

President's Report

February 13, 2008

Respectfully Submitted By Keith B. Kemery

Minor Housekeeping Matters – Your Assistance Will Be Greatly Appreciated:

In order to maintain continuous communication and insure prompt dissemination of information throughout Our Union for the benefit of our represented membership, I respectfully request that all locals please insure that the following be filed with the PFANJ office as well as IAFF Headquarters in Washington, DC as soon as possible if same has not already been done.

1. Your Local's current contract agreements(s).
2. A current membership roster with accurate mailing addresses.
3. Listing of current Local Executive Board members with accurate contact information.

Please endeavor to also insure that your local is represented whenever possible at delegate meetings, annual conventions of the PFANJ and IAFF as well as other IAFF events. Finally, please insure that information obtained from delegate meetings is forwarded out to all stations within your local.

IAFF First District:

First DVP Kevin Gallagher is attending the IAFF Executive Board meeting this week. DVP Gallagher requests that any needs or requests for service be forwarded to the PFANJ office or our IAFF State Representatives.

IAFF Legislative Conference:

The IAFF Legislative Conference is scheduled for March 9 –12, 2008. All locals planning to attend are requested to confirm same with the PFANJ office via pfanj@aol.com. We will walk Capitol Hill on Tuesday, March 11. Consistent with practice, the PFANJ office is in the process of securing appointments with our various federal legislators.

Annual PFANJ 10 Week Club:

Treasurer Dominick Marino has 10 Week Club available. All locals are asked to support this annual endeavor which directly benefits Our State Union.

Annual PFANJ Valor Awards:

Our annual Valor Awards Brunch is scheduled for April 12. Event information, as well as how to nominate a member, unit or other individual for meritorious service, has already been sent out to all locals. Contact the PFANJ office if you did not receive your information. Nominations for awards are due in no later than February 29, 2008. This event showcases the meritorious work of our members. Please support this event and this year's award recipients by taking an add in the journal and attending the event. If a unit or member of your Local is being recognized, consider inviting elected officials from of your town. You won't have a better public relations opportunity than this event to show what your chosen profession is about.

DOP Fire Officer 1 Examination:

You will find correspondence regarding problems relating to the NJDOP's Fire Officer 1 (Lieutenants and Captains) examination held on January 26, 2008. As you will note within the correspondence, we have requested a meeting with the DOP to review the problems as well as a means to correct the situation.

Pension Litigation:

We have secured the services of our Actuary and are in the process of having our discovery submitted. We also await the decision in the New Jersey Education Association's litigation. That decision is due any day. Further reports will follow as developments occur.

Police and Fire Pension Trustee Election:

Brother George Borek (PFANJ First Vice President) has secured the top position on the election ballot. Further information with regard to Brother Borek's candidacy will be forthcoming to all locals and the membership shortly. Pension election ballots will be mailed to PFRS employers on April 1, 2008. Further information will be forthcoming as developments occur. Brother Borek is assisting with the Jersey City Firefighters Ski Race today. The ski race benefits the Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation. Brother Borek is available to any Local membership wishing to meet with him.

New Jersey Presidential Primary:

The New Jersey Presidential Primary was held on February 5, 2008. As previously indicated, the IAFF is expected to make its intentions known during the Legislative Conference. Please do all that is necessary to insure that our members are registered. PLEASE VOTE IN NOVEMBER!!!

Emergency Medical Services System Review:

As previously reported, an initial position statement is in the process of being drafted and will be released in the very near future. Brother Tom Joranda (Local 384, Asbury Park) is leading this effort.

Saint Florian Mass, Newark:

Newark's annual Saint Florian Mass will be held in April. Brother Jack Doll has requested that this year's mass be dedicated to Tom Canzanella. Further detailed information will follow shortly. All Locals and members are requested to do what is necessary to make a good showing and pay well deserved respect to our Late President.

IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service:

President Tom Canzanella's name will added to the memorial wall in Colorado Springs, CO this year. We are in the process of obtaining information for those wishing to attend this moving event which pays the ultimate tribute to our fallen members and their families.

Legislative and Health & Safety Committees:

All Locals are requested to forward the names of members available to service on these committees as soon as possible. Reorganizing of these committees is part of our continuing endeavors to further involve the membership in Our Union. Your assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Important Dates and Events:

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

April 12, 2008: PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch

May 27 - 30, 2008: PFANJ Convention & Affiliate Leadership Seminars, Atlantic City, NJ

June, 2008: 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

September 20, 2008: IAFF Memorial Service, Colorado Springs, CO.