

President's Report

March 19, 2008

Respectfully Submitted By Keith B. Kemery

Highlighted Local Assistance In Progress (Not All Inclusive):

Hackensack Locals 2081 / 3172: On February 29, 2008, the City administration announced its intent to privatize the basic life support emergency medical services currently provided by the Hackensack Fire Department. The privatization will result in the layoff of eight Local 2081 Emergency Medical Technician members. Immediately upon being notified of the city's intent, Locals 2081 & 3172, the PFANJ and the IAFF began work to avoid this action. Further reports will follow as developments occur. Please provide any assistance possible to our Hackensack locals should the need arise.

Robinsville (Formerly Washington Township, Mercer County) Local 3786: On February 22, 2008, just prior to a scheduled mediation session regarding collective bargaining negotiations, the township announced the intended layoff of two firefighters from the Robinsville Fire Division citing financial reasons. Local 3786, the PFANJ and IAFF have been working diligently to resolve issues relating to the transfer of fire service from a fire district to township control since the change occurred effective January 1, 2007. The local has reserved its rights with regard to the township's intended action, two mediation sessions have been held since the announcement and a third is scheduled for the near future. Further reports will follow as developments occur.

Annual PFANJ 10 Week Club:

As previously reported, Treasurer Dominick Marino has 10 Week Club available. All locals are again asked to support this annual endeavor that directly benefits Our State Union.

Pension Litigation:

There have not been any developments to report with regard to our pension litigation. We continue to await the decision regarding the New Jersey Education Association's litigation. Further reports will follow as developments occur.

PFRS Mortgage Program: Funding for this program remains depleted at this time. Vice President George Borek is in contact with the Division of Pensions and will report further as developments occur.

Police and Fire Pension Trustee Election:

Locals are reminded that pension election ballots will be mailed to PFRS employers on April 1, 2008. Please support Brother Firefighter George Borek (Jersey City Firefighters Local 1066) in his bid for election to the PFRS Board of Trustees.

IAFF Endorsement for 2008 Presidential Election:

During the just concluded legislative conference, General President Schaitberger advised the delegation that the IAFF will not make another endorsement regarding the 2008 Presidential Election until at least August. Again, please do all that is necessary to insure that our members are registered. PLEASE VOTE IN NOVEMBER!!!

IAFF Supports Local 198 Brother Scott Evans for Mayor of Atlantic City:

General President Schaitberger will visit Atlantic City on April 17, 2008 to headline a labor fundraiser on behalf of Brother Firefighter and Atlantic City Mayor Scott Evans. Further information will follow as it is received. Please save the date.

Emergency Medical Services System Review:

The PFANJ is attending meetings of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council and is in continued contact with various other organizations, including the New Jersey State Career Fire Chiefs, relating to the New Jersey EMS System Review issued in August, 2007. Brother Tom Joranda (Local 384, Asbury Park) will Chair the PFANJ's related EMS Committee, the organization of which is being finalized.

IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service:

As previously reported, President Tom Canzanella's name will added to the memorial wall in Colorado Springs, CO this year. Information for those wishing to attend this service is attached for your review and information. Secure room accommodations as soon as possible. Availability sells out quickly.

Legislative and Health & Safety Committees:

There is still a need for members to serve on these committees. All Locals are requested to forward the names of available members as soon as possible. The reorganization of these committees is part of our continuing endeavor to further involve the membership in Our Union. Your assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Important Dates and Events:

April 12, 2008: PFANJ Valor Awards Brunch

April 17, 2008: Labor Fundraiser for Brother Firefighter and Atlantic City Mayor
Scott Evans

April 18, 2008: 28th Annual Conference on Public Sector Labor Relations Law
New Brunswick, New Jersey

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

June 11 and 12, 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.