

President's Report October 2008

Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President

Pension Litigation:

We have reached out to our legal team for an update and we will post it on the Website.

PFRS Pension Trustee election:

In support of our Brothers within the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police, the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey endorses candidate Tim Ahearn for the position of Retired PFRS Pension Trustee. Kindly distribute this information amongst your membership.

2008 Federal Legislator's Election:

The AFL-CIO is looking for firefighters to assist with phone banks, walks, flyer distribution, etc. Any member interested in getting involved should contact the state office. There is a list of dates when the AFL-CIO will be having Labor Walks included in this packet.

PFANJ Constitution and By-Laws:

It was our intention to have copies of the revised Constitution and By-Laws at this meeting to hand out to the locals. We were unable to get it proof read and printed in time. We feel confident that we will have a copy for each local in November.

PFANJ Legislative agenda:

The state legislators are back in session and are busy at work. We check and monitor their listed agenda on a daily basis. We must be diligent, and respond when adverse legislation is introduced. I ask the local leadership to stay involved in the legislative process. The only way we maintain a level playing field and to have a voice in Trenton is to be involved. The Thomas P. Canzanella 21st Century Health Bill is in the process of being introduced. 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. Another piece of legislation is to get our members who are in PERS the ability to get into PFRS. We have reached and believe we have secured a member to introduce this piece of legislation. Since it is a pension bill, timing is everything. Much support will be needed for this also.

We have also been told of a draft being drawn up and looking for sponsors that states:

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.

At last month's meeting a complete list of legislative bills was handed out. 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.

Add to the list of legislative bill's we are tracking:

S-1374 - Designates September 11 each year " September 11 Remembrance Day" in New Jersey.

We support this bill

We are in support of the following Legislative Bills:

A279, A770, A793, A876, A911, A1031, A1208, A1292, A1294,

A1330, A1801, A1893, A2104, A2129, A2133, A2685

S317, S425, S569, S1073, S1091, S1210, S1261, S1274, S1336,

S1375, S1392, S1732, S1750

We are apposed to the following Legislative Bills:

A926, A1194

The following Legislative Bills are being monitored:

A660, A917, A924, A925, A1012, A1016, A2192, S1772

The following Legislative Bills we are studying:

A2104, S1576

The Economy:

I am sure most if not all of you have been watching with great concern the state of the US Economy. I know I don't have to point out as to why, but the domino effect could be adverse to our profession. When a municipality has to make cut's in its budget because of the economic downhill slide, we as union leaders will have our work cut out

for us to maintain what we have worked so hard over the years to get for all our members. Remember, we have EARNED everything we were able to negotiate; no one just gave it to us. As there are new "younger" union leaders now leading our local's, they need to keep in touch with the retired members so that they have a working knowledge as to what transpired during previous negotiations. This could be vital in preserving a contract.

While we are on 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 as to the 7th district.

Department of Personnel:

There will be an announcement in December for Deputy Chief's test. The remainder of the Company Officers test results should be out by January 2009.

Issues of Concern that are being closely watched:

The DCA's takeover of the financial oversight of Hoboken, NJ

NJ State Police – attempt to corner the market on "certifying" Hazmat County TEAMS! We have been in contact with the Department of Homeland Security – Director Canas, Division of Fire Safety – Director Petrillo, and others to assure that we are not left out in the process. Here is what we know now; – DEP will be looking to add a new rule that calls for the institution of a curriculum development team. This "team" will be made up of representatives from the DEP, DHSS, NJSP/HMERP and DCA/DFS. The hope is that all of our concerns are addressed prior to the rule change being distributed. If our concerns are not addressed prior to it being distributed, we will have the review process to make any comments as to our concerns.

Important dates and events:

October 16th, 2008 – St. Barnabas Burn Foundation Valor Award Dinner –

November 18th – 21st, 2008 – NJ League of Municipalities convention in AC – Meeting date TBD

November 19th – PFANJ State meeting in Atlantic City - Sheraton

December 7th – 9th, 2008 – IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Summit (ALTS) – Phoenix, AZ

December 15th, 2008 – Holiday Gathering with Local and Federal Legislators – Trenton NJ

February 6th – 8th, 2009 – IAFF Attorneys' Conference – Miami, FL

March 1st – 6th, 2009 – IAFF Political Training Academy – Washington DC

March 15th – 18th, 2009 – IAFF Legislative Conference – Washington DC

June 15th – 19th, 2009 – IAFF EMS Conference –

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

