

President's Report
March 2010

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch – April 10th, 2010 – Hyatt of Jersey City
COMPLETED APPLICATION must be mailed TO STATE OFFICE NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 26, 2010

PFANJ Annual Convention – June 1st through 4th at Harrah's Hotel and Casino

PFANJ Annual Golf Outing – June 1st at Harbor Pines

MDA Boot Camp during May 12th Meeting.

PFRS PENSION ELECTION:

The upcoming pension election in April will be very important to the members of the PFANJ!

Our Candidate is 1st Vice-President George Borek.

Now more than ever it is imperative in getting representation on the Pension board.

The election packages will be mailed to employers on or about April 1, 2010 for distribution to eligible voters. The packets will be mailed by a new vendor, Election America, and voters will be able to cast a vote either by mail, telephone or internet. Specific directions for voting will be included in the election packet.

Pension Litigation:

The current date for the lawsuit to be heard in court is March 26th.

The Appellate Division ruled on the Teachers case and they stated:

We affirm, finding that TPAF members, although entitled by law to the receipt of vested benefits upon retirement, possess no constitutionally-protected contract right to the particular level, manner or method of State funding provided in the statute.

LEGISLATION:

As you can imagine, there have been much talk about the Pension reform bills that have been introduced in the Senate and the Assembly. The Senate passed four bills (SCR1, S2, S3 and S4) even after every union spoke against the bills. The vote was 36 – 0. The Assembly had stated that they will not move as quickly as the Senate and want and welcome input from the Unions. Although the Assembly is not on the fast track with these bills, they are not slowing it down as much as we would like.

We need every member to contact their Assembly member and ask them to proceed diligently, but with caution.

A list of legislative bills that the PFANJ are tracking will be on the website.

Thomas P. Canzanella 21st Century Health Bill: Assembly Bill 1250 and Senate Bill 1624. Copy of the bill is included in your packet.

Legislative bill that would establish two representatives from each of the four groups, PFANJ, FOP, PBA and FMBA for representation on the PFRS board: Assembly Bill 386, waiting on Senate introduction. Copy of the bill is included in your packet.

Fire Fighters who are members of PERS member transfer into PFRS: Assembly Bill 1469, waiting on Senate introduction. Copy of the bill is included in your packet.

The FIRE Chiefs Association donated \$500.00 towards our political action fund. They have also asked, and we have agreed, if Hoboken Fire Chief Richard Blohm could be their liaison between our two organizations. The Fire Chiefs Association president Mike Roberts acknowledged the work that the PFANJ is doing in Trenton on behalf of all firefighters and fire officers.

These are many other legislative bills that all fire fighters need to be aware of! There are over 228 legislative bills that pertain to pension and benefit reforms alone! 1st Vice-President George Borek is compiling a complete list and will have it on the website shortly.

We ask all members to be mindful of our brother and sisters throughout the state in our “combination departments”.

Our combination departments are under constant threats from their employer’s with using more volunteers and in the process firefighters are being threatened with a lay-off. We are not against IAFF family members seeking membership in an ALL volunteer organization. We are however asking that family members stay clear of combination departments.

Court Date:

**In the Arson Case where FF Gary V. Stephens lost his life
(LODD, Elizabeth, NJ- 1-2-09)**

This is to advise that the **sentencing** of Emilio Vasques and Jose Flores (manslaughter and criminal trespassing) will be on March **19, 2010** at **9:00 AM** in Judge Joseph Perfilio's courtroom, Annex Bldg. floor 3.

Important dates and events:

- March 14th – 18th – IAFF Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference
- March 19th – 20th – 7th Annual Women in Leadership Development (AFL-CIO)
- March 20th – IAFF Local 2958 North Plainfield Firefighters 7th Annual St. Baldrick’s Day Event
- April 10th – PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch
- June 1st – PFANJ Annual Golf outing – Harbor Pines Golf Club & Estates
- June 1st – 4th – PFANJ Annual Convention
- August 22nd – 28th – IAFF 50th Bi-annual Convention

Included in March's packet:

PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 2/28/10

Article – Changes to N.J. Public employee pensions, benefits are approved by Senate Committee

Article – We can't afford our pension system

Copy of Letter to all Senator's 2-21-10

Article – NJ Senate OKs Pension, benefits bills

Update from Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.

Article – Pension gap increases by \$12 billion in one year

Editorial – The rules are rigged

Article – Union Member say no to amendment

Article – Pension deficits hidden by accounting rules

Article – Christie is doing the right things

Editorial – Hope lives in Trenton

Article – Gov, Unions pressure Assembly on pension bills

Reader Forum – Public workers defend perks and pay

Article – N.J. appeals court rules state may skip teacher's pension fund payments

Copy of letter to all members – 2/10/10

Alert from PEOSH – New threats to NJ Public employees

Copy of PEOSH – Subchapter 10. Standards for Firefighters

Copy of Press Release – FOP/PFANJ – Hands off binding arbitration

Article – New Jersey's Pension System fund deficit grows to \$46 Billion

Copy of Civil Service Fire Service Status Report – February/March 2010

Fund raiser – Firefighter Cancer Support Network

Report from our Washington Delegation

Article – South Jersey authority is faulted in state report

Article – State's annual tussle over property tax rebate begins

Article – State explores solutions to N.J. Pension problem

Liberty Mutual flyer for all IAFF members

Letter to editor – Stop giving pensions to elected officials

Editorial – Put pay freeze on front burner

NJ AFL-CIO 3rd annual organizing institute conference

Article – Can Christie keep his promises?

Article – Lawmaker unveils measure to freeze NJ public worker salaries

Article – N.J. Governor Christie: Part-time public workers should be 'kicked out' of pension system

Article – Appellate panel: State not required to pay millions toward teacher pensions

PFANJ Golf Outing application

George Borek for PFRS Trustee flyer

USA Statutes: NJ – 40A:14-26

Article – States short \$1 Trillion to fund retiree benefits

Article – N.J Gov. Christie to mayors: Brace for state aid cuts

Article – DEP, DCA nominees speak to Mayors

Article – Chris Christie/Senate President Sweeney divided over unemployment insurance benefits

Memo from Assembly Counsel with respect to provisions of Senate No 3

Editorial – Steve Sweeney – Unions had had in pension crisis

Copy of Press Release – PFANJ/FOP comment on proposed changes to Public Employee Benefits

Editorial – A Sunday Star Ledger "Going Broke" series editorial