

President's Report January 2010

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch – April 10th, 2010 – Hyatt of Jersey City

Pension Litigation:

The current status is we are awaiting a date for our lawsuit to be heard. The teachers case was heard by the Appellate Division the second week in December. The Court gave no indication when a decision might be issued in the Teachers case. Generally, the Appellate Division makes their rulings within 45 or 60 days of the argument, so a decision can be expected by early February.

As for our case, we still have not been provided by the Court a new date for the arguments on the various motions.

Swine Flu (H1N1):

We continue to urge all local leaders to keep current with the ever changing updates.

LEGISLATION:

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

The list will be updated after the new session begins.

On December 23rd, George and I, along with the FOP met with State Senator Steve Sweeny to discuss the PFANJ's legislative agenda.

S2986 - SYNOPSIS

Requires local unit public employers to maintain and preserve retiree health benefits of PFRS retirees at least at the same level as provided at employee retirement.

STATEMENT

This bill would require an employer who is a local unit to provide to a retired employee who is a member of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System, and to the retired employee's dependents, not less than the same health care benefits coverage as was provided to the retired employee at the time of his or her retirement, without any alteration, change, modification or diminution. The language of the bill does not preclude an improvement in the retired employee's health care benefits coverage, or any increased cost paid by the employer for the health care benefits coverage provided to the retired employee and to the retired employee's dependents.

"Health care benefits coverage" is defined in the bill to mean health benefit premium payments and other related costs, major medical payments, hospital benefits, dental benefits, prescription benefits, Medicare Part A and Part B reimbursements and any other benefits which are provided to employees by the employer upon retirement.

SCI Report: State Commission of Investigation

A public hearing was held on Thursday January 7th. VP Borek attended. The hearing was to discuss the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation (SCI) Report, "The Beat Goes On" and Waste and Abuse in Local Government Employee Compensation and Benefits; New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Division of Local Government Services Performance Audit of the City of Newark. To say the least this hearing did not bode well for labor and management. The final product of a negotiated contract may not "appear" to the average citizen as fair compensation, but the final product does not show what was "given" in return.

Important dates and events:

January 24th – 27th – IAFF Human Relations conference
January 27th – 29th – IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit
January 28th – Union Blood Drive – "NJ Save 3 Lives" Campaign
February 13th – Local 4395 Benefit "Sock Hop"
February 23rd – 21st Annual Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation FF Health and Safety Seminar
February 24th – 2010 Occupational Safety and Health Education Conference
February 26th – Annual NJ Firefighters Ski Race to Benefit St. Barnabas Burn Center
March 14th – 18th – IAFF Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference
March 19th – 20th – 7th Annual Women in Leadership Development (AFL-CIO)
April 10th – PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch
June 1st – 4th – PFANJ Annual Convention
August 22nd – 28th – IAFF 50th Bi-annual Convention

Included in January's packet:

Copy of Letter sent to the NJ Senate and Assembly on A4362 and S3136
PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 12/31/09
2010 Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference agenda
Report from Ray Heineman with respect to Governor's powers and CBA's.
Letter from General Secretary/Treasurer Vincent J. Bollon
Senate Bill 2986 and Assembly Bill 4254
Assembly Bill 4375
Article – Public Pensions face \$2 TRILLION Deficit across the United States
Report on our legislators in Washington as of December 2009
Copy of application for Fire Fighter Entrance exam
New Jersey Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute Membership Guide
Update from Congressman Rush Holt
7th Annual Women in Leadership development Seminar
New Jersey Firefighters 23rd Annual Ski Race application
2010 Occupational Safety and Health Education Conference application
Information on the Senate and House Health Care Bills (Comparison)

New Insurance Benefits available to IAFF Members
21st Annual Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation Firefighter Health & Safety Seminar application
Article – What Every Firefighter’s Spouse Should Know
Article – from the League of Municipalities magazine (Resolutions passed)
Article – from the League of Municipalities magazine (2010 Legislative Priorities)
Article – from the League of Municipalities magazine (How Limiting State Mandates can lower Taxes)
Article – Education and Detection Combat firefighter cancer risks
Article – Last Call for lame ducks in Trenton
Article – Christie and Corzine strike a deal on nominations
Article – Christie picks a familiar face to lead homeland security
Article – Christie’s ax aimed at taxes
Article – Chris Christie transition team
Article – The two men behind Christie’s transition
Article – No shortage of ideas on how to eliminate government waste
Article – Courage required to curb excessive benefits
Article – Some DEMOCRATS want another pension deferment
Article – Proposal to tighten pension eligibility
Article – Christie picks Democrat for attorney general
Article – Pension deferrals an option for 2010
Article – Christie bending on Arbitration?
Article – State treasury officials freeze more spending
Article – Christie must put an end to unfunded state mandates
Article – Big stick needed for consolidation
Article – Christie looks to streamline boards
Article – N.J. pension enrollment limits sought
Article – Audit questions scope of pension fund fees
Article – Christie to review pension laws
Article – Incoming Governor makes his first big mistake
Article – Jersey tax collections fall for first time in seven years

PFANJ Valor Award Application