

President's Report

March 2009

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

April 4th 2009 – PFANJ Valor Award Brunch

The High and LOW points of the Governors Speech 3/10/09

Pension Litigation:

We have been given a new date of April 24th for our case to be heard. We will keep you advised.

PENSION Legislation:

All pension bills that have been introduced to somehow help the state and municipalities with the economic crisis at this point have been forestalled. There are bills that are sitting that range from allowing the municipalities to only pay a portion of their pension obligation for a certain number of years and then pay full amount up to allowing the municipalities to “bond” for the money owed. At this point, we have been advised that no bill has enough votes to pass. George has been keeping in constant contact with the state legislators to ensure that they maintain that position.

LEGISLATION:

A3481/S1336 – Governor Corzine signed into law the 180-day bill.

PROVIDES CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS REGAIN PAY STATUS WHEN APPEALS OF TERMINATION ARE NOT RESOLVED WITHIN 180 DAYS.

Copy of bill is included in the March packet.

PFANJ Legislation:

Thomas P. Canzanella 21st Century Health Bill (S569 and A1330): 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. We are asking that our local's contact their respective legislators and ask them to sign on as a support of this bill.

A-3436 creates two representatives from each of the four groups, PFANJ, FOP, PBA and FMBA.

S-2689 returns pension loan interest rate in TPAF, PERS, JRS, PFRS and SPRS to maximum 4%.

Copy of bill is included in the March packet.

PERS the ability to get into PFRS.

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.

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.

Economy:

Many locals are experiencing reductions through retirements, few if any promotions and almost no hiring's. They are also constantly under the "threat" of layoffs and demotions. Until the economy starts to turn for the better, we will continue to experience this type of atmosphere. Be diligent and crafty to hold on to what you have until better times.

ON the IAFF website there are over 144 articles from through-out the United States of fire departments that the economic crisis is affecting. This number grows daily. We invite you to go on the IAFF website and read what is happening across the United States to our brothers and sisters.

<http://www.iaff.org/09News/EconomicCrisisNews.htm>

Newspaper and article headlines – not included in this packet

(Too many trees would have to be cut down)

- NJ's public employees must accept cuts – Record 2/4/09
- Vallejo Modifies agreement with Police – 18% reductions – 2/9/09
- Trim Health, pension costs now – Daily News 2/9/09
- Sheriff Ambulance rushes to towns' aid – Record 2/10/09
- Unions inflicting labor pains on gov – NY Post 2/9/09
- Tears hard to come by for union members who chose their wallets over their colleagues – South Coast Today 2/12/09 (New Bedford)
- New Bedford Police, fire unions shoot down pay cuts – Boston Herald 2/12/09
- New Bedford union informational meeting turned into unexpected vote – South Coast Today 2/12/09
- Even layoffs have steep price tag for New Bedford – South Coast Today 2/12/09
- Police, Firefighters, city cope with layoffs – South Coast Today 2/13/09
- City hands out pink slips – South Coast Today 2/13/09
- New Bedford workers start receiving layoff notices – South Coast Today 2/12/09
- Taxes rising to cope with boost in spending – Herald News 2/13/09
- Tax protest today at noon in WNY – Jersey Journal 2/13/09
- WNYers rally against tax hike – Jersey Journal 2/14/09
- Paramus pay cuts approved – Bergen Record 2/14/09
- Fire department promotion sparks political charge – Jersey Journal 2/16/09
- Tenafly police talks head to arbitration – Bergen Record 2/15/09
- 315 extra firefighters add to FDNY \$\$ crisis – New York Post 2/15/09

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. Our goal is to have it completed by Convention.

Department of Personnel:

The February 2009 Fire Fighter announcement has been **postponed until February 2010**. The Fire Fighter lists that were issued in November 2007 will be extended for one year or until the next cycle of lists issue, whichever comes first. This will allow for greater use of existing lists which have been underutilized due to budget cutbacks in many municipalities.

WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRE OFFICER 1 EXAM, THE DOP HAS EXTENDED THE OLD LISTS UNTIL THE NEW LISTS ARE RELEASED FROM THE DOJ. THERE IS AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION IN CAMDEN WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A BREACH IN THE TEST.

AS THINGS DEVELOP AND WE ARE NOTIFIED, WE WILL SEND OUT THE INFORMATION.

Health and Safety:

EDISON TOWNSHIP FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE SAFETY UNIFORMS TO TOWN'S FIREFIGHTERS

Edison, NJ – Edison Township has been found in contempt of court for failing to follow a court order upholding an arbitrator's decision that the town is required to provide firefighters with staging uniforms annually under the terms of its contract with the firefighters union. These uniforms are made of fire retardant material and are essential for a firefighter's protection. (rest of article included in Packet)

Response to Nuclear Detonation

The Homeland Security Council released planning guidance this month for what is considered one of the most catastrophic incidents that could occur in the U.S.: a nuclear detonation in an American city. "Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation" was written for the Emergency Services Sector (ESS), elected officials, public works, transportation, health, and other metropolitan emergency planners.

The guide was created to provide nuclear detonation-specific response recommendations to maximize life preservation in an environment with a severely compromised infrastructure. The information focuses on response activities for the 24- to 72-hour timeframe "when it is likely that many federal resources will still be en route to the incident." Organized in a "stepwise manner," it uses terminology and concepts of the National Planning Scenario #1, and the National Response Framework. It offers general background information that lays a foundation for specific planning recommendations that are, the guide states, "based on what is currently known about the consequences of a nuclear detonation in an urban environment."

Specific chapters of the guide examine a zoned approach to nuclear detonation response, shelter/evacuation, early medical care, population monitoring and decontamination, and detonation effects and impacts in an urban environment. "Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation" (97 pp. 869.21 KB) is available at [this link](#).

http://hps.org/hsc/documents/Planning_Guidance_for_Response_to_a_Nuclear_Detonation_FINAL.pdf

To further assist responders, the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) located "Resources for Nuclear and Radiation Disaster Response," a 6-page article that delineates the deployment and functions of organizations that can respond to radiation crises such as federal and state government agencies and the military, including the National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams. The article can be seen at <http://hps.org/hsc/documents/Sep06NNResources.pdf>. Additional Homeland Security Committee documents are available at the web site of the Health Physics Society (<http://hps.org/hsc/documents/index.html>).

NIOSH Personnel Safety Alert

A National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) draft Alert examines a long-standing incident scene danger: deaths and injuries suffered by Emergency Services Sector (ESS) personnel working in or around unoccupied structures, or structures where no clear evidence indicates that people are trapped inside. In 71 NIOSH investigations from 1998 to 2007, 54 incidents occurred at unoccupied structures and accounted for 75 percent of the 96 deaths, and 89 percent of the 106 injuries.

According to the Alert, interior (inside a structure) and offensive (aggressive) firefighting operations increase the risk of traumatic injury and death from structural collapse, burns, and asphyxiation. It states, "Unoccupied structures, whether in current use, under construction, under renovation, or condemned, must be considered expendable in order to decrease the risk to firefighters."

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center's (EMR-ISAC) most recent article on this topic discussed an ESS organization's proactive strategy change for responses to incidents at vacant and abandoned buildings, based on increases in personnel injuries. It can be seen at the [third article of the 28 February 2008 INFOGRAM](#).

To mitigate this threat to personnel, the foremost of internal critical infrastructures, the Alert presents 18 recommendations categorized for firefighters, departments, incident commanders, and incident safety officers. Each is followed by one or more action steps to further clarify how ESS organizations can implement the recommendations.

The draft Alert, "Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Firefighters When Fighting Fires in Unoccupied Structures," (16 pp. 171.KB) can be downloaded at [this link](#).

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/141/pdfs/DraftAlertUnoccupiedStructures.pdf>

To provide feedback about the draft Alert by 5:00 p.m. EST, 9 March -2009, see the instructions at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/141/default.html>.

Taken from the EMR-ISAC CIP INFOGRAM. For contact information, please see below. (To unsubscribe or update your e-mail address, please use the link at the bottom of the newsletter.)

PSE&G customers get new tool in Outage Center

The Outage Center, an on-line tool that allows PSE&G customers to track power outages in their areas, became available on the PSEG Web site, www.pseg.com, on Feb. 10. The Center features a map of New Jersey, and allows customers to click on their county and municipality to check on any electric outages.

The Outage Center is available from the PSE & G Customer Service drop-down menu. Customers can view outages either on the interactive map or on a table-driven view of the county and municipal levels.

The Center's Customer Outage key uses both colors and shapes. Each color and shape combination corresponds to a range of power outages – for example, the orange square shows outages for between 501-2,000 customer accounts and the green circle shows outages between 2,001 and 5,000. The five color and shape combinations represent the five ranges of outages for those customers who have trouble distinguishing colors.

"The Outage Center was designed to be intuitive and user friendly," said Tracy Kirk, front office team lead for the iPower project. "It is a collaborative effort between the iPower project, corporate communications, electric delivery and IT."

"Best practices from other utilities have shown that customers, regulators and the media value this tool and, despite a power outage, will find a way to get online and use it," she said.

The information is updated every 15 minutes via an automatic feed from the utility's outage management system. After iPower goes live on March 30, the Outage Center will be linked to the self-service features of the new enhanced Web site, and customers will be able to report outages online.

Subject: RE: Asbestos & Firefighters

Two years ago there was asbestos.com (which is still out there). Then the IAFF found it was a law firm (and not a labor firm) in Florida basically drumming up litigation business with a fancy website and of course they were offering a free link to their website!!!

Then there was asbestos.net. This does not seem to be a law firm, but a bunch of writers putting together resources on asbestos and exposures.

The section on fire fighting is not "thorough" as claimed. The IAFF is not sure what their purpose is, except that they track your email address and sections of the sites that you went to.

Now there is Mesothelioma Watch. This site is a news blog that is very limited on how it addresses mesothelioma and asbestos cancer. The section on fire fighters is very limited, in fact pitiful. Also, the link to "who we are", doesn't work, and even though it was searched, it cannot be found who they are and of course what they are getting for having you put their URL on your site. Again you don't get something for nothing.

The IAFF is advising that you ignore. If you or members in your local need information on asbestos, let us know.

Important dates and events:

March 15th – 18th, 2009 – IAFF Legislative Conference – Washington DC
March 22, 2009 – Woodbridge Township FF's Local 290 St. Baldrick's Foundation, Shaving for Kids
April 4, 2009 – PFANJ Valor awards Brunch – Hyatt of Jersey City
May 26th – 29th – PFANJ 69th Annual Convention – Bally's and Caesar's of Atlantic 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 March's packet

PFANJ Balance Sheet as of 2/28/09
PFANJ Scholarship application
Trenton Thunder – Game 7/
Key provisions provide aid to struggling communities
Woodbridge Local 290 – St. Baldrick's Foundation
Local 3091 – Poker Night Fundraiser flyer
Poster for NJ – National Poison Prevention Week 3/15 through 3/21
Copy of A3481 that was signed into Law on 3/6/09
Article – Edison Township found in contempt – 3/09
Article – Person Down in Auto/New way to commit suicide – 3/09
Article – Reverse Discrimination case – 1/9/09
Article – 3 suburban NY officers suspended in Facebook Flap
Article – NJ job losses on pace to top 265,000
Article – NJ's deficit up another \$1.5; Furloughs planned 2/27/09
Article – Corzine to replenish one trust fund with cash from another – 2/20/09
Article – Corzine proposes state employee furloughs – 2/17/09
Article – 11 will be laid off in Freehold Twp. – 2/27/09
Article – NJ investigates \$185M in health-care spending on dependents – 2/12/09
Article – Hoboken prepares to enter contract negotiations – 2/19/09
Article – Furlough for state workers – 2/18/09
Article – Corzine stands firm on possible state worker furloughs – 2/18/09
Article – Camden mayor will not seek re-election – 2/25/09
Article – New Study focuses on crew size – 2/6/09

Article – Two Florida Fire Captains fired following probe – 2/4/09
Article – Sacramento Plans to furlough fire trucks – 2/9/09
Article – Fatal Connecticut Fire spurs concerns – 2/17/09
Article – North Haven Firefighters hot over staffing – 2/17/09
Article – Senator Touts stimulus – 2/17/09
Article – Jobless rate in New Jersey at 15-year hiring – 3/5/09
Article – Up to 34 to lose jobs as school is closed – 3/6/09
Article – Corzine prepares state agencies for layoffs – 3/6/09
Article – Layoffs top 600,000 for 3rd month – 3/7/09
Article – When does recession become depression? - 3/8/09

