

# President's Report

## March 2011

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

#### **Rally on March 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> thousands of firefighters, police officers, emergency medical workers and many other “friends” of public safety converged on Trenton in a show of unity to tell the governor and legislators that we do matter. This rally was a joint rally between the PFANJ, FOP, FMBA and the PBA. Approximately 40 democratic legislators chose to stand with us and addressed the thousands of you who were at the rally. Prior to the rally actually beginning, there were 5 to 10 legislators who had agreed to address the group. When the other legislators saw the large group, they joined in. They took advantage of the “opportunity”! The rally was the start. It got their attention. They now understand that we are a force that must be taken seriously. As I stated in my speech at the rally, if they are against us now, then we will be against them tomorrow.

From Tuesday 1500 hours until Thursday 1000, a radio spot was broadcasted over 5 different radio stations that covered a majority of the state of New Jersey. The radio stations involved were: Thunder 106.5 and 106.3, B98.5, The Breeze 107.1 and 99.7. We were able to split the cost of these announcements with the FOP. The radio broadcast advised the residents of New Jersey about the rally and asked them for their support.

#### **Pension Litigation:**

We still have not heard 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:**

We have filed an appeal.

#### **LEGISLATION:**

The arbitration reform task force had their initial meeting in order to “report” to the governor by April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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 Governor's. The final legislation still has not been

drafted and until it is, we cannot advise weather we should be for or against it. Once it is drafted, we will advise.

**Legislation issues:**

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.

**PFANJ Annual Valor Awards Brunch – April 30<sup>th</sup> @ the PNC Arts Center Reception Center**

**PFANJ Annual Convention and Golf outing – May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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

**We have created a face book site for members**

**SAFER Grants as of 3-5-11 for New Jersey:**

Organization	City	ST	Program	Federal Share	Firefighters	Award Date
Atlantic City Fire Department	Atlantic City	NJ	Hiring	\$9,726,403.00		02/11/11
Bridgeton Fire Department	Bridgeton	NJ	Hiring	\$1,022,798.00		02/18/11
Camden Fire Department	Camden	NJ	Hiring	\$5,108,744.00		02/11/11
Collingswood Fire Department	Collingswood	NJ	Hiring	\$377,917.00		01/14/11
East Orange Fire Department	East Orange	NJ	Hiring	\$1,883,951.00		03/04/11
Hamilton Township Fire District #2	Hamilton	NJ	Hiring	\$109,417.00		02/18/11
Irvington Fire Department	Irvington	NJ	Hiring	\$2,506,485.00		02/25/11
Jersey City Dept of Fire & Emergency Services	Jersey City	NJ	Hiring	\$8,158,925.00		02/25/11
Ridgewood Fire Department	Ridgewood	NJ	Hiring	\$349,031.00		02/18/11
Robbinsville Division of Fire	Robbinsville	NJ	Hiring	\$700,604.00		12/24/10
Trenton Fire Department	Trenton	NJ	Hiring	\$13,685,436.00		01/21/11
Westampton Fire Department and Emergency Services	Westampton	NJ	Hiring	\$297,460.00		02/25/11

## **ELECTIONS**

The term of elected principal officers, all district vice-president and district trustee positions of the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey, International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, CLC is for a term of three (3) years. Pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association, the election for said positions will be held at Convention this year (2011). Only those Locals registered for the 2011 Convention are eligible to cast a vote. In order to cast your votes, you must be registered and in attendance the day of the election, and your local's per capita must be paid up to May 2011. Duties of the Nominations and Elections will be provided to the Elections Committee.

### **Update on other issues happening around the state.**

#### **Important dates and events:**

- 3/13 – 17/2011 – IAFF Legislative Conference
- 3/16/2011 – Warehouse Safety course
- 4/13/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting
- 4/30/2011 – PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch (PNC Arts Center Reception Center)
- 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
- 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 March's packet:

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 2/28/11
- Copy of Rally speech
- Copy of IAFF Legislative issue book for next week's conference
- Reprint of article – Deadly legacy: Is Plastimet killing firefighters?
- List of SAFER Grants for New Jersey as of 3/5/11
- List of AFT Grants for New Jersey as of 3/5/11
- Copy of editorial – Trenton's Un-Truth about Police and Fire Pensions
- IAFF 1<sup>st</sup> District VP Gallagher's report
- Reprint of Article – NJ Retirement rate rises in face of pension changes
- Reprint of Article – Police, firefighters expected at second union rally in Trenton
- Reprint of Article – Outlook for N.J. Pension is bleak – Even with Christie's reforms
- Reprint of Article – N.J. Workers union says bill on medical benefit contributions would hurt 'collective bargaining' power
- Reprint of Article – Governor feeling the love – from a Democrat
- Reprint of Article – Camden needs balanced budget to pick up \$5.1 million grant to hire firefighters
- Reprint of Poll – NJ voters favor labor cuts to balance budget
- Reprint of article – New Jersey Rating cuts shows pension gaps may boost state risks
- Reprint of article – Christie Pension cuts resonate with New Jersey voters, Poll says
- Reprint of article - NJ Pension crisis only to get worse
- Reprint of article – N.J. Assembly, Senate Republicans propose pension reform bills
- Reprint of article – Budget cuts threaten NJ public safety, officials tell senators
- Reprint of article – Camden City Council to reconsider tax increase
- Reprint of article – Christie: - Unions need to give
- Reprint of article – New budget may restore 47 officers
- Reprint of article – Poll: 47% approve of Christie, but tax relief still needed
- Reprint of article – Pension gap drops N.J.'s credit rank
- Reprint of Opinion – Police must face fiscal realities
- Reprint of Opinion – Time to clear pension swamp
- Reprint of article – Camco to lay off 260 employees April 4
- Reprint of article – Philly fire crews can assist Camden
- Reprint of article – Despite public perception, Government workers aren't living large
- Reprint of article – N.J. community affairs chief calls for civil service, pension reform
- Reprint of article by Robert Creamer – Political organizer and strategist
- Dialog of Gov. Christie explains to police officer why he'll have to pay more for health insurance.
- Reprint of article – Camden feels the effects of Fire Department layoffs
- Reprint of article – Camden accepts grant for firefighters
- Reprint of article – 2 seek to fold district fire vote
- Reprint of article – N.J. public workers unions say they'll fight bill to increase health care contributions

- Reprint of article – Council amends Camden budget proposal with smaller tax hike
- Reprint of article – Christie: Benefits must be cut
- Reprint of article – 15,000 at Protest Police, Firefighters pan reforms
- Reprint of article – Christie calls for sacrifices, tax cuts, hikes in school aid
- Reprint of @ issue – are public employee protests garnering any public sympathy?
- Reprint of article – Gov backs ‘responsible’ collective bargaining
- Reprint of article – A seething blue sea of protest
- Reprint of article – Local tab for pensions will rise by 8.9% next year
- Reprint of article – About-face by GOP kills 9 tax-cut and jobs bills
- Reprint of article – Michael Moore rallies Wis. Protesters
- Reprint of article – Wis. Dems threatened with police action, layoffs
- Reprint of article – Police, firefighters protest layoffs, cuts
- Reprint of article – Uniform anger
- Reprint of opinion – Gov’s budget talk big on bravado, broad strokes
- Reprint of article – Unions, foes plan dueling Trenton rallies
- Reprint of opinion – Christie displays right attitude on bargaining rights
- Reprint of various newspaper cartoon spoofs.
- Reprint of article – Wis. Is ‘ground zero’ in union battle
- Reprint of article – Thousands protest Wis. Bill
- Reprint of article – Kean: Terror attack likely
- Reprint of article – Massive police layoffs deepen city’s troubles
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – We need to rethink the way New Jersey operates
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – Improper State use of property tax relief money must end
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – Are you ready for hard cap & the Rocket Docket?
- Reprint from League of Municipalities – Contract expiration and medical benefit contributions – who decides?
- Copy of IAFF’s USA Today full page ad
- PFANJ Golf outing application