

President's Report

September, 2007

Respectfully Submitted By Keith B. Kemery

It is my sincere hope that this report finds the Executive Board, President's and Delegates of the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey in good health and circumstances. Since the passing of President Tom Canzanella, the PFANJ Executive Board has been working with the leaderships of Locals 2081 and 3172 to insure that Tom's family continues to be fully and properly cared for.

The State of Our Union:

The Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey is operating smoothly and efficiently. All transitional issues related to the efficient operation of our organization continue to be addressed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PFANJ Executive Board, President's and Delegates for their efforts to date. Continuity within our organization has and continues to serve our represented members well. We can further our efforts by maintaining good lines of communication and supporting our State and International union's.

Brother George Borek (Jersey City Local 1066) has been appointed First Vice President and will continue to work with the PFANJ's legislative affairs.

Brother Bill Anderson (Jersey City Local 1064) has been appointed Sixth District Vice President. An appointment to the vacant office of Sixth District Trustee will be forthcoming shortly.

Organizing:

Efforts to charter the MONOC local continue. The MONOC EMT's, Paramedics, MICU Nurses and other represented titles have designated their organization as the Professional Emergency Medical Services Association of New Jersey/IAFF. The charter application for this organization will be submitted to the IAFF in October.

PFANJ Alumni Association:

All Local's are requested to please obtain retiree lists from your respective employers and forward same to the PFANJ office. The information from these lists will be used to send retired members information concerning the Alumni Association and its membership. All information provided will be held as confidential and protected from unwanted use.

Legislative:

Legislative activity continues to be at a minimum with the legislature not in session.

New Jersey Department of Personnel:

The current Fire Promotional Announcement and Examination information for the titles of Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Battalion Fire Chief, Fire Captain and Lieutenant are provided, along with other related information, with this report.

The Supreme Court of New Jersey:

The Supreme Court of New Jersey has ordered major changes for the criteria applicable to the granting of an accidental disability pension. The changes should make it easier for members to file for and receive an accidental disability pension for disabling injuries. Stark and Stark has provided information related to this.

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety:

Chief of Staff Don Huber (Irvington FD ret.) has transferred from the Division to the Distressed Cities Unit of Local Government Services. It has not been determined as yet whether or not the resulting vacancy in the Chief of Staff position will be filled. We wish Chief Huber success in his new capacity.

Pension Litigation:

The pension litigation continues to be in the discovery phase at this time. Further reports will follow regarding this as developments occur.

Important Dates and Events:

- September 24: Newark Firefighters and Officers Annual Golf Outing.
- September 25 & 26: New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference in Atlantic City
- October 1: PFANJ Golf Invitational Benefiting the Family of the Late President Tom Canzanella
- October 1 through 3: First Ever New York and New Jersey Caucus, Atlantic City, N.J.
- October 21 – 25: IAFF John P. Redmond Foundation Symposium in Chicago, Illinois.
- November 13 – 16, 2007: N.J. League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City
- November 14: Presidents and Delegates Meeting in Atlantic City. Location TBA.
- December 3: President's and Delegates Meeting at the Marriott, Lafayette Street, Trenton. Room to be announced.
- December 3: PFA/FOP Holiday Gathering at the Marriott, Lafayette Street, Trenton.