

President's Report

February 2009

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

April 4th 2009 – PFANJ Valor Award Brunch

All submissions must be in the state office no later than February 27th.

Pension Litigation:

We are waiting for the Judge to set a new court date.

PENSION:

Senate Bill 7 and Assembly Bill 3688 are stalled at this point because in either house, there are not enough votes to get it passed "yet". But with the amendment that was done on Thursday February 5th there might be some maneuvering with the legislators. We have included the amendment in this packet. It basically reduces the payback of the deferment from 30 years to 15 years and it does not create a separate account for municipalities that want to continue to pay their full amount. Now under the bill if a municipality wants to pay 100%, they can and it would go directly to the pension system, not a separate account.

LEGISLATION:

The Assembly passed the following bills on Thursday February 5th.

A-770 (Extends payment of accidental death benefits in PFRS, SPRS, PERS and TPAF to survivors of certain members of reserve component of Armed Forces and National Guard.) This bill now goes to the Senate.

A-3481 (Provides certain law enforcement officers and firefighters regain pay status when appeals of termination are not resolved within 180 days). This bill now goes to the Senate.

S-1851 (Requires criminal history background checks for paid firefighters employed by fire districts). This bill now goes to the governor.

Per Capita Mailing address change:

The new address for locals to remit their per capita payments is:

Professional Fire Fighters Association of New Jersey
P.O. Box 116
Sewaren, NJ 07077

PFANJ Constitution and By-Laws:

We apologize for the delay in getting the Constitution and By-Laws updated and printed. When done we will advise as to when we will distribute them to the local presidents. I again ask that all presidents contact the state office to verify the correct address.

PFANJ Legislation:

We have not started our campaign with the legislators to get the Thomas P. Canzanella 21st Century Health Bill (S569 and A1330) on a committee agenda so we can start moving this bill. Because of the economy and the pension bills, we are waiting for the opportune time to begin. With the help of the IAFF we were able to put a pamphlet together that we can hand to a legislator when we are lobbying them to vote in favor of the bill. Once we get it into committee we will be reaching out to all the local leadership to contact their respective legislator to gain support. This is a very important piece of legislation for all firefighters throughout the state.

We will also be campaigning to get an equal share of PFRS board trustees. The bill number is Assembly- 3436 and it would create two representatives from each of the four groups, PFANJ, FOP, PBA and FMBA.

Another piece of legislation is to get our members who are in PERS the ability to get into PFRS. We have reached out to Senator VanDrew who has a bill introduced that deals with this issue, and he has agreed to include "fire districts" and "authorities" so that our members would be covered. We spoke with Senator VanDrew and he is in the process of adding the wording we need. Once the bill is in committee we will reach out to the locals for help. Much support will be needed for this.

AFFF (Assistance to Fire Fighter's Families) Act: Permits the State of New Jersey to pay a one-time benefit to families of fire service personnel if they die or are killed in the line of duty or sustain a debilitating injury resulting in a permanent disability. This bill has not been introduced yet.

A list of legislative bills that the PFANJ are tracking is on the website.

A complete list of legislative bills was handed out at a previous meeting. If you need another copy or did not get a copy, you can go on our website (www.pfanj.org) and under governmental affairs print out a copy. A copy is also part of the February State meeting packet.

March Meeting – Open membership meeting is 3/11/09

Retired members – our 7th district is working to get all our retired members back in the process. The reason the 7th district was formed was because of all the knowledge that our retired members have in the many years of negotiating and dealing with mayors

and council members. This knowledge is vital to our members and we want to maintain it. We urge all of our current local leaders to get to the office a name and address list of all the retiree's so that we can mail them information with respect to the 7th district.

Is Sleep deprivation affecting the quality of your life?

We have teamed up with two groups to serve all PFANJ members throughout the state.

Saint Barnabas Sleep Center:

Included in this February meeting packet is a brochure on the sleep center. Aside from St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston, there are two other locations that you can use: Community Hospital in Toms River and Monmouth Medical Center. Community Medical Center is located in Toms River, you can talk to Brian Somers or Kathy Feeney. At Monmouth Medical Center there is another lab and you can contact Bea Grissman.

The other company is called: Sleep Better LLC

A copy of their brochure cover is included in the meeting packet.

Also Included in the packet for this meeting is also a brochure on Cardiac CT for Calcium scoring. Cardiac CT for calcium scoring is a convenient and noninvasive way of evaluating whether you may be at increased risk for a heart attack. The exam takes little time, causes no pain, and does not require injection of contrast material. No radiation remains in a patient's body after a CT examination. X-rays used in CT scans usually have no side effects.

PFANJ Members benefit book

We are in the process of putting a booklet together that will outline all the benefits that a PFANJ member has on a state and federal level. There will also be area's that the member will be able to include benefits that are relevant to him specifically from his own department.

Department of Personnel:

The February 2009 Fire Fighter announcement has been **postponed until February 2010**. The Fire Fighter lists that were issued in November 2007 will be extended for one year or until the next cycle of lists issue, whichever comes first. This will allow for greater use of existing lists which have been underutilized due to budget cutbacks in many municipalities.

NEW JERSEY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PUBLIC SAFETY TESTING
Fire Service Status Report Date: February 2009
Included in this packet

With respect to the Fire Officer 1 exam, the DOP has extended the old lists until the new lists are released from the DOJ. If you are not aware, there is an investigation going on in Camden with respect to the possibility of a breach in the test. (Article included in this packet)

As things develop and we are notified, we will send out the information.

Fire District Elections and Budget vote – February 21st

Chemical Concern - Fire Resistant Uniform Pants

FYI in Florida there is a local affiliate who has had some issues with the fire resistant chemicals that are used in station wear. I was informed of this the other day

Presently the IAFF is telling all of their local affiliates to take a wait and see position until NIOSH concludes their investigation. At that time if the IAFF feels it is necessary they will send out a safety bulletin notifying all local affiliates.

This has to do with the material, called antimony that is used as a fire retardant; I have also been advised that Harrison Fire Department is wearing this type of station wear.

Important dates and events:

- February 21, 2009 – Wings Lacrosse – IAFF Local 4408 fund raiser
- February 27, 2009 – St. Barnabas Ski Race
- February 28, 2009 – Hackensack FD Beefsteak Fund Raiser
- March 1st – 6th, 2009 – IAFF Political Training Academy – Washington DC
- March 15TH – 18TH, 2009 – IAFF Legislative Conference – Washington DC
- March 22, 2009 – Woodbridge Township FF's Local 290 St. Baldrick's Foundation, Shaving for Kids
- April 4, 2009 – PFANJ Valor awards Brunch – Hyatt of Jersey City
- May 26th – 29th – PFANJ 69th Annual Convention – Bally's of Atlantic City
- June 15th – 19th, 2009 – IAFF EMS Conference –
- July 17, 2009 – Trenton Thunder – PFANJ fund raiser
- August 16th – 19th, 2009 – IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit (ALTS) – Denver, CO
- September 19th, 2009 – IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial – Colorado Springs, CO
- November 8th – 12th, 2009 – IAFF Redmond Conference – Los Angeles, CA

Included in February's packet

- PFANJ Valor applications and related paperwork
- PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 1/31/09
- PFANJ Scholarship application
- Woodbridge Local 290 – St. Baldrick's Foundation
- Hackensack FD Beefsteak Fund Raiser flyer

Flyer for Pastor Jerry – supplemental health insurance
Article – Law says drivers risk ticket if too close to shoulder – 2/3/09
Article – Assembly amends pension proposal – 2/6/09
Article – N.J. Jobless rate jumps – 1/21/09
Article – N.J. Jobless rate hits 7.1% – 1/22/09
Article – The Economy/Massive job loss bumps Unemployment rate to 7.6% – 1/23/09
Article – Marlboro notify nine they will be laid off – 1/23/09
Article – County Workers protests demand for wage freeze – 1/23/09
Article – Questions for promotion exam found – 2/1/09
Article – Ailing Boca Raton FF's blame chemical in pants – 1/10/09
Article – Chemical concerns cause two Fire Departments to stop using Fire resistive pants – 1/16/09
Article – Atlanta – 2/2/09
Article – North Plainfield Firefighters rescue women – 2/3/09
Article – Black ice causes crash at emergency scene – 2/20/09

