

President's Report January 2009

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

LODD – Fire Fighter Gary V. Stephens – Elizabeth Fire Department IAFF Local 777

Brother Stephens, 57, was killed early Saturday morning, January 2nd, after being struck by a fire truck during a backing operation after he slipped on ice. He was an acting Captain operating at an arson fire in an abandoned building that spread to an occupied home. The suspected arsonist, a homeless man that was living in the unoccupied building, has been arrested and charged. Brother Stephens was the Vice President of Local 777 and is survived by his wife Natalie. Our thoughts and prayers are with Natalie, the Stephens family and the Elizabeth Fire Department.

April 4th 2009 – PFANJ Valor Award Brunch

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

Pension Litigation:

The December 19th court date was postponed by the Judge and we are waiting for the Judge to set a new court date.

PENSION:

Senate Bill 7 was put forth by Senator Codey. It went into committee on Thursday December 11th and released from committee for a full vote on Monday (today) December 15th. As you know, this bill was pulled because they did not believe they would have the necessary votes to get it passed. The struggle now is between Senator Codey who wants the bill to get passed and Senator Sweeney who does not want the bill to pass.

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 are still in the process of getting the Constitution and By-Laws updated and printed and 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 will be starting our campaign very soon with the legislator to get the Thomas P. Canzanella 21st Century Health Bill (S569 and A1330) on a committee agenda so we can start moving this bill. 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 January State meeting packet.

The Economy:

There still does not seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel for the economy. I cannot stress enough that now more than ever all locals need to be mindful of the financial stability or non-stability of their respective municipalities. If you are going into negotiations, make sure you have all the facts and be very resourceful and crafty. Remember, we have EARNED everything we were able to negotiate; no one just gave it to us.

March Meeting – Open membership meeting 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.

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 Department of Personnel is looking to delay the fire fighter announcement because very few jurisdictions utilized the existing lists.

DOJ thinks it's a good idea to delay and they believe that they will be able to amended the court order to allow testing at least every three years not two, but they have not done anything official as of yet.

The DOP believes they can delay a year and still have new lists out well before the fourth year statutory expiration date.

We have made our concerns known to the DOP that we are not in favor of delaying the entrance announcement.

Battalion Fire Chief Announcements are projected for release February 1st, 2009.

The oral test is projected to be administered in May 2009 and the written test to follow in the Fall 2009.

The next Fire Chief test (which was announced in August 2008) is projected for late January/early February 2009.

The Deputy Fire Chief exam (which was announced in December 2008) is projected for late March/early April 2009.

With respect to the Fire Officer 1 exam, the DOP has extended the old lists until the new lists are released from the DOJ.

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

Is Sleep deprivation affecting the quality of your life?

We are still in the process of putting a program together for firefighters through a number of credible institutions. Once we get the program in place, we will notify all locals.

NIOSH – Firefighter Fatality investigations 1998 – 2005

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2009-100/pdfs/2009-100.pdf>

February Meeting – MDA BOOT CAMP

The February meeting will be held at the Ocean Place in Long Branch.

<http://www.oceanplaceresort.com/>

A flyer is included with the December packet to all attendees and it is on the website.

Important dates and events:

January 17, 2009 – 20th Annual St. Barnabas Burn Foundation FF Health & Safety Seminar
February 6th – 8th, 2009 – IAFF Attorneys' Conference – Miami, FL
February 11, 2009 – PFANJ State meeting
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
April 4, 2009 – PFANJ Valor awards Brunch – Hyatt of Jersey 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 January's packet

PFANJ Valor applications and related paperwork
PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 12/31/08
MDA letter and registration for 2/11/09
AFL-CIO Fire Commissioner Election Training Seminar Flyer
PFANJ Scholarship application
Hackensack FD Beefsteak Fund Raiser flyer
Little Falls FD training expo flyer
Advisory on Air mask audi-larm
Advisory on SCOTT HUD quick disconnect hoses
High Rise Symposium – FDNY
NJ AFL-CIO Labor Fax – 12/19/08
Article – Atlantic City unions reject calls to change contracts – 12/29/08
Article – Proposal to cut, for now, towns pensions payments – 1/2/09
Article – Federal Bailout may go to states – 1/3/09
Article – Payroll deductions take effect to fund new family leave law – 1/6/09
Article – Governor seeks extra 812million in cutbacks – 1/6/09
Article – Economists, Corzine Clash over economy – 12/29/08
Article – Corzine delays state budget introduction until March – 12/30/08

Article - Corzine to make budget changes - 12/29/08
Article - Corzine targets pension funding - 1/6/09
Article - Codey: NJ Pension deferral plan still alive - 12/30/08
Article - Unions can do their part - 1/12/09

