

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

Long time PFANJ friend – Former State Senator and US Congressman John Adler has passed away. John was a true friend of the fire service and we will miss him.

We also are saddened by the



DEATH OF GENERAL SECRETARY- TREASURER
EMERITUS
VINCENT J. "VINNIE" BOLLON

Vincent J. Bollon was the epitome of what a UNION Firefighter is all about! He truly will be missed by all trade unionist through-out our profession.

Asbury Park Firefighter Jason Fazio was moved from Saint Barnabas hospital to Kessler Rehabilitation Hospital on Tuesday to start his vigorous physical and occupational therapy procedures. Jason has good spirits and is continuing to fight the fight. This is very good news.

IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger along with IAFF 1st District Vice-President Kevin Gallagher visited Jason at Saint Barnabas on Tuesday March 29th.

We will have an update tomorrow April 14th in the investigation of the January 10th Asbury Park fire where Firefighter Jason Fazio was severely burned. I will be meeting with PEOSH and NJDFS.

Pension Litigation:

We are still waiting to hear from the appellate court and thought we would have heard by now. As soon as we hear anything we will notify everyone.

1.5% Health TAX Litigation:

Our appeal has been filed.

LEGISLATION:

The arbitration reform task force had their initial meeting in order to “report” to the governor by April 1st. This meeting was held the same day the governor was introducing his budget, so not much was accomplished. The next meeting is scheduled for March 30th. The task force met on March 30th and as expected just the basic was discussed. The next scheduled meeting is July 11th

A1469 – was introduced by Assemblyman Wisniewski and sponsored by Assembly members Greenwald, Evans, Stender, Conaway, Barnes, Ramos, Connors, Giblin and Prieto which permits municipality, fire district or authority to approve transfer of certain firefighters from PERS to PFRS

A1250 – was introduced by Assemblywomen Stender and Greenstein and sponsored by Assembly members Egan, Evans, Diegnan, Giblin, Wagner and DiCicco which concerns workers compensation for public safety workers – Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act.

S2608 – was introduced by Senator VanDrew which would allow a one-time increase of PFRS retiree annual pension under \$32,000.

The health insurance reform legislation (S2718) that Senate President Sweeny introduced is a complete attack on our existing benefits. We are opposed to the legislation as it is currently written. There have been no discussions or movement on this piece of legislation as of this writing. But, either way it appears that a vote on Health reform will be done by July.

A copy of the “current” Legislative district’s is included in this months packet. It has changed and 1st Vice-President Borek and Political consultant Pete Guzzo will discuss the changes during their report.

Pension reform:

We continue to meet with Senate President Sweeney and his staff to work out the language on his pension reform legislation (S2696) as opposed to the Governor’s legislation. Although we are not completely in favor of the Senator’s version, it is a better piece of legislation than the Governors. We continue to work with the NJ AFL-CIO, UNIONS (CWA, AFSME, NJEA, FOP and others) and the Senate President in order to get a legislative bill that will work for our members. The final legislation still has not been drafted and until it is, we cannot advise whether we should be for or against it. Once it is drafted, we will advise. It is becoming more apparent that the final legislation might be drafted by the end of April. Either way it appears that a vote on Pension reform will be done by July.

VOTE ‘NO’ on S-2718 – call in number: (888) 724-6474

Now through Friday, April 15, 2011, we ask you to please call the toll free number (888)724-6474 and urge your State Senator to vote “NO” on S-2718

**PFANJ Annual Valor Awards Brunch – April 30th @ the PNC Arts Center Reception Center
PFANJ Annual Convention and Golf outing – May 31st through June 3rd.**

Convention credential notification is included in this month's packet. Presidents should be receiving credentials in the mail shortly.

Civil Service update:

2010 Fire Fighter exam results tentatively scheduled for release in March 2011

Copy of Civil Service Status Report is included in this month's packet.

A list of the new commissioners is as follows:

Chair – Robert Czech
Commissioner Robert Brenner
Commissioner Richard Williams
Commissioner Thomas Perna
Vacant

Their Bio's are included in this months packet.

With the help of a SAFER grant of \$9.7 million dollars, Atlantic City can hire back the 30 firefighters that were laid off last October. It may also give Atlantic City the ability to hire 21 new firefighters.

With the help of a SAFER grant of \$5.1 million dollars and a grant from the Port Fund, Camden hired back 31 of the 66 firefighters that were laid off this past January.

On Tuesday April 5th, President Schaitberger, chief of staff Pete Gorman and 1st District Vice-President Kevin Gallagher went to Camden to give support to the Camden Firefighters and Fire Officers.

Unity Table Coalition:

Back in February a coalition was formed of the major unions in New Jersey in an effort to strike back at legislators who are against or who will not stand up for Collective bargaining. This coalition is also working on getting T.V. ads and radio spots aired in an effort to change the views of New Jersey residents who believe the lies the governor is spreading. These current radio and T.V. spots are being produced within a \$2 million dollar budget. The National unions have put up the initial \$2 million dollars. We are a major part of this coalition. We have been asked to take the lead on the radio ads and T.V. spots because of our high popularity with the New Jersey Residents. When a recent poll was taken, Firefighters were still showing a favorable (85%) rating to the New Jersey residents. This Coalition meets on weekly bases and adjusts its strategy according to polls and changes in legislator's stance on collective bargaining and labor.

SAFER Grants as of 4-8-11 for New Jersey:



Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response - FY 2010 Award Recipients

Last Updated: 04/8/2011 - www.firegrantsupport.com

Organization	City	State	Program	Award Amount	Award Date
Round 1					
Robbinsville Division of Fire	Robbinsville	NJ	Hiring	\$700,604.00	12/24/2010 - Round 1
Round 2					
Round 3					
Collingswood Fire Department	Collingswood	NJ	Hiring	\$377,917.00	1/14/2011 - Round 3
Round 4					
Trenton Fire Department	Trenton	NJ	Hiring	\$13,685,436.00	1/21/2011 - Round 4
Round 5					
Round 6					
Round 7					
Atlantic City Fire Department	Atlantic City	NJ	Hiring	\$9,726,403.00	2/11/2011 - Round 7
Camden Fire Department	Camden	NJ	Hiring	\$5,108,744.00	2/11/2011 - Round 7
Round 8					
Bridgeton Fire Department	Bridgeton	NJ	Hiring	\$1,022,798.00	2/18/2011 - Round 8
Hamilton Township Fire District #2	Hamilton	NJ	Hiring	\$109,417.00	2/18/2011 - Round 8
Ridgewood Fire Department	Ridgewood	NJ	Hiring	\$349,031.00	2/18/2011 - Round 8
Round 9					
Irvington Fire Department	Irvington	NJ	Hiring	\$2,506,485.00	2/25/2011 - Round 9
Jersey City Dept of Fire & Emergency Services	Jersey City	NJ	Hiring	\$8,158,925.00	2/25/2011 - Round 9
Westampton Fire Department and Emergency Services	Westampton	NJ	Hiring	\$297,460.00	2/25/2011 - Round 9
Round 10					
East Orange Fire Department	East Orange	NJ	Hiring	\$1,883,951.00	3/4/2011 - Round 10
Round 11					
Forked River Fire Department	Forked River	NJ	Recruitment	\$48,600.00	3/11/2011 - Round 11
Orange Fire Department	Orange	NJ	Hiring	\$1,238,623.00	3/11/2011 - Round 11
Princeton Fire Department	Princeton	NJ	Recruitment	\$361,500.00	3/11/2011 - Round 11
West Cape May Volunteer Fire Com[any, Inc.	West Cape May	NJ	Recruitment	\$8,900.00	3/11/2011 - Round 11
Round 12					
Harrisonville Volunteer Fire Company	Harrisonville	NJ	Recruitment	\$28,581.00	3/18/2011 - Round 12
Long Branch Fire Department	Long Branch	NJ	Recruitment	\$129,942.00	3/18/2011 - Round 12
Round 13					
Round 14					
Round 15					

PEC – Public Employee Coalition:

This coalition has been meeting for years on regular monthly bases. The premise behind this group is to keep the lines of communications open amongst all Labor unions in New Jersey under one forum. Any and all issues that the labor unions are experiencing are discussed at these monthly meetings and strategies to combat the issues are bounced off each labor union in the room.

From this coalition a smaller more defined group was formed to address specific legislative issues, i.e. Pension, civil service, health and any other piece of legislation that would affect labor in a negative way.

All of these coalitions and groups, since the beginning, we have been a part of and will continue to be a part of. Our members are well represented because of our participation in these groups.

NJ AFL-CIO announces launching of new website – Working Families United for New Jersey, Inc.

www.workingfamiliesunitedfornj.org

Update on other issues happening around the state.

Important dates and events:

- 4/19/2011 – Benefit for Scott Fairlamb – son of Lt. Preston “Jay” Fairlamb NJSP ret.
- 4/30/2011 – PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch (PNC Arts Center Reception Center)
- 5/1/2011 – Fund raiser for Asbury Park FF Jason Fazio Headliner in Neptune
- 5/2/2011 – IAFF 2011 Media Awards Contest deadline!
- 5/11/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting
- 5/17/2011 – Managing Excavation Hazard course
- 5/31/2011 – PFANJ Annual Golf Outing (Atlantic City Country Club)
- 5/31 – 6/3/2011 – Annual PFANJ Convention
- 6/9/2011 – Union Night Out – River Sharks Baseball
- 8/14 – 18/11 – IAFF John P. Redmond Health & Safety Symposium and
IAFF Dominick F. Barbera Emergency Medical Services Conference
NEW YORK CITY
- 9/14/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting (open meeting for all PFANJ members)

Included in April's packet:

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 3/31/11
- Copy of IAFF notice – IAFF Loses Legendary IAFF Leader Vincent J. Bollon
- List of SAFER Grants for New Jersey as of 4/8/11
- List of AFT Grants for New Jersey as of 4/8/11
- Reprint of Article – Amid layoffs, cash-strapped cities must reimburse unused sick and vacation time to retirees
- Reprint of Article from Italian American Police Society of New Jersey quarterly magazine – Exclusive Interview with PFRS Chairman John Sierchio
- Reprint of Article – Question & Answer with Joseph DiVincenzo Jr.
- Reprint of Article – 30 laid-off Atlantic City firefighters begin return to work today
- Reprint of Article – Camden officers returning today
- Reprint of Article – The Great American Ponzi Scheme
- Copy of letter from Assemblywoman Lampitt and Assemblyman Wilson in support of collective bargaining rights
- Copies of letters and statements in support of Collective Bargaining rights by Assemblyman Schaer, Assemblyman Cryan, Assemblyman Wisniewski, Senator Weinberg, Senator Buono, Senator Greenstein, Assemblyman DeAngelo and Assemblyman Benson
- Copy of op-ed from NJ AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech entitled “Governor Christie, It’s time to negotiate”
- Copy of Union Privilege Legal Service for NJ AFL-CIO members
- Reprint of Article – Christie Gains Democratic Backers
- Copy of Civil Service Commission biographies
- Reprint of Article – Report: Three states propose massive tax cuts for millionaires, Tax hikes for middle class
- Copy of IAFF mileage rate
- Copy of IAFF Blanket Bond Renewal from April 1,2011 to April 1,2014
- Reprint of Article – Attacking collective bargaining by public employees is shortsighted
- Reprint of Article – Christie’s talk is blunt, but not always straight
- Copy of IAFF notice – IAFF loses legendary IAFF Leader Vincent J. Bollon
- Copy of email on status of pension system
- Copy of email from Congressman Bill Pascrell on COPS, SAFER and AFT grant programs
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – New Jersey’s Health Benefit Programs and Health care reform
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – Homeland Security Preparedness Starts at Home
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – New Jersey’s Redistricting Data and the Municipal Highlights

- Reprint from League of Municipalities – Taking an Axe to our Communities
- Copy of Congressman Rush Holt’s newsletter
- List of Events for Saint Barnabas Burn foundation fundraisers for the year.
- Copy of Stark and Stark newsletter – Know your rights when injured!
- Copy of report from Jim Marketti – Representative on the State Investment Council
- Copy of opinion – Negotiate costs of health care
- Reprint of Article – Judge blocks Wisconsin’s labor law
- Reprint of Article – Gov: Ally ‘wrong’ to collect pension, pay
- Reprint of Article – State laying off code inspectors
- Reprint of opinion – Public unions no longer viable
- Reprint of Article – CWA blasts gov for refusal to bargain on benefits
- Reprint of Article – Ruling on school aid cuts could test Christie
- Reprint of Article – State shifting to riskier options for pension investments
- Reprint of Article – Christie pushes for pension, benefits reform
- Reprint of Article – Wis. Voters send governor strong, angry message

