

# President's Report

## September 2008

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**Respectfully Submitted – Dominick Marino, President**

### **Pension Litigation:**

Our legal team has filed a Summary Judgment Brief in the beginning of August. We believe we have a strong legal position showing that the judge's last adverse decision in the Teachers' case, for which she cited no legal support, was contrary to the decisions in other states that considered these issues. The return date for the motion before the judge is set for September 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Summary judgment is a legal term which means that a [court](#) has made a determination (a [judgment](#)) without a full [trial](#). Such a judgment may be issued as to the merits of an entire case, or of specific issues in that case.*

### **PFRS Pension Trustee election:**

If you're not aware, we again fell short in our goal to elect George Borek. George lost the election by 274 votes. (2255 to 2529) We as an organization must look to work now to ensure that we elect a PFANJ member to a pension trustee position in the next election. Pension trustee position is vital to our members.

### **2008 Presidential Election:**

As you are aware the IAFF has endorse Senator Barack Obama for President and Senator Joe Biden for Vice President. The IAFF website gives each member a very in depth analysis as to why Senator Obama and Senator Biden are the right people for the positions. There are various videos and documents that this decision was base on. I would suggest that each member view these documents and videos. A Union chooses a candidate based on how that individual's position is on their members issues.

The AFL-CIO has also endorsed Senator Barack Obama and Senator Joe Biden.

### **Atlantic City Mayoral election:**

Brother Evans was not successful in his bid to continue as Mayor of Atlantic City. With the remaining few months and all the while he was in office, the Atlantic City fire department has benefited. While we are disappointed that he will not be continuing as mayor, we welcome him back into the rank and file as a dedicated union leader.

### **PFANJ Convention:**

Our convention this year was a tremendous success. The delegates took action on 10 resolutions and when the convention was over our union was geared up to go forward. By passing the debt reduction resolution, and many locals sending in the assessment

right away, we were able to pay-off the commercial loan on July 16<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your prompted payments. The PFANJ Constitution and By-Laws were also revised. Copies will be available at our October state meeting.

**IAFF Convention:**

The IAFF Convention was the largest attended convention in the history of the IAFF. All the resolutions are listed on the IAFF website. The IAFF per Capita has changed as of September 2008.

**PFANJ Legislative agenda:**

Included in your packet is a list of all the legislative bills that 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Borek is keeping an eye on. Our major legislative goal is to get the Thomas P. Canzanella 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Bill passed. We will be working on this in the upcoming months and we will be asking all members to contact their legislators to gain support.

**Districts:**

I have asked all district vice-presidents and district trustee's to stay in contact with their locals on a monthly bases. Local presidents and delegates should contact their respective district Vice-President when requesting assistance. The district VP will then handle the request or forward it to the appropriate Vice President – George if it is a Legislative issue or Joe if it is a labor issue.

**Department of Personnel:**

The department has started to issue Promotional lists. Hackensack, Jackson, Mount Laurel, Perth Amboy Fire Captain lists were issued on 9/3/08 and the promulgation date is 9/11/08 and they're expiration date is 9/10/11. We are still waiting on the other lists to be issued; we will keep you posted as we know.

Inside the packet is the September update for the Department of Personnel.

**Issues of Concern that is being closely watched:**

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey applied to convert to a for-profit company!  
The DCA take-over of Hoboken, NJ  
NJ State Police – attempt to corner the market on “certifying” Hazmat County TEAMS!

**Important dates and events:**

September 20<sup>th</sup> 2008 – IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial – Colorado Springs, CO.  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 – The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Newark Fire Department Memorial Golf Outing  
September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Oktoberfest in Newark  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – PFANJ State meeting  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – St. Barnabas Burn Foundation Valor Award Dinner –

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

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

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Holiday Gathering with Local and Federal Legislators – Trenton NJ

February 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – IAFF Attorneys' Conference – Miami, FL

March 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – IAFF Legislative Conference – Washington DC

