

State President's Report

January 2007

Respectfully submitted by: Thomas P. Canzanella

Little has transpired in Trenton post the successful Public Employee "Back-off" Rally back in December. On that note, many are already or will attempt to take credit for the fact that few in the way of so-called reform measures called for by the various committees empanelled to study pensions, health benefits, regionalization, consolidation and-the-like have moved forward. We've got one outfit claiming they we're cutting a deal to save us all while we were outside protesting. It is my belief that a lack of consensus on the part of legislators, pressure applied by public employee unions and the Governor's office, have all played a significant part in the current lack of legislative in activity. There can and should be no doubt that the mere existence of the PFANJ/NJFOP pension lawsuit has weighed heavily in favor of at least for the moment, derailing several pieces of adverse legislation. Make no mistake about it we are in no way out of the woods as witnessed by recent remarks part of the Governor's State of the State message. As a side note, while the Public Employee Rally continued outside IAFF GP Schaitberger, National FOP President Chuck Canterbury, NJFOP President Ed Brannigan and I, met with Governor Corzine for nearly an hour discussing many of the issues that remain in contention relating to our pension.

DOP Recruiting Summit

On December 14th we attended a meeting of various labor and fraternal organizations with an interest in fire workforce diversification as is intended by the 1980 Consent Decree. While many strides have been made to this end much remains to be done all the while assuring that all forms of discrimination including such in reverse be eliminated. We continue to press for an apprenticeship program targeting high school and even college students allowing inner city youth's to take the entrance exam as a promotional, and the development of a program targeting the recruitment of veteran's of our Armed Forces. More than anything else the current Consent Decree some 27 years in duration needs to be revisited towards addressing today's current needs and thinking.

IAFF National Legislative Conference

March 11 – 15, 2007, Hyatt-on-Capitol Hill Washington, DC

PFANJ Valor Awards

Saturday, April 28, 2007, at the Hyatt-on-the-Hudson in Jersey City.

Official Valor Award Application is part of today's packet, also to be mailed to each local president. All submissions to be posted at the State Office by February 28, 2007, accompanied by an authorization for application signed by the local president.

PFANJ Annual Convention & Affiliate Leadership Seminar

Tuesday, May 29 – Friday, June 1, 2007, at Caesars' Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City.

PFANJ Bravest Charity Golf Outing

Friday, June 1, 2007, at Seaview Marriott Resort in Absecon, just outside Atlantic City.

Public Employment Relations Commission/NJ State Bar Association Conference

Friday, April 20, 2007, Brunswick Hilton Hotel, East Brunswick, NJ