

President's Report

January 9, 2008

Respectfully Submitted By Keith B. Kemery

On behalf of your Executive Board and First District Vice President Gallagher, I would like to wish the PFANJ's Local Presidents, Delegates and Represented Membership a Happy New Year. I hope each and every one of you and your families had a happy and safe holiday season.

While making this New Year wish, I regretfully report that the first week of 2008 has been a tough one for the IAFF's First and Forth Districts.

On Wednesday, January 2 North Hudson Squad Company 10 and Rescue Company 2 met at an intersection and crashed into one another while responding to a report of a building fire. Thankfully, all members involved in the crash have been treated and released for injuries sustained with the exception of Captain Kirk Miick. Brother Miick continues to recover.

Also on Thursday, January 2 FDNY Fire Lieutenant John H. Martinson died of smoke inhalation and burns while operating at a 14th Floor fire in a 25 story multiple family apartment building. Brother Martinson leaves behind a 22 month old son, John Patrick and his wife Jessica who is pregnant with their second child.

On Sunday, January 6, Scranton, Pennsylvania Fire Captain James L. Robeson (IAFF Local 60) died while operating at a residential fire that also killed an elderly couple. Brother Robeson and another firefighter were in a tower ladder platform when it contacted electric lines. Two other firefighters on the ground were also injured.

The aforementioned only serves to remind us of the dangers inherent to our chosen profession. BE CAREFUL AND STAY SAFE IN 2008. Please hold the families of our lost members in your prayers as we also pray for a speedy recovery and return to the line for Brother Miick as well as the injured members from Scranton, PA. Local 60.

Battalion Chief Gerard Rosamilia (Local 1860 – Newark Fire Officers Union) retired effective December 1, 2007. Brother Rosamilia served in numerous capacities during his thirty years of service including Vice President of Local 1860 and the PFANJ 5th District. A celebration of this occasion will be held at 7:00 PM on February 1, 2008 at the Iberia Peninsular on Ferry Street at Prospect Street. The cost is \$30.00 per person. All those wishing to present a plaque or speak at the event are welcome to do so and are requested to RSVP Local 1860 by January 15, 2008.

Resignations from PFANJ Executive Board:

As previously reported at the December Presidents and Delegates meeting, Brother Scott Evans has assumed the Office of Mayor of Atlantic City. As a result, Brother Evans has resigned his position as Third District Vice President of the PFANJ.

Brother Richard Blohm has been promoted to the position of Acting Fire Chief for the City of Hoboken. As a result, Brother Blohm has advised that he will be resigning his position as First District Vice President of the PFANJ.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Local Presidents and Delegates, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brothers Blohm and Evans for their leadership, friendship and service to this organization and its represented membership. We wish you success in your newly assumed positions of responsibility.

Executive Board Appointments:

Pursuant to the Constitution and By-laws of the PFANJ, the following appointments have been made to vacancies within the Executive Board.

- Brother Charles Grieco (President, Hackensack Fire Officers Local 3172) has been appointed as First District Vice President.
- Brother Larry Smith (Camden Firefighters Local 788 and PFANJ 3rd District Trustee) has been appointed as Third District Vice President.
- Brother Bill Rodgers (Atlantic City Firefighters Local 198) has been appointed as Third District Trustee.

All appointees will serve out the balance of their respective un-expired terms of office. At the request of Jersey City Firefighters Local 1066, the Sixth District Trustee position shall remain vacant at this time.

Pension Litigation:

The PFANJ and FOP are in the process of entering into the necessary agreement to have our discovery submitted by February 15, 2007. As previously reported, our legal council has also reviewed the State's submitted discovery and determined same to be incomplete. Further reports will follow as developments occur.

Pension Loan Issues:

Effective January 1, 2008, pension loan rates are 4.69% with an \$8.00 administrative fee. A full explanation of changes to pension loan procedures is included within this report package and posted on the PFANJ website. This information was received only hours prior to the Presidents and Delegates meeting in December and initially reported upon at that time.

Police and Fire Pension Trustee Election:

Brother George Borek (PFANJ First Vice President) has secured the necessary signatures to appear on the ballot of the PFRS Trustee Election. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brother Borek for his service, not only to this union and its represented membership but to all firefighters throughout New Jersey. I would also like to thank all those who have supported Brother Borek by way of signing the petitions supporting his candidacy. Ballots will be mailed to PFRS employers on April 1, 2008. Further, up to the minute, information regarding Brother Borek's candidacy will be forthcoming as developments occur.

New Jersey Presidential Primary:

The New Jersey Presidential Primary will be held on February 5, 2008. Please do all that is necessary to insure that our members are registered. PLEASE VOTE!!!

New Jersey Department of Personnel:

First Level Fire Officer is January 26, 2008. Second Level Fire Officer is January 17, 2008. These are the dates in the Orientation Guides.

Emergency Medical Services System Review:

As previously reported, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services is taking comment and input from interested parties with regard to the recently issued independent review of New Jersey's emergency medical services delivery system. An initial position statement is in the process of being drafted. Brother Tom Joranda (Local 384, Asbury park) is leading this effort.

Important Dates and Events:

January 20-23, 2008 IAFF Human Relations Conference in New Orleans

January 23-25, 2008 IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit in New Orleans

February 5, 2008: New Jersey's Presidential Primary. PLEASE VOTE.

March 9–12, 2008: IAFF Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference in Washington, DC

April 12, 2008: PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch

May, 2008: PFANJ Convention & Affiliate Leadership Seminars, Atlantic City, NJ

June 10, 2008: (TENTATIVE): Thomas P. Canzanella

New York / New Jersey IAFF Caucus & Convention in Albany, N.Y.

June 25, 2008: Annual PFANJ Beach Barbeque at Martell's Tiki Bar, Point Pleasant, N.J.

August 10–15, 2008: 49th IAFF Biennial Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada