

President's Report January 2012

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

District Vice-Presidents have been asked to stay in contact with each local president within their district on a regular monthly basis. Some locals may not have been contacted as of yet by your District Vice-President, the reason could be as simple as wrong contact information. You should use the following email address to give your District Vice President your contact information. Open and constant communication is essential in the representation of our members.

- 1st District Vice-President: Charlie Grieco yanks74@optonline.net
- 2nd District Vice-President: Robert Beattie npfd58@optonline.net
- 3rd District Vice-President: Larry Smith cid-788@comcast.net
- 4th District Vice-President: Al Foster sea575wolf@aol.com
- 5th District Vice-President: Tony Tarantino atarantino@newarkfireofficers.com
- 6th District Vice-President: Bill Anderson afam4@msn.com
- 7th District Vice-President: Bob Mahan capt402@comcast.net

SAFER Grant period coming up:

The first window to submit applications for \$742 million in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program money will likely open very soon – mid-January 2012. The window to apply will only be open for 30 days and the next application period won't open until mid-July 2012.

All locals struggling with layoffs, pending layoffs, attritions and staffing shortages should apply.

Since only officials from your jurisdiction can apply for the grant, with such a short window, it's critical that you begin working with your jurisdiction to prepare to submit your application ASAP.

Make it clear to your municipality's decision-makers that the SAFER grants come with no strings attached -- NO retention requirements for layoffs, pending layoffs and attritions. Grants will provide FULL salary and fringe benefits for two years. There are no caps and NO COST SHARE MATCH required by the municipality. Grants for new hires have very few restrictions.

While IAFF locals can't apply for your jurisdiction, you can make the decision-makers aware, generate the support you need and do everything else, including help write the application. And the IAFF is prepared to help you or the person designated from your jurisdiction to get that application done correctly. The IAFF Grants Department was

successful in working collaboratively with fire chiefs, city officials and IAFF affiliates to achieve more than a 90 percent success rate on applications it reviewed in 2010.

Panel reviews of the grant applications could take place as early as mid-February.

The IAFF anticipates that many of the locals that received grants in 2009 are still facing economic challenges and may be looking to re-apply for additional funding. These locals will need to submit new applications as funds are not automatically renewed on these grants. .

Please contact Jennifer Stewart at (202) 824-8631 with any questions.

An email was received from GP Schaitberger with the following message:
The IAFF is in the process of gathering information on the locals that have staffing shortages, layoffs or attritions that are looking to apply for a 2011 grant. This information will help us to prioritize outreach and application reviews in your district. We anticipate that many of the locals who received grants in 2009 will need to renew their grants with their two-year funding coming to a close. This information should be forwarded to IAFF 1st District Vice-President Kevin Gallagher: kgallagher@iaff.org

IAFF Legislative Conference:

The 2012 Legislative Conference is being held March 25-29 at the Hilton Washington Hotel, in Washington DC. All locals are encouraged to participate in the legislative conference. New Jersey has always enjoyed a delegation that was supportive of the needs of firefighters and for the most part we have had a better than 90% favorable voting record. If not for nothing, going and personally thanking a legislator goes a long way.

PENSION:

2012 is a Pension Election year. Our candidate is Firefighter Tim Colacci, from IAFF Local 3950, North Hudson Firefighters. Tim has been a firefighter for 10 years and is currently the North Hudson Fire Fighters Association vice president. It is imperative that our members are notified that Tim is the candidate their union is asking them to vote for and that when the voting process begins, they vote. All presidents and delegates are urged to work to get our candidate elected. Tim is available to meet with you and your executive board and can attend your local meeting so that your members can put a face to the candidate.

On January 9, 2012, a drawing by lot was held at the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits to determine the order of the candidates, as they will appear on the upcoming ballot for Firefighter Representative to the Board of Trustees of the PFRS.

Position #2 Timothy Colacci (North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue)
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The ballots are scheduled for distribution by the vendor, Election-America to PFRS-Firefighting employers on or about March 1, 2012.

Solar Power Safety & Awareness update for Fire Fighters

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has completed an examination of fire service concerns of photovoltaic (PV) systems and the potential impact on firefighting operations. Related information and part of the report is included in this month's packet. The full report can be found at:

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offerings/industries/buildingmaterials/fire/fireservice/pvsystems/>

Valor Award Ceremony – 3/29/12

In last month's packet was a copy of the PFANJ Valor awards application. I encourage all locals to submit the applications as soon as possible. The dates for recognition are January 2011 through December 2011. This year's Valor award program will be on Thursday March 29th at 6pm. **The applications must be in the state office no later than Wednesday February 29, 2012.**

NLRB has three new appointments:

President Obama made three appointments to the NLRB. One of the appointments is Robert Griffin. Brother Griffin currently serves as the General Counsel for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and has a long history of fighting to ensure the rights and fair treatment of working people.

PFANJ Face Book page:

We are fully operational again and encourage all locals to visit often and to assist in keeping all things current.

PERC: Public Employee Relations Commission

We are in the process of compiling outstanding cases with PERC and will be sitting with the Commission chair to discuss our concerns.

The New Jersey League of Municipalities:

The NJLOM is currently conducting a survey with respect to unused sick leave/vacation time compensation. See attached notice in this month's packet.

Legislative activity:

We have met with Assembly Majority Leader Greenwald to put forth our concerns and issues. We will be meeting again within the next two weeks to get our legislative issues addressed. The process of getting our legislative bills re-introduced will now take place and we hope to have the bills re-introduced shortly.

S2794/A3918 – Encourages local unit sharing of services; makes appropriation.

S1141/A898 – Permits board of fire commissioners to amend fire district budget after adoption to insert special items of revenue. (Passed both houses) **THIS BILL HAS PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WAS SENT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS SIGNATURE!** This bill was signed into law on Monday January 9th!

A3278/S2287 – Requires fire suppression systems in new single and two family homes

S1802 – Authorizes payment of funeral expenses for certain public safety employees killed in line of duty. **THIS BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE but NO ACTION WAS TAKEN BY THE ASSEMBLY!**

S787 – Establishes “New Jersey Fire and EMS Crisis Intervention Services” telephone hotline

S1080/A1463 – Requires designated fire command structure in municipal emergency operations plans involving mutual aid responses to fires. **THIS BILL HAS PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WAS SENT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS SIGNATURE!**

A2095/S818 – Revises requirements for emergency medical services delivery **THIS BILL HAS PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WAS SENT TO THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS SIGNATURE! We sent word to everyone via email, website and face book to contact the governor’s office and ask him to sign the bill.**

A4262/S3158 – Requires DOT Commissioner to erect signs informing Motorists State’s “move over” law.

A4345 – Limits use of an supplemental compensation for certain accumulated leave; permits use of certain unused sick leave to offset post-retirement health care cost; limits employment for certain public employees

A4346/S3104 – The “common sense shared services act”; concerns shared service agreements and joint contracts for certain local personnel under “uniformed shared services and consolidation act”.

A4348/S3123 – Replaces TPAF, PERS, PFRS and SPRS accidental disability benefit with reduced work-related disability benefit; modifies JRS disability benefit

There are also three legislative bills that the PFANJ has been working on with the legislator’s for some time now and we will continue to push to get the legislation through both houses.

A1469/S1771 – Permits municipality, fire district or authority to approve transfer of certain firefighters from PERS to PFRS

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

A386 – Increases membership of PFRS board of trustees.

On Monday January 9th, after the conclusion of the 214th Legislative session, NJ Assemblyman and Minority Leader Alex DeCroce collapsed and died in the state house. We offer our thoughts and prayers to his family.

IAFF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

On December 19th, General President Schaitberger sent a letter to all affiliates advising that the IAFF will resume contributing to those legislators, political parties, committees and Super PACs from our FIREPAC, but only to those who take the lead on issues critical to our members: to help friends win open seats; and for races that give us the best strategic opportunity to take out one of our enemies.

End of December the following contributions were made by the IAFF:

Congressman Frank LoBiondo - \$ 2,500.00
Congressman Rob Andrews - \$ 5,000.00
Congressman Bill Pascrell - \$ 2,500.00
Senator Bob Menendez - \$ 2,500.00

Congressional Redistricting:

As you know, the NJ congressional delegation changed because of the drop in population in our state. When that happened we went from a 13-member congressional delegation to a 12-member delegation. This has put us in a little bit of a dilemma because it has produced a primary race between two democratic congressmen who have always supported firefighters. Normally, the PFANJ would have stayed out of the primary race, but we cannot this time. The race is between Congressman Pascrell and Congressman Rothman. Because of the strong support that Congressman Pascrell (SAFER and FIRE Act) has given all the fire fighters through-out the United States we have given him our support.

The Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) is in the process of recognizing best practices in EMS by fire departments in the United States. Enclosed in this month's packet is the application.

Important dates and events:

January 21st – St. Barnabas FF Health & Safety Seminar
January 22nd through 24th – IAFF Human Resources Conference
January 24th through 26th – IAFF Affiliate Leadership Conference (ALTS)
February 8th – PFANJ Monthly Meeting
February 10th – St. Barnabas 25th Annual NJ Firefighters Ski Race
February 11th – Asbury Park Firefighters IAFF 384 – 2nd Annual Steak Bake
March 14th – PFANJ Monthly meeting
March 25th through 28th – IAFF Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference

March 29th – PFANJ Valor Awards Dinner
April 11th – PFANJ Monthly Meeting
May 9th – PFANJ Monthly Meeting
May 29th – Annual PFANJ Golf Outing – Atlantic City Country Club
May 28th through June 1st – PFANJ Annual Convention
July 21st through July 27th – IAFF 51st Bi-Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA

Included in January's packet:

- Statement of Finances – submitted by Treasurer Jeff Holtz
- Copy of PFANJ Valor award application
- Copy of PFANJ Golf Outing application
- Flyer for the Valor Awards
- Flyer for the Annual Convention
- Saint Barnabas Fire Safety Seminar
- Copy of letter from IAFF GP Schaitberger – FIREPAC resumes contributions
- Copy of NJ AFL-CIO Labor Fax – Year-end Edition
- Copy of article from Italian American Police Society NJ Magazine January 2012 – Disability Pensions Interview with Pension Chairman John G. Sierchio
- APP – Opinion: EMS bill offers the right remedy
- Reprint of article APP.com – EMS bill would raise costs, threaten volunteer network
- Reprint of article: Christie blasts sick-day payouts
- Copy of APP comment: - Sick leave unhealthy for towns
- Reprint from NJ.com – I want to clarify my position on sick/vacation day payouts: Brian Stack
- Reprint of article from NJM Magazine: Can we expect more municipalities to consolidate or regionalize?
- Reprint from NJM Magazine: 2012 legislative priorities
- Reprint from NJM Magazine: Governor Christie's second half begins
- Reprint from NJM Magazine: Together we can make NJ a Beacon for America (Governor's remarks at the 96th annual NJLOM conference in AC 11/17/11)
- reprint of article from NorthJersey.com – Englewood Cliffs to appeal arbiter's decision in police salary dispute
- copy of letter from NJ AFL-CIO: NLRB appointments
- Reprint of Article from Spokesman.com – Federal Judge voids two new Idaho anti-union laws
- St. Barnabas 25th Annual NJ Firefighters Ski Race flyer
- Reprint of opinion from APP.com – Sick-time reform is common sense
- Reprint of opinion from APP.com – B- for Gov. Christie in year two