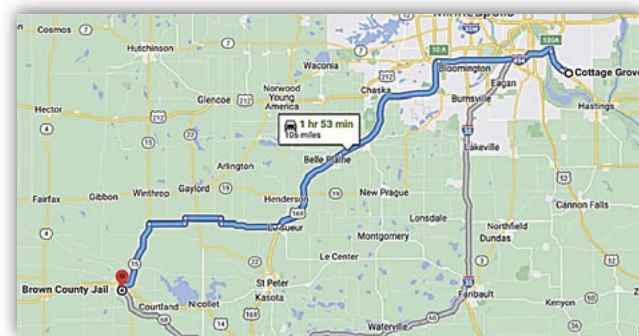
He quickly discarded the absconded presents and made his presence scarce. *www.policemag.com*

## DUI, Please

Robert Douglas Bauer, 41, of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, told police he shouldn't have been driving when he arrived at the Brown County Jail. Which is odd.

Even more odd—the Brown County Jail is 106 miles—about a two hour drive—away from Cottage Grove.

Bauer registered a 0.19 BAC when breathalyzed by deputies, which is more than twice the Minnesota limit of 0.08. *And now, knowing that, Bauer's behavior is a little less odd.* *bringmethenews.com*



# Notice of Rate Increase

This is official notice that beginning January 1, 2024 there will be a rate increase in the following programs:

- Piggyback
- Retired Supplemental Term Life (Underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company)

If you have any questions, or wish to change your coverage, please contact the Trust (916) 779-6300

## Piggyback | Effective January 1, 2024

rank & file	supervisor	retired
<b>Active Member Cost</b> \$16.00 per month (CCPOA Member Only) \$28.00 per month (CCPOA Family)		<b>Retired Member Cost</b> \$18.00 per month (CCPOA Member Only) \$34.00 per month (CCPOA Family)

## Retired Supplemental Term Life Rate Chart

CURRENT MEMBER INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY PREMIUMS - Group Supplemental Term Life Insurance G-29310										Effective January 1, 2024
AGE	< 30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74
\$25,000	2.34	2.73	3.12	3.90	5.85	8.97	16.76	25.34	40.16	60.82
\$50,000	4.29	5.07	5.85	7.41	11.31	17.54	33.14	50.29	79.93	121.25
\$75,000	6.24	7.41	8.58	10.92	16.76	26.12	49.51	75.25	119.69	-
\$100,000	8.19	9.75	11.31	14.43	22.22	34.70	65.89	100.20	159.46	-
\$125,000	10.14	12.09	14.04	17.93	27.68	43.28	82.26	125.15	199.23	-
\$150,000	12.09	14.43	16.76	21.44	33.14	51.85	98.64	-	-	-
\$175,000	14.04	16.76	19.49	24.95	38.60	60.43	115.01	-	-	-
\$200,000	15.99	19.10	22.22	28.46	44.06	69.01	131.39	-	-	-
\$225,000	17.93	21.44	24.95	31.97	49.51	77.59	147.76	-	-	-
\$250,000	19.88	23.78	27.68	35.48	54.97	86.16	164.14	-	-	-
<b>COVERAGE AMOUNT</b>	Rates are based on the attained age of the Insured Person and increase as you enter each new age category. The above premiums apply to Retired CCPOA Members. Rates and/or benefits may be changed on a class basis. An eligible spouse cannot be insured for more than 50% of the member's benefit. If you wish to continue your coverage upon retirement (with some restrictions), you must contact the Benefit Trust Fund office at 1-800 IN UNIT 6. Due to ongoing negotiations, policy features are subject to change.									

CURRENT SPOUSE INDIVIDUAL MONTHLY PREMIUMS - Group Supplemental Term Life Insurance G-29310										Effective January 1, 2024
AGE	< 30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74
\$12,500	1.17	1.31	1.56	2.15	3.12	4.10	5.07	12.29	19.10	31.19
\$25,000	1.95	2.25	2.73	3.90	5.85	7.80	9.75	24.17	37.82	-
\$37,500	2.73	3.17	3.90	5.66	8.58	11.51	14.43	-	-	-
\$50,000	3.51	4.09	5.07	7.41	11.31	15.21	19.10	-	-	-
<b>COVERAGE AMOUNT</b>	The premiums shown reflect the current rates (as of January 1, 2024) and benefit structure. Premiums may be changed by New York Life on any premium due date, but not more than once in any 12-month period, and on any date on which benefits are changed. Your rate may change only if they are changed for all others in the same class of insureds under this group policy. For example, a class of insureds is a group of people with all the same issue age and gender. Premiums shown are payroll deducted and will increase on the premium due date coinciding with or next following the date that a member or spouse enters a new age bracket. Benefit option amounts are subject to change by agreement between New York Life and the Trustees.									

Dependent CHILDREN MONTHLY PREMIUMS - Group Supplemental Term Life Insurance	
\$7,500	\$1.65 / per family Benefit Amount per child age 6 months – 21, or 23 if full time student. [\$750 for children from 15 days old to 6 months.]

**NOTICE:** Some older, legacy plan coverage amounts will not be reflected in the 2024 Retired Rate Chart. If you have a policy with a coverage amount not shown, please call the Trust for your current premium.

**EXCLUSION** Suicide is excluded from coverage for the first two years, whether sane or insane. If a covered person does commit suicide within the first two years of coverage, New York Life will only pay an amount equal to the premium paid for coverage till the date of death. The Life Insurance Benefit is payable if a member is covered under the policy and commits suicide after the two year period. The total amount of coverage an individual may request under all Group Life Insurance Plans underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company issued to the CCPOA-Benefit Trust Fund may not exceed \$250,000 for retired members, \$50,000 for their spouses.

Note: If you are covered as a member, you cannot be covered as a dependent of another member.

## Tru Savings

Continued from page 1

### THE TRUHEARING DIFFERENCE.

TruHearing gives you more than affordable hearing aids. From start to finish, you get complete hearing care! Top-quality products

TruHearing offers the latest hearing aids in models packed with the latest technology. No matter your lifestyle, budget, or level of hearing loss, there is an option for you.

## EAR CHECK THINK YOU HAVE HEARING LOSS?

Try the no-cost hearing screening that takes less than five minutes to complete.

All you need is an internet-connected device with speakers or headphones – no special tools required.

<https://www.shoebonline.com/vsp/>

### LOWER OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

Your TruHearing hearing program can save you thousands out-of-pocket compared to treating your hearing loss on your own. To further reduce cost, non-rechargeable aids come with 80 free batteries.

### LOCAL PROVIDERS

Finding a qualified hearing professional is no problem. Call 1-877-372-4040 to find a provider near you.

### ONGOING SUPPORT

TruHearing helps you successfully adjust to your hearing aids by including one year of follow-up visits with your provider for fitting and adjustments. You'll also get educational information sent directly to you.

### FULL WARRANTY COVERAGE

Your hearing aids come with a 60-day no-risk trial period and full support from TruHearing. In addition, every TruHearing purchase includes the full protection of a 3-year manufacturer warranty.

TruHearing is a part of your VSP benefit. You can find links and more on our site: [www.ccpoabtf.org/Vision](http://www.ccpoabtf.org/Vision)



Can you afford **not** to have **Gold Shield?**

Find out more: [www.ccpoabtf.org](http://www.ccpoabtf.org)

# Let's Get 1-On-1

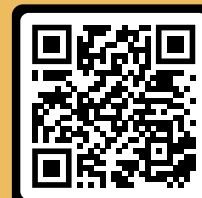


### 1-On-1 Virtual Benefit Sessions:

Talk with a benefit specialist on your schedule, day or night. Even in your pajamas.

And YES, you can bring your significant other.

Scan the QR code to reserve a session time.



1-On-1 Benefits

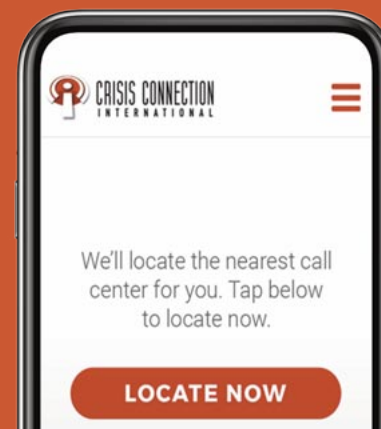


# iCRISIS

Get the App. Get the Help.  
**100% Confidential 100% Free**



GET iCRISIS



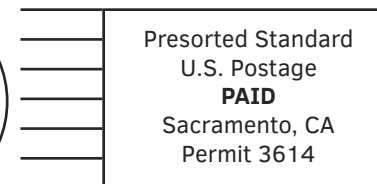
## One Tap To Get Urgent Help

1-Touch Access connects the caller to the closest crisis or suicide prevention center immediately.  
The iCrisis App is FREE to ALL CCPOA members and their families.

[ccpoabtf.org/MentalWellness](http://ccpoabtf.org/MentalWellness)

## CCPOA Benefit Trust Fund

2515 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833-4235



## We've Got You Covered.

916-779-6300 | 1-800-In-Unit-6

8

## THE OG-AI

NEW YORK – Robby the Robot, the seven-foot tall robot from the science fiction classic *Forbidden Planet* (1956), sold at Bonhams New York for a world record price of \$5,375,000 in an auction of movie memorabilia sponsored by Turner Classic Movies.

The saleroom at Bonhams Madison Avenue was packed, but the bidding activity was all on the phones. A four-way battle ensued, with the bids at one point leaping from \$3.6 million to \$4 million, before Robby – and his Jeep – finally sold for \$5,375,000.

Over the years, movie props have often demanded a premium price. In 2013, the Maltese Falcon statuette from the Humphrey Bogart classic of the same name went for \$4 million. Marilyn Monroe's iconic white dress fetched \$4.6 million in 2011, and the original 1966 Batmobile sold for \$4.6 million in 2013.

With this result, Robby the Robot now becomes the most valuable movie prop ever sold at auction.

One of the most iconic sci-fi figures to appear on the silver screen, seven-foot tall Robby the Robot captured the imagination of audiences everywhere in *Forbidden Planet* as the devoted servant to Professor Morbius, one of the few inhabitants of the distant planet Altair IV.



Photo: Bonhams

Conceived and built by a team of MGM designers for the 1956 film, Robby had a then groundbreaking appearance, breaking away from earlier clunky "tin-can" designs for movie robots.

As Williamson said, "Robby the Robot is, simply, the heart of *Forbidden Planet*, the moral center of the film, as well as the key narrative device."

The fully-functional prop breaks down into 3 pieces: the head, the torso, and the legs. In addition to Robby himself, the lot also included the Jeep he drives on Altair IV, the auxiliary control panel, and his original MGM packing crates.

A spokesman for Bonhams New York said, "This is the fifth year we have partnered with TCM to present auctions of movie memorabilia, and each year the demand only increases. It shows how important these props and costumes are to everyone throughout the world." [awn.com](http://awn.com)



Robbie appears with his "cousin" B9 along with Bill Mummy in a 1966 episode of "Lost in Space." Both famous robots were designed by the same man, Robert Kinoshita.

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