

President's Report November 2011

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

JoAnn Martin will be in attendance to answer any questions that you might have with respect to Pensions.

2012 is a Pension Election year. We have until December 2nd to get a candidate on the ballot. Having a member of the PFANJ on the PFRS board is paramount in representing our members. Once we have a candidate, it is imperative that our members are notified and that when the voting process begins, they vote. All presidents and delegates are urged to work to get our candidate elected.

In this month's packet is a copy of the PFANJ Valor awards application. I encourage all locals to submit the applications as soon as possible. The date's for recognition is the current year, January 2011 through December 2011.

This year's Valor award program will be on Thursday March 29th at 6pm. We are moving away from a brunch and having a sit down dinner.

It has been brought to my attention; by IAFF General Secretary/Treasurer Thomas Miller that there are a large number of Locals that have not submitted to the IAFF their Current Constitution and By-laws.

As you know the Ohio Firefighters had a tough fight on their hands because their Collective Bargaining rights were under attack. The Ohio Firefighters were successful in defeating the issue, but it was costly. The fight in Ohio was the beginning and if the Ohio firefighters would have lost their fight, it would have had a rippling effect on all of us. I ask that if you are able to donate to the Ohio firefighters to help in off setting their expenses for this fight, to do so. Enclosed in this month's packet is a copy of a letter from the Ohio Firefighters and where you can send your donations.

Retired State President of Massachusetts – Bob McCarthy has come out of retirement and is running in a special election in Massachusetts for State Senator. Having Bob McCarthy elected as a State Senator would be extremely beneficial for the Massachusetts firefighters and all fire fighters. The special election is only weeks away. Bob could use our help in his to get elected. Enclosed in this month's packet is a copy of a letter for Bob and where donations can be sent.

PFANJ Facebook page:

We are looking for someone to take over as the administrator.

1.5% Health TAX Litigation – filed 2010:

Our appeal has been filed.

10% pension payment:

Our suit has been filed in Federal Court as of August 31st.

35% health benefit premium:

Currently, there is no litigation on this pending the outcome of our appeal on the 1.5% lawsuit.

Arbitration Task Force:

Meeting was held on October 13th with little progress being made at this time. Time was spent on “reporting” of rulings and data collection. Time constraints were discussed. As more is discussed we will report back to the membership.

PENSION:**Chapter 330 retiree’s health benefits:**

Included in this month’s packet is the documentation that explains the increase.

A letter was received from Irvington Firefighters IAFF Local 305 President Alex Lima stating that the local has voted to withdraw from the PFANJ.

Important dates and events:

November 15th through 18th – New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference

December 1st & 2nd – 9th Annual NJ Juvenile Fire setter intervention conference

December 14th PFANJ Monthly Meeting

January 22nd through 24th – IAFF Human Resources Conference

January 24th through 26th – IAFF Affiliate Leadership Conference (ALTS)

March 25th through 28th – IAFF Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference

March 29th – PFANJ Valor Awards Dinner

May 28th through June 1st – PFANJ Annual Convention

July 21st through July 27th – IAFF 51st Bi-Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA

Included in November's packet:

- Statement of Finances – submitted by Treasurer Jeff Holtz
- CSC Fire promotion announcement & testing schedule
- CSC Fire Service State Report for November 2011
- Flyer – Save the Date May 28th through June 1st – PFAN Annual Convention
- Flyer – Save the Date March 29th – PFAN Valor Dinner
- Copy of PFRS Notice of Election memo
- Copy of PFANJ Valor award application
- Copy of memo – Changes due to Federal health care reform
- Copy of letter sent to members about Football Frenzy
- Copy of flyer for – PFANJ Football Frenzy
- Copy of letter from the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters
- Copy of IAFF Divisions and Staff
- Copy of letter on behalf of Robert McCarthy
- Copy of information on Chapter 330 Retiree's
- Copy of AFL-CIO Labor Fax date 11/8/11 – Election results
- Copy of Informational booklet on the IAFF Human Relations Conference and Affiliate Leadership Training Summit
- Reprint of Article from APP – Oliver, Greenwald in; Cryan out
- Reprint of Article from APP – Dems pick new leaders, vow to battle Christie
- Reprint of Article from Sports Illustrated – Monte Carlo on the Hudson
- Reprint of Article from APP – Supreme Court to decide judges' pension dispute
- Reprint of Article from APP – Officer, firefighter honored
- Copy of Informational booklet on the IAFF alignment with Penn Foster College for members to attain an Associate of Science Degree in Fire Science
- Reprint of Article from IAFF website – Ohioans vote NO on Issue 2, preserve collective bargaining for fire fighters
- Reprint of Article from The Washington Post – Unions see Ohio victory as springboard for resurgence, boost for 2012 election
- Reprint of Article from the APP – Dem: We won't be intimidated