

President's Report

February 2011

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

Pension Litigation:

As was reported at our last meeting, the hearing on our case took place on Tuesday January 4th in Trenton. Our attorney, Mel was able to make the full presentation for which he had very thoroughly prepared, and that the judges were very attentive the whole time. They asked very few questions to either Mel or the State's and Legislature's attorneys, so it is hard to tell what they were thinking. Both the opposing attorneys presented very few arguments, relying principally on the Teachers decision, and it was obvious that they did not spend much preparation time. They each took about 10 minutes while Mel took the entire 30 minutes allotted to him. We believe our briefs and oral argument presented our case in the strongest possible light. Now we just have to wait for their decision which could be in two weeks or six months.

1.5% Health TAX Litigation:

As was reported on January 20th, the Judge ruled against our motion. The court found that the statute is Constitutional and does not create an illegal parity cause. After our attorney's and the IAFF's attorney's evaluated the 167 court decision, we are going ahead with an appeal.

LEGISLATION:

The arbitration process was reformed and signed into law on December 21st. With the new law, it also creates an arbitration review task force made up of labor and management.

I have been advised by Assembly Speaker Oliver that she is going to appoint me to the task force. She also will be appointing someone from the pba. Senator Sweeney has appointed for the FOP – Ron Bakley and for the fmiba – Bill Lavin.

Governor Christie has appointed: Robert M. Czech, Esq., David A. Cohen, Esq., Tom Neff, and Honorable Declan J. O'Scanlon, Jr.

A1250/S1624 – "Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act"; concerns workers' compensation for public safety workers.

A-1469/S-1771 – Permits transfer from PERS to PFRS

Pension reform:

We have been meeting 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 proposed legislation would not reduce a member's retirement percentage, would not increase a member's contribution and would give the unions some say as to how and where the money is invested. We have many concerns and questions and until the final draft of the legislation is drawn, we will continue to let the Senate President know of those concerns. Any piece of legislation from the Senator will only be advanced if there is a "guarantee" that the state makes pension payments. And any piece of legislation will only be advanced that has protections built in that "mandates" the contributions from the State and local employers year after year.

The republicans via O'Scanlon and Chiusano have introduced A-3796 which makes changes to retirement benefits of the state-administered retirement systems and eliminates future COLA's. The language of the bill is not yet available.

PFANJ Annual Valor Awards Brunch – April 30th @ the PNC Arts Center Reception Center

The submissions are for acts from 1/1/2010 – 12/31/10.

Applications must be received in the State Office no later than February 28, 2011.

Update on other issues happening around the state.

Important dates and events:

- 2/10/2011 – ST. Barnabas Annual Ski Race
- 3/09/2011 – monthly PFANJ State meeting (open meeting for all PFANJ members)
- 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 December's packet:

- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 1/30/11
- PFANJ AD Journal form for Valor awards
- PFANJ ticket form for Valor awards
- IAFF Redmond and EMS conference brochure
- IAFF Flyer – Liberty Mutual. Auto Insurance
- Editorial from IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger – Governors are singing the wrong tune
- Flyer – Warehouse Safety sponsored by NJS Industrial Safety Committee and UMDNJ
- Flyer – Managing Excavation Hazard, by NJS Industrial Safety Committee and UMDNJ
- Copy of Assembly Bill 3737 – “Steroid” bill
- Report from PFANJ Government Affairs Agent on Status of Governors tool kit reforms
- New Jersey in the 112th Congress (1st Session) contact numbers
- Reprint of Article – Plans being drawn up to let states declare bankruptcy
- Reprint of Article – Pension crisis to deepen
- Reprint of Article – Shared services discussed
- Reprint of Article – N.J. FOP attacks regionalization plans as officials from Camden county towns meet
- Reprint of Article – Are Police, Fire unions next on Christie hit list?
- Reprint of Article – Mayor follows unlikely, unlucky path into spotlight
- Reprint of Article – Deadline nears for gov's civil service overhaul
- Reprint of Article – Christie vetoes reform bill
- NJ State AFL-CIO E-Activist Network – Governor Conditionally Veto's Civil Service Bill
- Reprint of Article – Senate President names 2 to arbitration review panel
- Reprint of Article – Union officials appointed to arbitration panel
- Reprint of Article – Sweeney talks up plan to consolidate police, fire units in Camden County
- NJ Civil Service Fire Promotional Announcement & Testing schedule
- NJ Civil Service Commission Public Safety Testing – Fire Service Status Report January/February 2011
- NJ PERC – List of contact and phone numbers
- Flyer – Chase Bank offering Union Members and Family Exclusive Benefits through Union Plus Mortgage Program
- Reprint of Opinion – Judge was right to toss lawsuit
- Reprint from NJ League of Municipalities Magazine – It's time to stop the finger-pointing and fix our retirement systems
- Reprint from NJ League of Municipalities magazine – Taking a Fresh look at Government
- Reprint from NJ League of Municipalities magazine – Doing More with Less
- Reprint of Article – Toll collectors' union proposes pay, job reductions
- Reprint of Article – Gov Weighs in on stalled contract talks
- Reprint of Opinion – Union leaders still don't get it
- Reprint of Question to public – Are Police and Firefighters paying their fair share?
- Reprint of Article – End binding arbitration, freeholder says
- Reprint of Article – Taxpayers pay for foreclosures

- Reprint of Article – Unions’ pension challenge rejected
- Reprint of Article – Redd meets face-to-face with Christie on public safety
- Snap shot of A-1469/S-1771 – Permits transfer from PERS to PFRS
- Snap shot of S-1624/A-1250 – “TPC 21st Century First Responders Protection Act
- PFANJ Valor awards application

