

President's Report December 2010

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

General cleaning and small renovations have begun on the property located at 22 West Lafayette Street. Although we have a firm that is ready to lease the 2nd floor of the building, it is going to take us longer than anticipated to get the building ready. I have asked 2nd Vice President Maguire to oversee the renovations. When he gives his report, you will hear more about the building.

Since our last meeting, more departments are being depleted. Camden has announced that layoffs will occur on January 18th 2011. Jersey City has reduced the number of companies that are in service on a daily bases. There doesn't seem to be an end to these types of attacks on our departments. Civil Service has been rubber stamping layoff plans submitted by municipalities. When the district vice presidents give their reports, you will hear more details throughout the state.

Pension Litigation:

As stated at the last meeting we received briefs from the State of New Jersey and the Legislature in response to our brief. Basically the same arguments they made in the past, relying principally on the 46 year old Spina case. Their major point is that, while the participants have a non-forfeitable right to receive their pension benefits, they do not have a contract right in the funding system, even though it is spelled out in detail in the pension legislation AND, as they stress, no one who is eligible has been deprived of his benefit. We will be filing our response brief which is due the end of next week. After that, the Court can assign a date for oral argument, as we requested, or make a decision based on the briefs submitted. If they agree to allow oral argument, the hearing will most likely be early next year.

A court date was assigned! Our oral argument will be heard on January 4th, 2011!

Health % Litigation:

As was reported on November 19th via the website and email, the case is moving forward. The states attempt to have it vacated was denied.

LEGISLATION:

The key areas that the legislators have and continue to be focusing on are civil service, arbitration and pensions. We continue to meet with key legislators within the Democratic Party are not too optimistic.

An update on Civil Service Legislation, Arbitration Legislation and Pension Legislation will be given.

Important dates and events:

1/12/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting
1/17 – 19/2011 - IAFF ALTS Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
1/20 – 21/2011 - IAFF LMI Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
2/09/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting
3/09/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting (open meeting for all PFANJ members)
3/13 – 17/2011 – IAFF Legislative Conference
4/13/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting
5/11/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting
5/31 – 6/3/2011 – Annual PFANJ Convention
9/14/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting (open meeting for all PFANJ members)

Included in December's packet:

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of
- Snap shot of PFANJ website
- Local Scene from the IAFF website
- IAFF "Call to Action" – Public Safety Employer Employee Cooperation Act
- Reprint from NJLM December 2010 – Legislative update
- Reprint from NJLM December 2010 – A look at how Personnel salary increases really work
- Article – Convention, air travel stats good news for A.C.
- Article – President calls for salary freeze for federal employees
- Article – Obama proposes pay freeze
- Article – Feds want tunnel money back
- Article – State digs deeper hole on pensions
- Article – Mount Olive cop: Politicians caused pension woes
- Article – Democratic mayor of Union City urges support for Christie's 'toolkit'
- Article – Essex County executive suggest N.J. employees should contribute to health benefits
- New Jersey on the Potomac – October 2010
- Article – Illinois Senate OKs lower police, firefighter pensions
- Article – Anxiety of firefighters, police amid news of Camden layoff plan
- Article – Camden layoff plan targets a quarter of city's workforce
- Article – Camden votes to begin layoff notices for police, firefighters
- Article – Besides affecting services, Camden layoffs likely to devastate city's fragile middle class
- Fund Raiser from Bridgeport Fire Department IAFF Local 834
- PFANJ Valor application
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