

President's Report  
April 2010

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**Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President**

I would ask that you remember Firefighter Darius Hunt. FF Hunt, 41 years old and a 15-year Veteran of the Englewood Fire Department IAFF Local 3260 died on Sunday April 4, 2010 in a tragic motorcycle accident. FF Hunt was married with two children.

**Our annual Valor Award ceremony was held this past Saturday. There were over 250 people in attendance. This year we had a guest reader. Radio personality Joe Bartlett from WOR Radio 710am accepted our invitation to read the narratives of the valor awards.**

**PFANJ Annual Convention – June 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> at Harrah's Hotel and Casino**

**PFANJ Annual Golf Outing – June 1<sup>st</sup> at Harbor Pines**

MDA Boot Camp will be held during May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The meeting location has not been determined yet. Please keep an eye out for the meeting notice with the location.

**PFRS PENSION ELECTION:**

The upcoming pension election will be very important to the members of the PFANJ!

**Our Candidate is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President George Borek.**

Now more than ever it is imperative in getting representation on the Pension board.

The election packages will be mailed to employers on or about April 1, 2010 for distribution to eligible voters. The packets will be mailed by a new vendor, Election America, and voters will be able to cast a vote either by mail, telephone or internet. Specific directions for voting will be included in the election packet.

**Pension Litigation:**

The Judge cooperated and will not require anything further from us. He will enter an Order granting summary judgment to the State and Legislature, based on the decision in the Teachers case, so that we can immediately file our appeal with the Appellate Division. The attorneys for the Teachers Union have filed for certification to the Supreme Court. After we receive the Order from Judge Innes, we will ask the Appellate division for extradited treatment so that we can file our briefs with them and hopefully move it up to Supreme Court as quickly as possible. We will keep you advised.

As part of the International's communication efforts, the IAFF has launched the IAFF Frontline Blog.

The blog is designed to communicate with IAFF members with commentary, news and updates instantly on issues important to them and to the IAFF.

To view the blog, go to: <http://blog.iaff.org>

The IAFF encourages participation in blog discussions. The blog is open to all, but only IAFF members can post comments to the blog entries by logging on. The comment period is 72 hours.

As you express your views, please abide by the Frontline Blog Decency Rules, which are posted on the main blog page. The IAFF reserves the right to remove remarks that are considered offensive or are racist, sexist or vulgar.

#### **LEGISLATION:**

As you are all aware the Governor signed legislation that directly affected every firefighter currently working and all future firefighters. You have heard many things and I'm sure are still somewhat confused. Included in this month's packet is a breakdown of all three bills that were signed into law on March 22nd and that they go into effect on May 21, 2010.

With respect to the position that legislators and Governor have taken on Firefighters and public workers is reprehensible. They have let all UNION workers down! Some are hanging their hats on the FACT that the governor lied to all firefighters. Although this is true, we cannot rely just on this fact. Very few politicians have been able to hold true all their CAMPAIGN promises! The average citizen doesn't care that the Governor might have not told the truth. They are concerned that they are "hurting" financially, and they have very little sympathy for anyone else.

Our position with respect to all this has been and will continue to be the ability for a UNION to collectively bargain for a fair wage and benefits.

We have retained the law firm of Mets Schiro & McGovern to research to see if there is any avenue that we can pursue that would attack these legislative bills.

We are also joining with the NJ AFL-CIO and the various labor unions through-out the state for a media campaign that gets the UNION message out to the general public that we are not the villains, enemy or bad guy!

These are many other legislative bills that all fire fighters need to be aware of! 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President George Borek is compiling a complete list and will have it on the website shortly.

## **Important dates and events:**

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Annual St. Florian Mass  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – PFANJ Annual Golf outing – Harbor Pines Golf Club & Estates  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> – PFANJ Annual Convention  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Battle of the Basin – Guns vs Hoses (Fighting to help fight cancer)  
IAFF Local 198  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – IAFF 50<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual Convention

## **Included in April's packet:**

PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 3/31/10  
Borek for Pension Trustee Flyer  
Copy of letter to all members with respect to the PFRS Pension Trustee election  
Sample of PFRS ballot  
Copy of Valor Award recipients  
TD Bank fund raiser  
June 1<sup>st</sup> Golf Flyer  
Article – Officials investigate if labor union officials on leave from N.J. jobs are breaking federal pension laws  
Estimated PFRS Pension Payments for all employers  
IAFF 2010 Media contest application  
IAFF 2010 Convention Information – Important Dates to remember  
IAFF 2010 Convention Travel information  
PERC Names, addresses and Phone numbers  
SAVE THE DATE – Cocktail Reception June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
List of Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearings  
List of Assembly Budget Committee hearings  
March 8<sup>th</sup> letter sent to all union members  
Article – Public safety personnel face chopping block  
Memorandum from PFRS – Chapter 1, P.L. 2010  
Memorandum from PFRS – Chapter 2, P.L. 2010  
Memorandum from PFRS – Chapter 3, P.L. 2010  
Chart of how all legislators voted – AGAINST UNIONS  
March 26<sup>th</sup> Press release  
Senator Sweeney's interpretation of the Chapter 1, 2, 3 P.L. 2010  
League of Municipalities interpretation of the Chapter 1, 2, 3, P.L. 2010  
2009 SAFER Applications by department type  
March 31, 2010 letter from US Senator Daniel K. Inouye to Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano  
IAFF breakdown of what the National Health Care bill means to firefighters  
Alliance for Retired Americans – comments on the Health Care Reform relative to seniors  
Citizens Public Adjusters Inc., Flyer and application  
9 Night Bermuda & Caribbean Cruise – June 23, 2011 through July 2, 2011 Flyer and application  
Article – Setting a fiery scene for officials

Article – Gov ups ante in wage-freeze fight  
Article – Trenton tax showdown coming?  
Article – Stafford PBA files lawsuit challenging recent police layoffs  
Article – Teachers, Christie continue to spar  
Article – Tuckerton, police agree on new contract  
Article – Teachers must heed call for pay freeze  
Article – Bitter battle widens over education  
Editorial – Civil Service protection helps New Jersey  
Article – Tax breaks cost state over \$15B  
Article – Southern comfort!  
Article – State calls for renegotiating ‘too expensive’ Jersey City police and fire contracts  
Article – Gov lauds unions in 96 districts taking pay freeze  
Opinion – Salary pay cap not the answer  
Letter – Trenton continuing to pass the buck  
Opinion – Adding taxes isn’t relief  
Opinion – N.J. tax breaks require analysis  
Article – State offers teachers a break on benefits contributions if they accept pay freeze  
**The following are from the Monthly publication of the League of Municipalities – April 2010**  
Article – Top Ten Reasons why everyone should stop trying to merge towns  
Article – Legislative update – League of Municipalities  
Article – Republican Senators see best chance for reform in years  
Article – Trenton’s Sea change  
Article – It’s all about cutting  
Article – The effect of A-1619 on the Tax Sale law  
Article – Furloughs: Déjà vu all over again  
Article – The State’s Tendency to take from the municipal tax pie