

President's Report

November 2010

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

Yesterday, Tuesday November 16th, we closed on the property attached to our building, 20 and 22 West Lafayette Street. We have a firm that is ready to lease a level of the building. It is our hope that we can get at least one floor ready by January 1st so that this law firm can move in.

Our departments continue to function undermanned and under threat of demotions and layoffs if the union doesn't renegotiate substantial givebacks. The governor continues to attack the Democrats through the media and his town hall meetings.

Pension Litigation:

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.

Health % Litigation:

The state has filed a motion to have the case dismissed. A court date of November 19th has been set for the judge to hear if the case should be dismissed or not.

LEGISLATION:

We continue to meet with Legislators in the Assembly and Senate to discuss the various bills that have been introduced and how it will affect you as firefighters. We have been presenting as much data and information with the objective to show how adverse and unjust the legislation is towards firefighters. As I have stated before getting the legislators to understand and agree with us has been difficult, and finding any of them willing to do something about it is our main objective.

The key areas that the legislators have and continue to be focusing on are civil service, arbitration and pensions.

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

November 2010 Elections: Results are in your packet

The only endorsed candidate that was not successful was Congressman John Adler. John was a friend of the Fire Service and he will be missed.

Important dates and events:

11/18/10 – IAFF Local 286 and 4070 MDA fund raiser
12/8/10 – PFANJ monthly meeting in Middlesex Fire Academy
1/17 – 19/2011 - IAFF ALTS Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
1/20 – 21/2011 - IAFF LMI Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

Included in November's packet:

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 10/31/10
- Flyer – MDA fund raiser with Perth Amboy
- News release – MDA Fund raiser with Perth Amboy
- Article – The Truth About Arbitration, from politickernj.com
- Article – The Unspoken Truth about Pension, from politickernj.com
- Article – West Windsor Councilman Borek eyes Assembly seat, from politickernj.com
- Letter to Assemblyman John Wisniewski in support of George Borek from the NJ AFL-CIO
- Letter to Mercer County Democratic Chairwoman Muoio in support of George Borek from the NJ AFL-CIO
- Snap shot of PFANJ website
- List of documents needed for a municipal financial analysis
- Flyer for IAFF ALTS conference
- Flyer for IAFF LMI conference
- NJ AFL-CIO summary of Labor gains in Tuesday November 2nd's election
- NJ AFL-CIO Labor Fax list of all winners
- Article – Union Effort is grooming candidates in New Jersey
- Article – Jersey City Fire and Police unions will sue
- Opinion – There may be big downside to passage of pension bill
- Article – In Clifton, gov pushes for reform
- Opinion – Start banging with tool kit
- Editorial – Middle ground on arbitration
- Seminar – Response & Coordination to Critical Transportation Incidents
- Civil Service Fire Promotional announcement and Testing Schedule
- Report from TTP Government Relations – Legislative update
- Reprint from NJLM November 2010 – Legislative update

- Reprint from NJLM November 2010 – The Battle to Obtain the Tools New Jersey Needs
- Reprint from NJLM November 2010 – Passing the Toolkit bills is my top priority
- Reprint from NJLM November 2010 – Civil Service Reform Benefits Taxpayers
- Reprint from NJLM November 2010 – Creating a 21st Century EMS System
- Article – Sweeney urges mayors to share services
- Article – Specifics lacking on state layoffs
- Article – GOP prods Dems on tool kit; Dems push back
- Article – Kearny mayor says 16 town employees have been given pink slips
- Article – Kearny loses its appeal of arbitrator’s decision
- Article – Christie, Sweeney spar over fixes
- Article – Assembly bill would bind arbitrators in effort to keep tax hikes in check
- FACT SHEET #6 from PFRS – Your Retirement Checklist
- Flyer – C & A Financial
- Flyer – TD Bank
- Flyer – Stark & Stark
- Copy of Getaway Club – Pocono’s
- Article – N.J. judge dismisses lawsuit by Newark Public safety unions
- New Jersey on the Potomac – October 2010
- Article – Givebacks discussed with police union

