

# President's Report October 2010

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## **Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President**

**At our last meeting we spoke about departments who were under threat of layoffs and departments that were undermanned due to retirements.**

**In the last 30 days, we saw Atlantic City lay off 30 firefighters and Great Adventure disband the fire department. Camden has advised that if the union doesn't agree to massive cuts to their CBA that 77 firefighters will be laid off and 28 fire officers will be demoted.**

### **Pension Litigation:**

With respect to our original suit against the State of New Jersey, as of this meeting a date has not been given yet for our day in court. We expect a date in the very near future.

### **Health % Litigation:**

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

NCPERS – National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems is a National conference for labor unions. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President George Borek is attending this conference this week.

### **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 been focusing on have been, civil service, arbitration and pensions. With respect to the pension reform, Senate President Sweeney has stated publicly that he will not entertain any pension reforms until the Governor pays into the pension system. With respect to Civil Service and Arbitration, we have been meeting weekly with other labor unions who represent the majority of the union labor forces in New Jersey.

Assembly Bill 386 will be heard in committee on Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup>. This is one of our bills which would increase the membership of the board of trustees of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey and amending P.L.1944, c.255. This bill increases the membership of the board of trustees of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System from 11 to 19. The bill provides for four additional public members

to be appointed by the Governor. It also replaces the two elected trustees who are active policemen and the two elected trustees who are active firemen with eight members of the retirement system appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, two each upon the recommendation of the State Policemen's Benevolent Association, the State Fraternal Order of Police, the State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association, and the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey.

### **November 2010 Elections:**

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> you will be voting on all your Congressional member and in some districts voting on state senator. Included in this month's packet is a list of endorsements of the PFANJ. Although it is your choice as to whom you vote for, we ask that you think of the candidate that will be an advocate for you and your family. We believe the following candidates are the right choice.

District 1  
Robert Andrews ( D )

District 3  
John Adler ( D )

District 5  
Neutral

District 7  
Neutral

District 9  
Steve Rothman ( D )

District 11  
Neutral

District 13  
Albio Sires ( D )

District 2  
Frank LoBiondo ( R )

District 4  
Christopher Smith ( R )

District 6  
Frank Pallone ( D )

District 8  
Bill Pascrell ( D )

District 10  
Donald Payne ( D )

District 12  
Rush Holt ( D )

**Special State Senate Election**  
**Linda Greenstein ( D )**  
**District 14**

**Vote YES on Ballot Question #1** – Stops future raids on your hard earned employee benefit funds.

## **Important dates and events:**

**10/23/10 – Camden County IAFF Local 3249 – Glo-Ball Golf Tournament 2010**

**11/13/10 – Evesham IAFF Local 4687 – Fireground Strategies Seminar**

**11/16 through 11/19 – League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City**

**11/17/10 – PFANJ State meeting in Atlantic City**

## **Included in October's packet:**

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of
- Article – Six Flags Great Adventure eliminates its fire department
- Article – Gov chides Democrats for tool kit delays
- Article – N.J. lawmaker to propose bill allowing property tax hike larger than 2% cap
- Editorial – No exemption for cops
- Editorial – Gov, don't target firefighters' pensions
- Article – Breaking the (pension) bank
- Reprint from NJLM October 2010 – When will we see an end to Contradictions in Pension Funding?
- List of PFANJ endorsements
- Flyer for Linda Greenstein for Senate
- Flyer for John Adler for Congress
- Flyer for Rush Holt for Congress
- Letter from NJ AFL-CIO – vote YES on Ballot Question #1
- Flyer – Vote YES on Ballot Question #1
- Copy of Ballot Question #1
- NJ AFL-CIO Fact sheet on Ballot Question #1
- Article – Towns look to gov for pension reform
- Article – Pension hike has towns reeling
- Editorial – It's long past time for pension reform
- Article – Towns' pension payments increase
- Editorial – Jersey's bravest now in the line of fire
- Article – Panel OKs bills aimed at property taxes
- Article – Christie enlists help in debate on teachers
- Article – Teaneck approves merger of police, fire agencies
- Article – Sheriff proposes unified services
- Article – Christie off the rails on tunnel
- Reprint from NJLM October 2010 – Welcoming an Era of Government Reform
- Reprint from NJLM October 2010 – Help is on the way
- Editorial – Selling off NJN would be a mistake
- Article – Override fails on Christie veto of homebuyer tax credit
- Reprint from NJLM October 2010 – Legislative update
- Schedule of Events for the League of Municipalities conference in Atlantic City
- 50-50 Raffle for Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation
- Flyer for IAFF Local 3249's Golf outing
- Flyer for IAFF Local 4687's Seminar