

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

Pension Litigation:

We are still waiting to hear from the appellate court!

1.5% Health TAX Litigation:

Our appeal has been filed.

Arbitration Task Force:

The next scheduled meeting is July 11th.

LEGISLATION:

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.

We have met with Senate President Sweeney and Speaker Oliver and they both have not changed their mind or direction on S2718. They both still feel the need to pass legislation that would impose health care costs on our members and all union members. Both have been told that any legislation that would legislate health benefit costs is unacceptable and that the unions will fight them.

The unions are fighting back on S2718. The Unity Table coalition that was formed months ago has been targeting legislative districts to have rallies outside legislator's offices, radio and cable ad's opposing S2718.

Pension reform:

We are continuing 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. Either way it appears that a vote on Pension reform will be done by June.

PFANJ Annual Convention and Golf outing – May 31st through June 3rd.

If your local has not sent their convention credentials in yet, please do so.

SAFER Grants since our last meeting:

City of Newark Fire Department - \$7,188,576.00

IAFF FirePac contributions made:

FirePac donations have been shut down by the IAFF. See attached announcement from the IAFF.

In Praise of Unions

-- John F. Kennedy



Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor -- those who would cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized -- do a disservice to the cause of democracy.

Fifty years or so ago the American Labor Movement was little more than a group of dreamers, and look at it now. From coast to coast, in factories, stores, warehouse and business establishments of all kinds, industrial democracy is at work.

Employees, represented by free and democratic trade unions of their own choosing, participate actively in determining their wages, hours and working conditions. Their living standards are the highest in the world. Their job rights are protected by collective bargaining agreements. They have fringe benefits that were unheard of less than a generation ago.

Our labor unions are not narrow, self-seeking groups. They have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the shop floor. But their work goes beyond their own jobs, and even beyond our borders.

Our unions have fought for aid to education, for better housing, for development of our national resources, and for saving the family-sized farms. They have spoken, not for narrow self-interest, but for the public interest and for the people.

-- John F. Kennedy * August 30, 1960

Federation of State and Provincial Professional Fire Fighters:

I attended the Bi-Annual meeting last week and the issues and concerns that we have here in New Jersey are not unique. Almost all the states are under attack in some way.

Legislative UPDATE by Pete Guzzo:

With the June 7th primary approaching and the November 8th election for the full New Jersey State Legislature to follow (80 Assembly seats and 40 Senate seats), here is an overview of what the election looks like based on the recent New Jersey Legislative Redistricting of all 40 legislative districts.

- The new legislative map largely favors Democrats, with the likely result being a split between parties similar to the current split (47 Democrats in the Assembly, 33 Republicans in the Assembly; 24 Democrats in the Senate, 16 Republicans in the Senate), although the Republicans could pick up some seats in the Senate and the Assembly, but probably not enough to win the majority in either house.
- Several Democratic incumbents such as Senator Jeff Van Drew, Assemblyman Nelson Albano and Assemblyman Matthew Milam in District 1 (All of Cape May and parts of Atlantic and Cumberland Counties), Senator Jim Whalen and new Assembly Democratic candidates Alisa Cooper and Damon Tyner in District 2 (Parts of Atlantic County) and Senator Fred Madden, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty and new Assembly Democratic candidate Gabriela Mosquera in District 4 (Parts of Camden and Gloucester Counties) gained more favorable districts
- Senator Dick Codey (Dem.), thought to be targeted in an intra-party feud amongst Democrats, will survive and probably prosper in a more Republican district (District 27, Parts of Essex and Morris Counties)
- Only a few districts will be truly competitive with the 14th. District (Parts of Mercer and Monmouth Counties) currently being seen as one of the most competitive. The incumbent Democrats in the 14th. District is Senator Linda Greenstein and Assemblymen Dan Benson and Wayne DeAngelo. The Republican slate consists of Richard Kanka for Senate and Dave Fried, Mayor of Robbinsville, and former Cranbury Mayor Wayne Wittman for the Assembly.
- The other competitive legislative district is the 38th. District (Bergen County). The incumbent Democrats are Senator Bob Gordon and Assemblywoman Connie Wagner. The other Democratic candidate is Maywood Mayor Tim Eustace. The Republican slate is Bergen County Freeholder Director John Driscoll, Hawthorne Mayor Richard Goldberg and attorney Fernando Alonzo of Oradell.
- The 7th Legislative District (Part of Burlington County) currently with split Democratic, Republican representation became more competitive with the loss of several Democratic towns, Pennsauken and Mt. Holly, and the addition of Republican Bordentown. The district gained Mt Laurel (trends Democratic) and Moorestown. The new map sets up a battle being incumbent Assemblyman Herb Conaway (Dem) and Assemblyman Joe Malone (Rep)—who was formerly in the 30th. Legislative District-- and two new candidates, Troy Singleton (Dem) and Moorestown businessman Chris Halgas.

- The eleventh district (Part of Monmouth County) was thought to be potentially more competitive for incumbent Senator Jennifer Beck and Assemblywomen Carol Casagrande and Mary Angelini. But the Democratic slate of Ray Santiago, Vin Gopel and Marilyn Schlossbach is all new candidates.
- The new map also brought about intra-party switches like in the 30th Legislative District with Assemblyman Joe Malone redistricted out (he is now running in the 7th. Legislative District) and Senator Sean Kean (Rep.) forced to step-down in the 12th. Legislative District and run for the Assembly in the 30th Legislative District. Also, Assemblyman Sam Thompson (Rep., 13th. Legislative District) is now running for the Senate in the 12th. Legislative District (Parts of Monmouth and Mercer).
- In North Jersey, mainly Essex and Hudson Counties, while there are some changes to the legislative map and several incumbent Democratic legislators are retiring as a result of redistricting, other than what is described above, these changes should not result in any change in party control (Democratic to Republican legislators).

Update on other issues happening around the state.

Important dates and events:

- 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 May's packet:

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 4/30/11
- Copy of IAFF notice – IAFF Loses Legendary IAFF Leader Vincent J. Bollon
- Reprint of Article – NCPERS Survey finds public funds experiencing robust recovery, solid funding levels following market downturn
- Reprint of Article – Cockeyed comparisons inflate insurance legislation
- Reprint of Article – Environmental groups complain of being outnumbered by 'special interests' at DEP meetings
- Reprint of Article – N.J. Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Oliver talk health care with unions
- Special Report – The Battle over 911

- Reprint of Article – Police hold ‘unique’ positions that can’t be compared to civilians, NJ appeals court agrees
- Reprint of Article – NJ Fire Fighters provide home safety tips
- Reprint of Article – Fierce attacks leave public workers stinging
- Reprint of Article – Move on New Jersey Health Plan may cost towns but help power broker
- Reprint of Article – State workers in for a benefits hit
- Reprint of Article – N.J. pension fund gain 15 percent this fiscal year
- Reprint of Article – N.J Senate president warns retirees may see pension payouts cut without plan to fix system
- Reprint of information – New Jersey Democratic State Committee
- C & A Financial Group May Newsletter
- Reprint of Opinion – Christie too kind in grading lawmakers
- Reprint of letter – On Pensions, other needs Dem’s math doesn’t add up
- Reprint of Article – Gov: I won’t run for president
- Reprint of commentary – Christie ignores school successes
- Reprint of Article – Rich pay less taxes than 20 years ago
- Reprint of Article – Super rich pay far less taxes than in 1990s
- Reprint of commentary – Health care cost-sharing demands excessive
- Reprint of Article – Report: N.J.’s pensions 4th most underfunded
- Reprint of Article – Paterson lays off 125 police officers
- Reprint of Letter – Worker safety rules are under attack
- Reprint of Opinion – No choice on pensions
- Reprint of Article – ‘Tool kit’ not the answer
- Reprint of Article – N.J. gets \$52M in fire department grants
- Reprint of opinion – Leaders need to compromise
- Reprint of Article – Christie’s tough talk may blunt his appeal
- Reprint of Article – Pension fears spur public employee retirements
- Reprint of cartoon – Christie with a BAT
- Reprint of Article – Sweeney: Pass reforms, then budget
- Reprint of Article – GOP’s campaign war chest grows for midterm elections
- Reprint of Article – Gov: Push ‘do-nothing’ lawmakers to act
- Reprint of Article – Some ‘toolkit’ bills may not be adopted
- Reprint from League of Municipalities Magazine – Look What the Mayors have done!
- Reprint from League of Municipalities Magazine – Who’s the boss?
- PFANJ Scholarship Application