

President's Report April 2009

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

Long time PFANJ friend – Retired Elizabeth Fire Captain Donald Silvi passed away last month. Don was a true friend of the fire service and we will miss him.

Pension Litigation:

We have been given a new date of April 24th for our case to be heard. We will keep you advised. We have added an additional complaint with respect to the legislature underfunding the pension system for 2009.

PENSION Legislation:

As you are aware the pension bill has passed through the Senate and Assembly which allows municipalities to only pay 50% of their pension obligation, while we continue to pay our full amount. Included in this packet is the breakdown by municipality as to what it means to each department.

LEGISLATION:

Senator Van Drew has introduced, at our request, S-2689 which requires pension loan interest rate in PFRS (and others) to be no more than 4%. Milam and Albano have the same bill in the Assembly--A-3789.

Thomas P. Canzanella 21st Century Health Bill (S569 and A1330): 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. We are asking that our local's contact their respective legislators and ask them to sign on as a support of this bill. If you have a commitment from your legislator, we ask that you advise us of their commitment.

A-3436 creates two representatives from each of the four groups, PFANJ, FOP, PBA and FMBA.

S-2689 returns pension loan interest rate in TPAF, PERS, JRS, PFRS and SPRS to maximum 4%.

Copy of bill is included in the March packet.

PERS the ability to get into PFRS. Senator Van Drew has drawn up a draft of a bill at our request to give members of the PFANJ that are in PERS the ability to get into the PFRS. Once we have a bill number, we will advise all local leaders.

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.

With Respect to Maplewood, NJ – and the possible layoffs of members:

The jobs were saved. Maplewood will be getting 13% over 4 years (2007-2010) and will pay \$500/year towards hospitalization. They still have a meeting to adjust several other items, the main one being to get an additional year on our contract at 3.5%.

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.

Economy:

Many locals are experiencing reductions through retirements, few if any promotions and almost no hiring's. They are also constantly under the "threat" of layoffs and demotions. Until the economy starts to turn for the better, we will continue to experience this type of atmosphere. Be diligent and crafty to hold on to what you have until better times.

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. Our goal is to have it completed by Convention.

We have completed the Constitution and By-Laws and will have them printed and will distribute them at the Convention.

Department of Personnel:

Civil Service Emergency Rule Change:

Included in this month's meeting packet is a copy of the emergency rule that was adopted. We have been in contact with the Governor's office and have expressed our anger with it. Most of our departments are or have been operating with a bare minimum or below minimum of fire fighters to efficiently and safely bring an emergency situation to a resolution. To allow a department to furlough any of our members is

jeopardizing the public and our members. We will keep the pressure on the Governor's office to spare our members any furlough days.

<http://www.state.nj.us/personnel/newsroom/press-09/032509.htm>

The word we are getting on the FO1 test release is that it should be soon. From what we can gather, the DOJ has completed its investigation and will be returning the lists to the DOP with "whatever" recommendations. As soon as we get any official word, we will advise all locals through the email and website.

There are strict DOP guidelines that a municipality/department must follow with respect to Layoffs. If you are faced with layoffs and or demotions, you must notify the state at the onset so that we can best advise and assist.

Important dates and events:

May 26th – 29th – PFANJ 69th Annual Convention – Bally's and Caesar's of Atlantic City
May 31st – Cinnaminson Uniformed Firefighters 2nd Annual Motorcycle Poker Run
June 14th – St. Barnabas Bike Ride Fundraiser – Livingston NJ
June 15th – 19th – IAFF EMS Conference –
June 29th – Mychal's Playground Fund Raiser
June 30th – PFANJ Beach Blast – Martell's Tiki Bar
July 17th – Trenton Thunder – PFANJ fund raiser
August 16th – 19th – IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit (ALTS) – Denver, CO
September 19th – IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial – Colorado Springs, CO
November 8th – 12th – IAFF Redmond Conference – Los Angeles, CA

Included in March's packet

PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 3/31/09
Call to Convention
PFANJ Scholarship application
Copy of Valor Award recipients
St. Barnabas fund raiser 6/14/09
Fund Raiser for Mychal's playground 6/29/09
Pension Loan requirements
Civil Service Emergency Rule Change
Safer Grant totals by State
Safer Grant recipients
Proposed Estimated Pension Billing amounts
Letter from NJ Fire & EMS Lifeline
Notice from Senator Beck-Assemblyman O'Scanlon-Assemblywomen Casagrande
Article – Corzine throws in towel in on property tax deduction 3/20/09
Article – Layoffs Loom – 3/20/09
Article – Layoffs coming to Hoboken Police, Fire and city workforce 3/19/09
Article – Booker proposes furloughs for Newark 4/1/09
Article – Newark Mayor proposes furloughs 3/31/09
Article – Pension Bill has 5.5 million cost for county 3/19/09
Article – Unions seek to block state employee furloughs 3/31/09
Article – Unions Balking at pay freeze – layoffs 4/4/09
Article – Fix is in – Alternative Minimum Tax – 4/4/09
Article – Jobless rate hits 8.5% - 4/4/09

Notice – MSA the Safety Company 2/11/09
Notice – User Advisory – 1/14/09
Notice – Air Masks – 12/16/08
Notice – Universal Rescue Connection 7/17/08

