



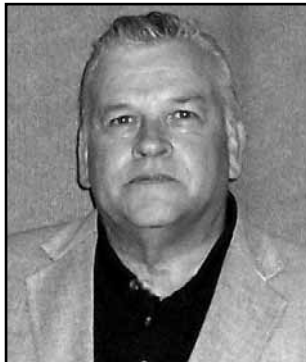
UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 109, April, 2012



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

Retiree Pension Board Seats

After nearly 20 years of pursuing a voice on the operation of our Retirement System, it appears that the election process is finally under way. Although we are pleased that finally retirees will have a voice on the pension board, this will not end the struggle. Under the current ordinance and policy in place the positions for Retired Police Trustee and Retired Fire Trustee, are the only elected representatives from either system that will not receive any form of compensation, and the only ones required to comply with a residency requirement. The Board of Directors of the RDPFFA has approved a continued effort by all means necessary to ensure equal treatment of the retiree representatives of the Pension Board. This includes legislative assistance from State Legislators. I have met with a number of Legislators and they appear to be in total agreement that all elected members including the retirant members of the Pension Boards should be entitled to and receive equal treatment under the law. We will continue to pursue equal treatment for the retirant members, but for now we believe the election process should move forward.

The following is some background on the issue of retiree representation and a short recap of the efforts by the RDPFFA to attain representation on the Police & Fire Pension Board.

RETIRED TRUSTEE'S ELECTION 2012

For Retired Trustee terms ending June 30, 2015

Nominating Petitions available on May 15, 2012

Nominating Petitions to be filed by June 8, 2012

Withdrawal allowed up to June 15, 2012

Candidates to be certified by June 22, 2012

Primary Ballots to be mailed on June 29, 2012

Ballots must be received at AAA by July 13, 2012

Ballots Counted at AAA on July 20, 2012

Primary Ballots to be sealed on July 20, 2012

Final Election Ballots to be mailed on August 3, 2012

Ballots must be received at AAA by August 17, 2012

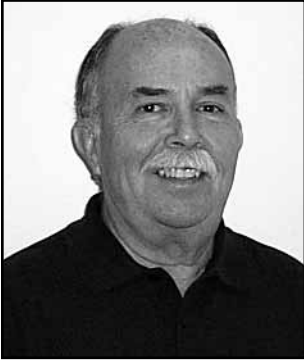
Ballots Counted at AAA on August 24, 2012

Final Ballots to be sealed on August 24, 2012

(Schedule subject to change)

In the early 1990's Detroit City Council passed resolutions and ordinance (19-93) in support of placing a retiree on the Board. A letter dated July 26, 1993 was sent to City Council by the President of the LSA John Storm supporting placing a retiree on the Board. The President of the Detroit Fire Fighters Association Mark Lafferty also sent a letter to City Council his was dated

(continued on page 14)



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

We know that this issue of “**The Unity**” is a few weeks late but there were several issues that your Association was waiting for more information to give everyone the latest updates. I know Don’s article is dealing with several of these matters and I will attempt to update our members on all the events the Association has planned in the next few months. I will begin with the June general membership meeting..

As many of you may or may not know the meeting will be held on June 19, 2012 at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth Michigan. The Association has booked a block of rooms at the Inn for any member wishing to attend. This is a new venture the RDPFFA is attempting and I know that with your support this may develop into a scheduled event. For anyone interested there are still a few rooms remaining, the response has been very


good and the rooms are going quickly, so if you are interested book your room soon. The rooms the Association blocked are \$99.00 a night and are available Monday and Tuesday night. Other rooms may be available at different prices. There will be a hospitality room both Monday and Tuesday with the meeting to begin at 9:30am Tuesday with a breakfast buffet prior to the meeting. Members may bring along spouses, kids and grandkids, we just ask that everyone notify the office with the number in your party so we can ensure the correct amount for seating. The meeting will consist of the normal business along with updates on important information, also arrangements have been made to allow some of our sponsors, who will be available in separate rooms throughout the day, will answer any questions and supply information that may assist everyone. Rooms may be reserved by calling the Bavarian Inn @ **888-775-6343** and using the group number **11J5AA** . It should be a great time and we hope to see you there.

Moving to the month of August 2012, the annual picnic is scheduled for August 11, 2012. This year the picnic is being held at Koping Park located at 47440 Sugarbush Road, Chesterfield Township. So let’s hope for great weather and be sure to mark it on those full calendars of yours.

Next we have the Association’s Annual Golf Outing which is being held on August 24, 2012 at Sunnybrook Golf Club located at 7191 East 17 Mile Road, Sterling Heights. The price will continue to be \$65.00 a person so start getting those foursomes together. There will be more information in the months to come on these events, just mark the dates down.

Now with the month of September 2012, the monthly General Meetings will start on September 6, at the

(continued on page 6)




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Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m till 3:00 p.m.



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Al Grant

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SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

Detroit, financial problems, concessions; a mixture of words frequently used and generally speaking familiar to Police and Fire personnel, above all in contract negotiations through our active working careers. However, in 2011 and 2012, historic and projected conditions emerged in the City of Detroit; they are an Emergency Manager and a State Consent Agreement.

For all too long it has been business as usual in the city and most must have recognized the end was approaching. Through the years wishful thinkers confident that as new administration came to the fore front with an optimistic and new approach the city would change its ways and come back. A brighter future quickly faded and fundamental desires by some leaders to do well were overtaken with self interest, ego, pride and greed.

With sources for money disappearing and outside support fading Detroit must stop business as usual, restructure and move on, even though some feel Detroit was shortchanged on money owed. Case in point, in 1998 the state legislature made a promise to Detroit that if the city reduced its income tax rate, the state would increase revenue sharing over a period of ten years. Revenue sharing money is generated from sales tax collected by the state and distributed to cities to support direct services such as roads, garbage collection, among other things.

In 2003, the state said Detroit did not have to roll back its income tax. Detroit income tax rates for the calendar year 2005 and subsequent years are as follows unless otherwise notified: Resident Individuals 2.50%, Non-Resident Individuals 1.25% and Corporations 1.00%. The perceived money owed if acknowledged by the state would only be a band aid not really changing anything but prolonging the inevitable. What is needed is to do what is right for the city not individuals.

Realistically speaking we know adjustments in the city operations will need to be made although negotiated benefits from past decades should not be part of the

discussions. Retirees should not be burdened or expected to use earned benefits from an earlier time to bail out the City of Detroit. We made our concessions!

The RDPFFA continuously keeps an eye on the events in the City in addition to legislation that could affect benefits earned by our membership. The purpose of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association is to provide members with information concerning the status of pensions, Hospitalization and Insurances and keep the members informed on all matters relative to the best interest of the association and its members. Meeting these objectives cost money such as attorney and lobbying fees, over and above day-to-day operations.

An area for discussion that concerns our association is the steady though slow decline in RDPFFA membership. I believe our membership peaked in 2006 and recognize numbers are what they are. While out of the approximate 7,700 active members there are over 1,100 who have not joined the association. We need to locate and encourage those retired members to join. The additional dues will assist the operation and as everyone knows all retirees benefit from the associations efforts.

I will be providing a list of retired non-members for our people to review. The initial listing will soon be posted on our web page www.rdpffa.com followed by an updated list in the July "Unity" magazine for those who do not have access to a computer. Members are encouraged to promote and assist our association by welcoming non-members to join the RDPFFA preferably by filling out a payroll deduction form for \$3.00 a month or make an annual payment of \$36.00.

A final side note to the membership is that any member is welcomed to use a RDPFFA office computer during business hours Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Stop by and Say Hi - enjoy a cup of coffee or a cold beverage.

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Hospitalization

John Devoy

Just another reminder if you are eligible for Medicare you must take both parts "A" and "B" and send a copy of the Medicare card to Human Resources located on 2 Woodward Suite 1026 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center Detroit, Michigan 48226-34445

In the coming year there should be another open enrollment for your Health Care. Make sure that you read very carefully all the material sent to you by the City of Detroit. Also save all this material so that you can refer to it if necessary.

Another reminder, June 18-19 a General Membership meeting will be held in Frankenmuth, MI for reservations at the Bavarian Inn call – 989 480-7928 ask for Natalie Nagy.

Also we are meeting in Las Vegas, September 24-28, at the Tropicana Casino for reservations call 586 739-4444. Ask for Deborah Ruemenapp (Travel Agent). At both of these meetings there are speakers on many subjects that you may be interested in. Try to attend.

Welcome New Members!

January

Brown, Harry - Fire
Collins, Lisa - Police
Pearce, Dennis - Fire
Ruseski, Mark - Fire

February

Barbarich, Edward - Fire
Davis, Brian - Police
Deck, Georgia - Police
Diegel, Mark - Police
Parker, Odell - Fire
Pierce, Sandra - Police
Pierrie, Willie Lee Jr. - Police
Price, Michael - Fire
Skubik, John - Police
Sulak, Joseph - Fire
Zalak, Lawrence - Police

March

Lewis, Mattie - Police

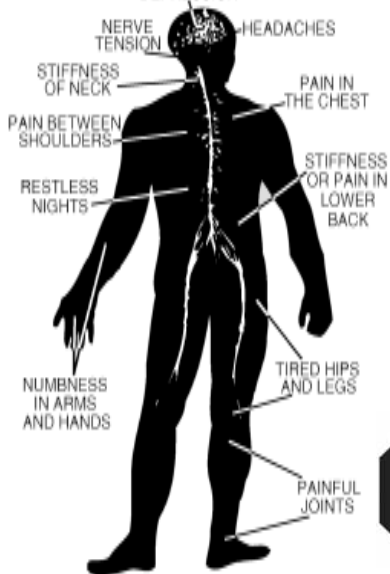
April

Barden-Jackson, Claudia - Police
Berger, Shirley - Police
Chesternut, Rachel - Police
Fairley, Karen - Police
Graham, James - Police
Jackson, Michael - Police
Marchetti, Bryan - Fire
Turner, Gail - Police
Woodland, Lisa - Police

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DPFA,
Former Army
Paratrooper



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of Chiropractic
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| Northwest Detroit Dr. Tom Moses 14243 W. Eight Mile 313-342-5433 | Dearborn Dr. Tom Moses 6549 Schaefer 313-582-5433 www.metrochiroclinics.com |

Detroit Police Department Retired Badges

Silver – \$35.00 EA.*



Gold – \$45.00 EA.*

Available to R.D.P.F.F.A. Members

Contact Retired Detroit Police Officer George Toy at:

(313) 527-3914

*Add \$5.00 for Shipping & Handling. Allow 6-8 Week for Delivery

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

A.P.B. Retirees Luncheon

Third Monday of every month

For Information call: Joe Borri at (586) 791-5552

5th Precinct Oldtimers Luncheon

Second Monday of every month at 11:00 A.M.

Big Boy's at Garfield and Hall Rd. (M-59)

11th Precinct Retirees Luncheon

Second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

Buddy's Pizza - 13 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke

14th Precinct Quarterly Breakfast

Contact Ron Smolka at

734-422-8258 for future schedules

Fire Fighters Breakfasts

First Monday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Voyageur Restaurant – (810) 329-4101

525 Riverside Dr. – St. Clair, MI

First Tuesday of the month at 9:30 A.M.

Step Inn Restaurant

325 N. Main St., Downtown Cheboygan, MI

Third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Omega Coney Island

22501 W. Eight Mile Rd., Detroit, MI

First Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M.

Little Chef Restaurant 101 Brookside Lane,

(Enter off Grand River) Exit 145 off of I-96



Karen Whelan-Rivest

Registered Representative

Millender Center

333 E. Jefferson, Suite 295 • Detroit, MI 48226

Tel: 313-963-4004

Fax: 313-963-4139

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

NEW!

General Membership

Meeting Schedule

THURSDAY AT 7 PM

EAST SIDE/AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, Michigan

May 3 • Sept 6 • Nov 1

WESTSIDE/JOY MANOR BANQUET CENTER

28999 Joy Road - Westland, Michigan

Oct 4 • Dec 6

West Side Silver Ladies*

2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

Archie's – 30471 Plymouth Road – Livonia

Between Middlebelt and Merriman Road

East Side Silver Ladies*

1st Tuesday of the month

Meeting at Filippa's – Time: 2:00 P.M.

Mound North of M-59, Utica, MI

Police & Fire Club of Florida*

Next meeting is 1st Sunday of the month 12:30 P.M.

“October to April” at Brandon Community Center

502 E. Sadie St. - Brandon, Florida

Snowbirds Of Michigan*

Meet 2nd Sunday of the month

May thru December

at “BJ's” Restaurant in Gaylord, MI

Social Hour 11:00 AM – Meeting at 1:00 PM

Nevada Jackpots*

Refer to column for next meeting's location.

*Refer to columns for specifics or program changes

Articles for the July 2012 Issue

should be “submitted” by

June 25, 2012

VICE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

Polish Century Club and continue on the 1st Thursday of each month alternating between the PCC and the Joy Manor. Additionally in September the Annual RDPF-FA Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada beginning on the 24th through the 28th. This year the Conference will be held at the New Tropicana Hotel and Casino. The resort has recently been renovated and the location, on the strip, will allow easy travel between the resorts along Las Vegas Boulevard. Arrangements have been made for anyone planning on attending to contact Deborah Ruemenapp of **JUST CRUISES & VACATIONS** at (586) 739-4444 or (888) 582-6100, **E-mail druemenapp@cruiseshipcenters.com** (see add in THE UNITY).

Because of the continuing changes in air fare the Association was unable to reserve a block of air and hotel packages. By contacting Deborah our members can work with her to confirm your preferred flight times, the price changes constantly and often a few times a day so contact her soon and make your reservations. For anyone who arranges their own air fare or is traveling from another location Debbie will reserve your room at a rate of \$69.00 + tax per night and this includes the waiver of the resort fee, if you chose to reserve your own room you may be able to find a lower rate but remember the resort fee may not be included. Again this year the Association will provide a hospitality room each night along with a Tuesday morning breakfast followed by the informational conference. For those members locally or making their own travel plans that are planning on attending, there will be a minimal charge to help defer costs, of \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, this will allow you entry into the breakfast/conference and the nightly hospitality room along with a chance for one of the cash prizes offered during the meeting plus I'm sure you will win that much and more in the casino.

In closing I hope to see as many members as possible at any of our events and if you have any problems or questions concerning any of the above events or anything else feel free to give the office a call or drop me an e-mail at gregrdpffa@hotmail.com. Until the next time take care and enjoy the spring and summer months.



Silver Ladies

Carol Curley



Congratulations East Silver Ladies!

In March 2012 we celebrated our 20th year anniversary. It's truly a long time for a group to celebrate life! Some of the ladies are the original members. Then many more of us joined at various times. Not enough said about long time friendships and helping each other out in so many ways!

We had our choice of a great dinner at Di Fratelli on Vandyke. Anniversary cake brought in by Marcy Rolf. Decorations and prizes by Carol Bender and Carol Curley. May we be blessed with many more anniversaries together!

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|------|---|
| May | Barb Talley and Corrine Evans |
| June | Mary Rolf, Millie Stone, Delphine Marciniak and Louise Zigmontowicz |
| July | Sophie Zielinski and Wilma Fulton |

January 50 / 50 was won by Millie Stone
February 50 / 50 was won by Irene Brooks
March 50 / 50 was won by Carol Bender

We lost one of our original members, Fern Garner after this article was written last year. Fern was a lovely and intelligent woman. Not only was her husband a police officer, but Fern, herself was a police officer. Integrity was her personage and we will miss her always.

With the warm weather some of our members will again be traveling and some are still not feeling well enough to attend all our meetings, so all please take care and come back soon.

We have had interest by potential members recently and we surely look forward to your coming and checking us out!

For information call Marcy Rolf 586 465-9815 or come visit us on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at Filippa's Restaurant just N. of M-59 on Mound Road.



IN MEMORIAM

Once again, we call the roll and acknowledge those friends and associates who have left us since our last publication. It is hard to let go of good friends but it is easy to remember the good times we shared and realize that now they rest in peace.

December 2011

| Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death | Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death |
|-----------|------|--------|---------------|----------------|------|------------------|---------------|
| York, Max | P.O. | Police | 12-15-11 | Warmack, Percy | | Dept. Chief Fire | 2-10-12 |
| | | | | Wittig, Denis | | Capt. Fire | 2-1-12 |

January 2012

| Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death | Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Babiuk, Michael | Sgt. | Police | 1-8-12 | Barrow, Edward | FF | Fire | 3-1-12 |
| Baglaj, George | Lt. | Police | 1-11-12 | Beaty, Roger | P.O. | Police | 3-13-12 |
| Christophel, Stephen | Sgt. | Fire | 1-4-12 | Bochenek, Leo | P.O. | Police | 3-27-12 |
| Cinnamon, Robert | Lt. | Police | 1-10-12 | Boutin, Richard | Insp. | Police | 3-2-12 |
| Cretu, Nicholas | Bt. Chief | Fire | 1-16-12 | Clark, William | FF | Fire | 3-26-12 |
| Dell, Michael | Capt. | Fire | 1-30-12 | Doyle, Terrence | Sgt. | Police | 3-12-12 |
| Diefenbach, Daniel | P.O. | Police | 1-5-12 | Fuqua, John | Sgt. | Police | 3-5-12 |
| Dukes, James | P.O. | Police | 1-2-12 | Gudebski, John | P.O. | Police | 3-13-12 |
| Kment, Alan | P.O. | Police | 1-2-12 | Klassa, Gerald | Lt. | Fire | 3-8-12 |
| Parrish, Danny | P.O. | Police | 1-17-12 | Konopa, Paul | P.O. | Police | 3-21-12 |
| Schaft, Lawrence | P.O. | Police | 1-30-12 | MacDonald, William | Sgt. | Police | 3-13-12 |
| Sprinkle, Delbert | P.O. | Police | 1-5-12 | McBee, Ronald | P.O. | Police | 3-22-12 |

February 2012

| Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death | Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|----------------------|------|--------|---------------|
| Barthlow, Roger | Sgt. | Police | 2-16-12 | McCrimmon, Raymond | P.O. | Police | 3-1-12 |
| Blanz, Eugene | P.O. | Police | 2-27-12 | Morris, Donald | Lt. | Fire | 3-10-12 |
| Cardinale, Louis | Capt. | Fire | 2-28-12 | Neveau, Francis | Sgt. | Police | 3-8-12 |
| Cartwright, Anthony | P.O. | Police | 2-1-12 | Olsen, William | Sgt. | Police | 3-23-12 |
| Cowan, Harvey | P.O. | Police | 2-28-12 | Otto, Donald | Sgt. | Police | 3-12-12 |
| Dreslinski, Edward | Lt. | Police | 2-4-12 | Poikey, Roger | P.O. | Police | 3-13-12 |
| Fair, Bernell | Sgt. | Police | 2-13-12 | Smith, Gerald | FEO | Fire | 3-8-12 |
| Greer-Travis, | | | | Staniec, Chester | Sgt. | Police | 3-3-12 |
| Almondo (<i>Died Active</i>) | Sgt. | Police | 2-5-12 | Tencza, Norbert | Lt. | Police | 3-23-12 |
| Hagen, Lawrence | Lt. | Police | 2-6-12 | Ward, Gerald | FFDA | Fire | 3-30-12 |
| Marsh, Robert | Capt. | Fire | 2-29-12 | Zdankiewicz, Francis | Lt. | Police | 3-29-12 |

April 2012

| Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death | Name | Rank | Dept. | Date of Death |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|---------------|------------------|------|--------|---------------|
| Mobley, John | Sgt. | Police | 2-7-12 | Banks, Pauline | Lt. | Police | 4-18-12 |
| Murphy, Kenneth | P.O. | Police | 2-10-12 | Baynes, Goebel | Lt. | Police | 4-14-12 |
| Podczervinski, Edward | P.O. | Police | 2-21-12 | Bylica, Lawrence | P.O. | Police | 4-9-12 |
| Putrycus, Donald | Bt.Chief | Fire | 2-8-12 | Caudill, Ford | P.O. | Police | 4-7-12 |
| Rito, Raymond | Sgt. | Police | 2-22-12 | Lambert, George | P.O. | Police | 4-23-12 |
| Roberts, Donald | P.O. | Police | 2-17-12 | Murray, Edward | FF | Fire | 4-4-12 |
| Roby, James | Insp. | Police | 2-22-12 | O'Neil, Thomas | P.O. | Police | 4-16-12 |
| Roths, Robert | Capt. | Fire | 2-14-12 | Pare, Alfred | Lt. | Police | 4-18-12 |
| Rowland, Winston | P.O. | Police | 2-13-12 | Simmons, Kenneth | Sgt. | Police | 4-13-12 |
| Stephens, Edward | Lt. | Fire | 2-20-12 | Terski, James | P.O. | Police | 4-6-12 |
| Toms, Frederick | Capt. | Fire | 2-2-12 | Waem, Richard | Lt. | Fire | 4-16-12 |
| Vermeulen, Julius | FEO | Fire | 2-2-12 | Westrick, Leo | FF | Fire | 4-18-12 |
| | | | | White, Herbert | Sgt. | Police | 4-9-12 |

Members Letters

This check is in memory of my husband, Kenneth J. Swistock. Use it where it is needed most.

*Gloria Swistock
Harrison Twp., MI*

Please accept this monetary gift collected in memory of William J. Henahan, who passed away 12/26/11. Mr. Henahan was a retired Detroit Police Officer.

*Eve & John Muscat
Canton, MI*

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of George R. Pattinson. Use it wherever it is most needed. Thank you also for all the work you gentlemen and ladies put forth in our best interest.

*Jane Pattinson
Huntsville, Al*

Find enclosed is my check for donation to PAC in memory of "Zig" Rotech" a special Thank You to "John Devoy" for his help on the hospitalization issue! You're all doing a great job for all of us Retirees.

*Donald McGuire
Roswell, NM*

Enclosed are two checks, one is for my dues for 2012. The other check is for the PAC Fund, or where you think you need it most. Thank you for all your time and hard work for all us retirees. It is greatly appreciated!

*Ray & Judy Michalski
Brooklyn, MI*

I wish to thank you for the wonderful job that you are doing for the retirees. I some times wish that I was nearer to your city, but at the time I moved as far away as I could. I had enough of Detroit and its problems. I do miss the friends I had met through the years on the job. Quite a few have passed away over the years, and not many remain.

At 91 I am still bowling and try to play golf. Needless to say I am not what I use to be at either game. I wish the best to our officers and the RDPFFA. God

Bless All.
*Ken MacNicol
Naples, FL*

Enclosed is a check sent in memory of Wm Henahan, from the Szabo family.

*Adam Szabo
Murphy, NC*

I want to tell all of you at the RDPFFA how much I appreciate your efforts on our behalf. Enclosed is a check for the PAC Fund in memory of Sergeant Bill Henahan.

*James Purrington
Whitmore Lake, MI*

Thank you for all your help. I wish it could be more, use as you see fit. (Marvin Retired in 1970)

Thanks Again,
*Gerrie Gabalski
Lake Worth, FL*

Please use this little extra wherever needed.

Thanks,
*George & Mary Ruhana
Chicago, IL*

In sincere appreciation for your tireless work and the devotion you have given to supporting us retirees, please accept the enclosed donation to be used wherever you deem necessary.

With heartfelt thanks,
*Ron Kerwood Sr.
Stanwood, MI*

Although I pay my annual dues by auto-deduction from my monthly retirement check I am enclosing an additional check for the association use in whatever area you feel is most needed (PAC?). The RDPFFA has fought and won many battles during the first 18 years of my retirement that has resulted in the direct savings to me of thousands of dollars that the City would have otherwise stolen from my retirement checks. But the fight is never over and in particular the Michigan Legislature in the last year has shown that it intends to target all public employee wages & benefits, including the retirement benefits not only of future retirees but also the retirement benefits promised to those of us already retired!

Thank you for everything you do for the retirees who are members of the association. It is too bad that there are such a large number of retirees who are not dues paying members, yet they reap the fruits of your

(continued on page 9)

labors."They" should all be ashamed of themselves- but the probably aren't (rat bastards).

*Bill Gray
Lexington, MI*

Enjoyed reading the January 2012 Newsletter. Thank you for your diligence in protecting our Benefits & Interest. Please deposit enclosed check to the PAC Fund.

Fraternally Yours,
*Carl Wojtas
Macomb, MI*

Your persistence, determination and efforts on behalf of all retirees is very much appreciated. Keep up the good work. A small donation for the PAC Fund.

Retired Police Officer,
*Ferdinand Kuchinski
West Bloomfield, MI*

I'm going to try to send donation each Month. I appreciate all your efforts & the help that all of you have given me. Thank you for your kindness.

*Mary Ann Riley
Beaverton, MI*

Thank you for all your hard work for the Retirees. Please accept this donation for the PAC Fund.

Sincerely,
*James Ruhlig
Linden, MI*

Thank you very much for all the work you have been doing for us. God Bless all of you,

*Dick Johnson
Livonia, MI*

Enclosed is a check for the PAC Fund. I really enjoy the Unity magazine, it's very informative. My Husband was a Detroit Policeman he retired in 1971, then worked at Harper Hospital & retired in 1986 & died in 1998. I am now 89 years old still live alone & drive.

Thanks again,
*Elizabeth M. Kelly
St Clair Shores, MI*

To use wherever needed, in memory of my Beloved Husband Robert N. Carter.

*Lois E. Carter
Detroit, MI*

Please use this check for the PAC in memory of John Pike FEO. Thanks for the good job being done for all retirees.

*Lois Pike
Prudenville, MI*

Please accept this check for the PAC Fund. Thank you for all that you do.

*Roy & Delores Lozon
St Clair Shores, MI*

Please find my enclosed check as a token of my appreciation for the devotion and diligence of our elected officers. I am very proud to be a member of our association.

*Al Wendyker
Northville, MI*

I hope that you will forgive me for my lax on remembering the PAC. I find it handy at times to carry my driver's license with me just in case some one asks for my address. I guess to day my memory seems to be running on its one cylinder.

*Harvey Gladhill
Harrison Twp, MI*

Here's a donation to the PAC. Your organization has been very helpful to me. Keep up the good work.

*Sylvia Messerschmidt
Dryden, MI*

Enclosed is my donation for PAC in memory of my husband, P.O. Wallace Nathaniel Williams, who passed away August 24, 2011. Thank You for all of your efforts concerning the retirees. It is very much appreciated. Please use the donation wherever it is needed.

*Peggy Williams
Detroit, MI*

Thanks for all your efforts. They are greatly appreciated.

*Bill & Nan Wilkins
Deckerville, MI*

Enclosed is a contribution for the PAC Fund in memory of Jim Bennett and Jim Brodie.

*Bob & Jackie Rossi,
Birmingham, MI*

(continued on page 10)

Members Letters

(cont. from page 9)

Thanks for the Great job you are doing.

*Clara Wick
Pinckney, MI*

Thanks for the Great Job you have done, keep up the good work.

*William Lloyd
Bear Lake, MI*

Thank you for all the Great Work you do. In memory of Gerald Butler.

*Jeanette Butler
Westland, MI*

Thanks for all of your work, in particular, saving our health insurance. Please use this check in the PAC Fund.

*Ron Stephens
White Lake, MI*

Thanks for taking care of us Retirees.

*Paul Rehn
Warren, MI*

Please accept this check for my 2012 PAC donation. I am doubling up this year as this is a very important Election Year. How well I remember when our representative of our Association (No Union Then) waited in the outer offices of the then Mayor Cobo day after day to speak to the Mayor about the disparity of our wages, and than finely have an assistant of the Mayor come out and inform our representative that the Mayor was giving us a raise of 160.00 a year.

I also want to thank all the past representatives who fought and won our court case against the city when the city failed to fund our pension fund, where would we be today if our pension was not fully funded, more likely we would be getting about one half of our present check if that.

I want to thank you all for the diligence and hard work that I know that you put in.

*George H. Potts
Chesterfield Twp, MI*

Thank you for all your great work on behalf of us retirees. Please use my check as you see fit.

*God Bless,
Jim & Nancy Moffitt*

After reading the current issue of Unity it showed we have a lot of issues before us. Keep up the good work. It is very reassuring that we have a great team at the association to handle these important concerns.

*Tim Malone
Sterling Hgts, MI*

Many thanks for all you've done for us.

John & Toni Elsey

Thank you all for all that you do for us. Please accept this donation in memory of my husband, Larry Tront 9-13-48 to 3-1-2010.

*Elizabeth Tront
Kalkaska, MI*

Thanks for every thing you do and have done over the many years I have been a member. I retired from Homicide in July 1977; long time never missed a check. Please accept this check for the PAC.

*Thanks Again
Daniel A Nold Jr.
St Petersburg, FL*

Living in Fl, but my heart is still in Detroit. Thanks for the job you guys are doing. God bless you all. (PAC Fund)

*Norman Musteffe
Cape Coral, FL*

Enclosed is a check designated for the PAC. Keep up the good work, and God Bless all of you.

*Don Manning
Murfreesboro, Tenn.*

Just a thank you note for all the good work you do for all of us. My Nancy & I want you to know how much we appreciate all the work you do for all of us retired folks. Here is a small donation to use for what ever.

*Thanks,
George & Nancy Costage
Safety Harbor, FL*

Thank you for your dedication and hard work on our behalf.

*Gene & Suzanne Allen
Northville, MI*

(continued on page 11)

Members Letters

(cont. from page 10)

To say thank you for a job well done, keep it up. We need some one to fight for the retired people.

Thanks Again.

Louis Appel

Keep up the good work guys and may the Lord Bless us.

James Howell

Linden, TN

Keep up the Good Work.

Chet & Joyce Silvers

Waterford, MI

Thank you for all you do for Retirees. Enclosed is a donation for PAC Fund.

Sincerely,

Nelson & Adele Belanger

Lillian, Al

Thank you for all the help in the past. Here's a check to help in the future.

Premo & Nancy Damiani

Clinton Twp, MI

A little something for the PAC. Keep the faith friends.

Bob Cook

Henderson, NV

I want to thank you for all your hard work. Enclosed is a check for the PAC Fund in memory of Lloyd Praedel.

Janice Praedel-Cauley

Zephyrhills, FL

Enclosed find my check, I would like enclosed check for the PAC Fund in memory of my Dear Husband "William O. Murphy", who passed away 15 years ago today. May he rest in Peace.

I really enjoy receiving "Unity" It keeps me informed and brings back many very good memories of the department. Hope to see all at Retirees Picnic this summer.

Fran Murphy

South Lyon, MI

Please use the enclosed check for PAC. Thanks all of you for all the looking out for us retirees. I appreciate the help you give us. Sincerely,

Sally Ireland

Warren, MI

A Great Big Thank You!! It's been a pleasure knowing all you fine Officers. My husband Inspector Alfred C. McGhee went from Detroit PD to Chief of W Bloomfield. Son Robert D McGhee was one of your fine PO's, now doing his P.D. work in Commerce Twp. So we thank you all for doing a super job. I am now 91 1/2 yrs. Young!!

Jessie McGhee

Oceanside, CA

Keep up the good work. My dues are enclosed and a check for the PAC. Many Thanks,

Louis Cardew

Palm Bay, FL

Please apply this donation to our PAC Fund in memory of "Michael Czapski (Patrolman)" who was gunned down in #10 on March 29, 1969 in front of Aretha Franklin's father's church.

Ralph Wilkewitz

Eaton Center, NH

A donation for the PAC Fund in memory of my husband "Jack Stelzer". Keep up the good work!

Sophie Stelzer

Sterling Hgts, MI

Enclosed is a check for the PAC Fund in memory of my wife "Jean Dainty".

Sincerely,

Calvin Dainty

Dearborn, MI

Thank you for all your hard work in trying to ensure that our retiree pensions will not be affected by new legislation. Enclosed is a donation to help out with this effort. Many thanks and appreciation.

Sincerely,

James Bassett

Venice, FL

(continued on page 12)

Members Letters

(cont. from page 11)

I would like to make a donation to the PAC Fund in the memory of "Mike Dell Lt. DFD.

Thanks, keep up the good work!

*George Skaggs,
Troy, MI*

Thanks RDPFFA "PAC"! Please accept the check enclosed in memory of my great husband. "Leo J. Vincunas". Many thanks for all you do on our behalf.

*Marge A. Vincunas
Gainesville, GA*

Thank you for a job well done. Keep up the good work. Here is a donation in memory of "Alto B. Wandrie" DFD. I hope it can help. God Bless,

*Pete Wandrie
Lapeer, MI*

Please accept this donation for the PAC Fund.

Thank You,
*John J. Frunek
Macomb, MI*

Please accept this donation for the PAC Fund, in memory of "PO Ron Davis".

*Ret Lt Robert Heise
Livonia, MI*

Thanks for all the work you do for the Retirees. Keep up the good work.

*Victor Hess
Livonia, MI*

Thank you for all you have done for the Retirees. Please accept this check in memory of "Robert R. Manzel" Retired police, use this check for PAC.

Thank you again,
Patricia Manzel

Not sure how this work's so here's 3 checks, 1 for the PAC fund, 1 for the general fund, and 1 in loving memory of my father-in-law, Chief Harold Gentile, thanks for all you do for us.

Retired Police Officer
*Louie & Pattie Bennett
Clinton Twp, MI*

Please use this check for whatever, In memory of Brian Fox.

*Tom Francis
Lafayette, KY*

This check is for the PAC Fund, in memory of James A. Edwards. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

*Gustava Edwards
Millersburg, MI*

Please accept my apology for this late payment of my annual dues for 2012. I had no idea I hadn't paid until this reminder. Thanks to everyone for all you do. It's greatly appreciated. Sincerely,

*Joe Charette
Fort Gratiot, MI*

The enclosed check in memory of "Harold Manke", and to thank you for all you have done for all the retirees and windows through the years. Thank you so much.

*Margaret Manke
Mt Clemens, MI*

Good job guys, use wherever.

*Nick & Lynn Reghi
Leesburg, FL*

Please accept the enclosed check in memory of "Mark Marchioni & Russ Bushor". Use it for the PAC Fund. Keep up the good work, we need you now more than ever! Again thank you for everything.

*Mary Sihler
Marine City, MI*

This check is for the PAC. It's in memory of my husband, "William K. Wilmot". Thank you for all your hard work and helping me out when I call.

*Betty Wilmot
Brighton, MI*

Enclosed is a check for your work in protecting our benefits. Keep up the great work. Sincerely,

*Carol Ounanian
East Tawas, MI*

I want to thank you & all the officers, for what you have done for the retirees, it is most appreciated. A donation check for the PAC enclosed. Retired from APB (1972).

*Alfred Fischer
Tulsa, OK*

Nevada



Jackpots

Ray Downing

The Nevada Jackpots March meeting was held on Saturday, March 24, 1021, at Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens Hotel/Resort. Attendance was on the, well, small side, I guess you would describe it. All four officers were in attendance and that about sums it up.

Nothing of note was reported, other than our treasury holdings.

Roma Oatey volunteered to hold our every-other-month dice game at her home. The gang will meet on FRIDAY, April 27, 2012, at 6:00 p.m... Please note that this is a Friday meeting and not Saturday as is usual. RSVP to Roma at (702) 376-7131 to let her know if you are coming.

The next regular meeting of the Jackpots will be on Saturday, May 19th, 2012, 9:30 a.m., at Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens Resort/Hotel. Let's make this meeting double in number from the March meeting!

The Nevada Jackpots have meetings every other month, beginning in January of each year. During the off-months, we meet at a member's home for an evening of cards or dice.

As the dates of the meetings change monthly due to the availability of our meeting place, please call the Jackpots Secretary, Ray Downing, at (702) 616-1157 for the next date, time, and location. All RDPFFA retirees are welcome.

Our group is small, but thanks to a dedicated core of officers, the organization is continuing on into its second 25 years!

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

For your information and the Associations benefit it is important that, when your summer/winter address changes, we are notified in advance of the move and again when you are returning to your home address. That way we can keep you current. We don't want to lose you in the process.

STEPHEN J. RIEDY, D.D.S., M.S., F.A.C.P.

Diplomate, American Board of Prosthodontics
Prosthodontist

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DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



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A new website just for you

detroitpolicegear.com

Shop online today for the latest in Detroit Police off-duty gear,
pins, patches and much more!

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

April 30, 1993 and stated that the DFFA **was opposed to such a move, and the matter was a subject of bargaining.**

The 1997 City of Detroit Charter included an amendment approved by the voters of the City of Detroit requiring a retiree on the Police & Fire Pension Board.

On July 7, 2006 Circuit Court Judge Gershwin Drain in case Number 05-505684-CZ ordered that the City of Detroit, through its Mayor, Council and responsible agents and employees take all reasonable actions, including bargaining with the unions representing active duty police and fire employees, in order to implement and give effect to Article 11, Sec 103-2 (H) of the 1997 Detroit City Charter.

The Court of Appeals of Michigan Case No 272235 Unpublished opinion February 6, 2007, overturned the trial court and in the opinion stated that the composition of the Board was a matter of collective bargaining under (PERA) Public Employees Relations Act.

May 12, 2009, House Bill 4917 introduced by State Rep Fred Durhal Jr. passed the House by a vote of 63 to 38, passed the Senate vote of 34-0, Vetoed by Governor Granholm on 12/21/2010

Jan 25, 2011, House Bill 4135 introduced by State Rep Fred Durhal Jr. passed the House 84 -24, passed the Senate 38-0, Signed into Law by Governor Snyder May 10, 2011, became Public Act 25 of 2011.

August 22, 2011 as requested by Jeffrey Pegg of the Detroit Fire Fighters Association attorney Mary Ellen Gurewitz issued an opinion which challenged the statutory language contained in Public Act 25, of 2011. Ms Gurewitz with support from pension board attorney Ron Zajac gave their opinions to the P&F Board of Trustees that the language is not clear and doesn't address the composition of the board, and the ordinance that was used (19-93) for the election we held was an invalid ordinance and never became effective. I believe the opinions by Ms Gurewitz and Zajac were wrong for a number of reasons, including the fact neither of them took into account Legislative intent, and Ms Gurewitz appeared to rely on the Bill analysis, and city ordinance number 19-93 was in effect. There are numerous opinions from the US Supreme Court and the Michigan Supreme Court regarding interpretation of statutes and legislative intent. I will mention just one; Michigan Supreme Court Case "Mayor of the City of Lansing v. Michigan Public Service Commission Filed June 9, 2004 (No 124136) Page 3 of Ruling states in part "We

review de novo a question of statutory construction. In construing a statute, we are required to give effect to the legislature's intent." (Page 20 same ruling states in part) "The problem with relying on bill analyses is that they do not necessarily represent the views of even a single legislator. Rather, they are prepared by House and Senate staff. Indeed, the analyst themselves note that they do not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

In regards to the effectiveness of ordinance 19-93, a letter dated March 1, 2012 from the Director of the Corporation Council Krystal Crittendon, page 1 paragraph 3 states "Ordinance 19-93, which was published on October 15, 1993, was the last ordinance to be passed by the City Council and approved by the Mayor regarding membership of the Police & Fire Retirement System Board of Trustees. Although a specific effective date is not contained for Ordinance 19-93, because Section 4-115 of the 1974 Detroit City Charter provided that an ordinance given immediate effect shall become effective upon publication, "ordinance No. 19-93 became effective on October 15, 1993."

Although I believe Public Act 25, of 2011 and Ordinance 19-93 were valid and properly enacted and used for the election of the retiree pension board representative, Louis Sinagra. Facing what could very well be a very costly and lengthy legal process, we decided to return to the legislators and ask them to run a new Bill that would clarify and straighten the language in Public Act 25, of 2011. The legislators agreed to introduce new legislation, but there was discussion involving a lawsuit or if a new Bill was introduced it should include jail time for those that failed to comply with the law.

December 1, 2011 House Bill 5192 introduced by State Rep Fred Durhal Jr., passed the House 88-20, passed the Senate 35-2, signed into law by Governor Snyder February 14, 2012.

The last issue to be resolved was the new ordinance. The new ordinance was approved by Detroit City Council on April 3, by the Mayor on April 4, published and effective on April 11, 2012 (Ordinance 07-12).

The ordinance calls for the first election to be held 60 days after the effective date of the ordinance. "Any matters relative to the election of the retirant member of the Board not covered by the ordinance shall be according to such rules and regulations as the Board may adopt."

The Board of Trustees being aware of all of this; took no action at their April 5, meeting (although the ordinance had been approved) and the same held true

(continued on page 15)

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 14)*

for their April 20 meeting. The attorney for the Board did say he would have a procedure for the election ready for the Board meeting on May 3. If the Board of Trustees is to comply with the law and ordinance this would then only leave 30 days to conduct the election. The retired members of the system have not even been given proper notification of the existence of these new elective positions for retiree trustees. In order to meet the eligibility requirements to have their name appear on the ballot, retirees will be forced to obtain 125 signatures on the nomination form in a very short period of time. Because of the failure of the Board of Trustees to act in a timely manner, retirees will either be denied a fair election or once again the Board of Trustees will ignore Local and State laws. We will keep you updated on this issue.

As you can see the RDPFFA has spent a tremendous amount of time and resources in order to reach this point and finally have an election process under way to elect a retiree representative to serve on the P&F pension board. I believe that you may now hear from some that have set on the sidelines while the dues of our members covered the cost of this fight, and now they will appear and seek the elected positions. I believe that these are very important positions and we should ensure that those seeking these positions are the best qualified and they will ensure that the interest of the system and the beneficiaries are protected. They should not think they are there to just support the positions taken by the unions or the city. They should be a truly independent voice, concerned with the survival of the system, and that the resources of the systems are used only as they were intended and authorized by law to be used.

Retirees that wish to seek one of these positions; Retired Police Trustee, or Retired Fire Trustee, and would like to be considered for an endorsement by the RDPFFA should contact the RDPFFA office 586-795-1734 and request an interview.

Senate Bill 409

We continue to work with our lobbyist and the legislators regarding the passage of Senate Bill 409. This Bill would exclude pension income that was received from municipalities that did not participate in the Federal Social Security system (Detroit being one) from the new State tax on pensions. The legislators are still expected to take action on this legislation prior to the

end of the current legislative session. It is expected that a compromise to the current language will be inserted. The information which we have been receiving is that the compromised language would be an increase in the amount of income you are allowed to deduct from your pension income. Currently the amount used is \$20,000 for single and \$40,000 for a couple. Under the proposed amended language the amount would increase to \$34,000 for single and \$54,000 for couple, for those that retired from municipalities that did not participate in Social Security.

Financial Stability Agreement

The City of Detroit has entered into an agreement with the State of Michigan in an attempt to resolve the financial crisis that the City of Detroit is facing. At this time we do not believe that this agreement is going to have any impact on current retirees pension benefits, or any effect on Healthcare Benefits of our members that are covered by the Law Suit settlement "Weiler vs. City of Detroit". We will continue to monitor the actions taken as a result of this agreement.

Proposed Amendment to the Michigan Constitution

Labor Unions (Protect our Jobs Coalition) were at first pursuing a constitutional amendment that would prevent the state of becoming a right to work state. The final language that was submitted went way beyond just blocking the right to work legislation. If those pursuing the current proposed Amendment are able to gain the necessary signatures to place the proposal on the November 2012 ballot, and it then passes, the total effect of this amendment is unknown. Those pushing the amendment say it would undue all current and prevent any future legislation that interferes with collective bargaining. If this is true it would rescind our legislation placing a retiree on the Police & Fire Pension Board.

Also no one knows what financial impact this would have on the state and local municipalities. Detroit and a number of other cities are already near bankruptcy so if they were to have an unexpected large financial obligation placed on them as a result of this amendment; it would very likely force many of them into bankruptcy, including Detroit. This could put all of our benefits at risk including our healthcare. There is nothing in this proposed amendment that would be beneficial to retirees, just the opposite; this can only place retired public employee's benefits at risk.

(continued on page 17)

REMEMBRANCE AND THANK YOU

The following supporters, their names and in names of their loved ones, have contributed most generously to our Appreciation and P.A.C. Funds. Your continued support of our Association is the encouragement we need and reflects your recognition of the Association's efforts in your behalf.

Appreciation (Donation)

Ayres Jr., James
Charette, Joe
Gerardy, Rosaria
Gilbert, Arvilla
Lash, Violet
Smith, Micah

Appreciation (Donation)

In Memory of

Bennett, Louis & Patricia *in memory of Chief Harold Gentile*
Bennett, Louis & Patricia *in memory of Chief Harold Gentile*
Brazen, Ann *in memory of Ed Brazen DFD*
Porath, Jolly & Perez, Smith *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Henahan, Betty *in memory of William Henahan*

P.A.C. (Donation)

Allen, Suzanne & Gene
Appel, Louis
Bar, Tim
Barr, Virginia
Bassett, James
Belanger, Nelson & Adele
Benitez, Jack
Bernert, Gerald
Brandt, Fred & Janice
Cardew, Louis & Lawrence
Collins, Walter
Cook, Bob & Anna
Costage, George
Damiani, Premo & Nancy
Dew, Robert
Elsey, John & Marie
Fischer, Alfred
Frunek, John
Gabalski, Gerrie
Girardini, Celestino & Eleanor
Gladhill, Harvey
Gray, Bill
Gryniewicz, Lawrence & Pat
Heit, Doug
Heit, Douglas
Hess, Victor & Nancy
Howell, Jim & Nellie

Ireland, Sally
Jackson, Richard & Carolyn
Johnson, Richard & Jean
Joseph Martin
Kelly, Elizabeth
Kerwood, Ron & Betty
Kuchinski, Ferdinand
Kukla, Joe & Beverly
Laurentius, Marvin & Donna
Lloyd, William
Lozon, Roy & Delores
MacNicol, Ken & Eleanor
Malone, Tim & Janet
Manning, Don
Maxinoski, Edmund
McGhee, Jessie
McGlaun, Norman & Marie
Messerschmidt, Ken & Sylvia
Michalski, Ray & Judith
Michnal, Harold
Moffitt, James & Nancy
Morawa, Dennis & Barbara
Murphy, Fran
Musteffe, Norman & Joann
Nold, Dan & Mary
O'Neil, Geneva
Opipari, Tom & Shirley
Pas, Ed & Nancy
Pattinson, Jane
Potts, George
Reghi, Nicholas & Lynn
Rehn, Paul & Edlynn
Riley, Mary Ann
Ruhana, George & Mary
Ruhlig, Jim & Charlene
Sefton, Larry & Patricia
Siedlik, Bob & Irene
Silvers, Chester & Joyce
Sklut, Alma
Stanbury, George & Marie
Stephens, Ron & Carol
Stirling, Angus & Christine
Sturr, Warren
Szarafinski, Leroy & John
Tines, James & Arlene
Wend, Dolores
Wendyker, Al & Linda
Whitman, Harold & Shirley
Wilkins, Bill & Nancy

Winkler, Frank & Bernice
Winkler, Frank & Bernice
Winkler, Frank & Bernice
Winn, William C
Wojtas, Carl
Wolff Sr., John
Wood, Don & Deanne
Wrobel, John & Antoinette

P.A.C. (Donation)

In Memory of

Bennett, Louis & Patricia *in memory of Chief Harold Gentile*
Brandt, Shirley *in memory of Howard Brandt*
Brown, Richard & Agnes *In appreciation of Jack Devoy*
Butler, Jeanette *in memory of Gerald Butler*
Carter, Lois E. *in memory of Robert N. Carter*
Cole, Walter & Catherine *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Cruce, Gary & Ruth *in memory of Mike Dell DFD*
Dainty, Calvin *in memory of Jean Dainty*
Deppner, Henry & Barbara *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Edwards, Gustava *in memory of James A. Edwards*
Fiddler, Ray & Charlotte *in memory of Brian Fox*
Flynn, Elden *in memory of Richard Waldis*
Francis, Thomas *in memory of Brian Fox*
Gwizdz, Robert & Vicki *in memory of Robert Bradford*
Hebeler, Rosalie *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Heise, Robert & Anna *in memory of PO Ron Davis*
Henahan, Pat & Nancy *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Jasman, James & Lenore *in memory of Lt. Joseph Twardzik*
Malane, Susan *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Manke, Margaret *in memory of Harold Manke*
Manzel, Patricia *in memory of*

Robert Manzel
McGuire, Don & Norma *in memory of Zig Orzech*
Mott, Paul *in memory of William Henahan*
Muscat, John & Eva *in memory of William Henahan*
Pezda, Jane *in memory of Walter Pezda*
Pike, Lois *in memory of John Pike FEO*
Praedel, Janice *in memory of Lloyd Praedel*
Purrington, Sandra & James *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Rossi, Robert & Jacqueline *in memory of Jim Bennet & Jim Brodie*
Rossler, Tom & Kathryn *in memory of William (Bill) Henahan*
Saunders, Rosemary *in memory of William Henahan*
Sihler, Mary *in memory of Russ Bushor & Mark Marchioni*
Skaggs, George *in memory of Mike Dell DFD*
Spicher, Theodore *in memory of Robert Thuma & Jack Bowron*
Stelzer, Sophie *in memory of Jack Stelzer*
Swistock, Gloria *in memory of Kenneth J. Swistock*
Szabo, Doris & Adam *in memory of William Henahan*
Tront, Elizabeth *in memory of Larry Tront*
Vander Meulen, Al *in memory of Henry & Art Owczarzak*
Vincunas, Marge *in memory of Leo J. Vincunas*
Wandrie, Pete & Genevieve *in memory of Alto B. Wandrie*
Wick, Clara & Mike *in memory of Marion (Mike) Wick*
Wilkewitz, Ralph & Sunni *in memory of Michael Czapski*
Williams, Peggy *in memory of PO Wallace Nathaniel Williams*
Wilmot, Betty *in memory of William K. Wilmot*
Zaremba, Mark *in memory of Ed Zaremba*

IN MEMORY OF PAST PRESIDENTS

With saddened hearts we mourn the passing of two of our past presidents, Donald Morris (March 10, 2012) and Alfred Paře (April 18, 2012).

The 21st Annual

Retired Detroit Police & Firefighters Association Golf Outing

Friday, August 24, 2012
9:00 A.M. (Shotgun start)
Sunnybrook Golf
7191 East 17 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI
1-586-264-0805

(For driving directions go to sunnybrookgolfandbowl.com)

18 holes of tournament golf with golf cart
Breakfast (continental style)
Lunch and beverages
Dinner at 3:30 P.M.
(choice of three entrees, deserts and beverages)
Draft beer and beverages
served in the club house
(beer cart on the golf course)

Prizes for closest to the pin
and other gifts and prizes.

\$65.00 per person with a gift
for every registered golfer

Golfers **must register** individually before
8:30 A.M. to receive tee and cart assignments
Shotgun start promptly at 9:00 A.M.
Please return score cards after 18 holes of golf.
No refunds for "no" shows.

Make checks payable to: PFF Educational Fund
Send to:
RDPFFA
2525 East 14 Mile Rd.
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310
Phone: 586-795-2183

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 15)*

RDPFFA 12th Annual Educational Convention

The RDPFFA has scheduled the annual convention for September 24-28, 2012. The location will be the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. We were not able to block any group space, so those that wish to attend are asked to contact Deborah Ruemenapp of Expedia Cruiseship Centers at (586) 739-4444 or toll free (888) 582-6100. Deborah will assist you with making your reservations. Currently prices are starting at \$474.00 per person for air and hotel, and \$69.00 per-night plus tax for room only. Because no group space was held the prices for air and hotel package are subject to change. More information will be forthcoming in the Unity. Because of the uncertainty with prices and the availability of space we suggest you call and make your reservation now.

That's it for now; please plan to attend the functions of the Association, hope to see many of you at our June Meeting at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth, MI. June 18 and 19. If you haven't made your plans yet you need to do so. Our Group Number is 11J5AA to book call 888-775-6343.

12th ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 24 – 28, 2012 at the NEW Tropicana Las Vegas

Reserve your seats now & pick your own flights!
Prices starting at \$495.00 per-person based on
double occupancy. Price includes round trip,
non-stop air, taxes, private breakfast,
Hospitality Room and much more.

Passengers arriving from out of state or not
traveling with the group, rooms are being held at a
rate of \$69 per-night + tax.

To make reservations for this convention and for
all of your travel needs, call Deborah Ruemenapp
of Expedia CruiseShip Centers
Local: (586) 739-4444 • Toll Free: (888) 582-6100
Email: druemenapp@cruiseshipcenters.com

Hurry space is limited & prices are subject to change.

It's Like Déjà-vu, All Over Again

Funny how sometimes you can see weird patterns emerging. For example, take the beginning of 2011:

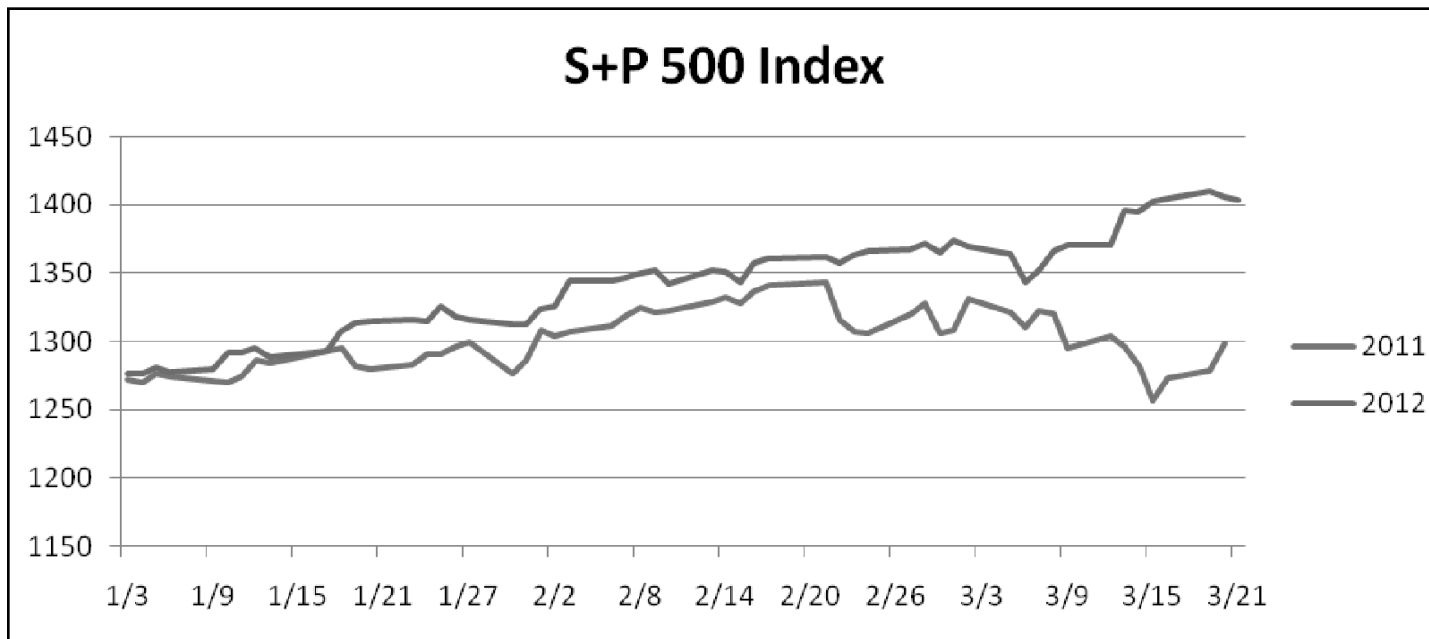
- The S&P 500 started at about 1257;
- In the first 45 days, it went up about 6.9%;
- In the first three months, we had three progressive unemployment reports.

Now have a look at 2012:

- The S&P 500 started at about 1257;
- In the first 45 days, it went up about 6.9%;
- In the first three months, we had three progressive unemployment reports.

The quote from Yogi Berra seems appropriate.

Here's a chart:



Now, to quote Yogi again, 'the future ain't what it used to be'. Consider last year (2011), after a decent run up to mid-year last year, the Greece debacle started, and then in August, the real debacle with the Debt Ceiling expiration, coupled with the Treasury downgrade, took the S&P down almost 20%. Well heck, those were unexpected problems: who would have thought that the Greek debt problem was so big? Who would have thought that Congress couldn't solve a simple problem?

So look at this year: We have maybe a few more tiny issues in the hopper, to wit:

- The Supreme Court decision on the Obama Healthcare Mandate in June;
- Iran;
- The Presidential election;
- The Senate elections;
- The expiration of the Bush Tax Cuts 12/31;
- The Sequestration Budget Cuts on 01/01/13;
- The new UIMC on dividends, interest and capital gains on 01/01/13;
- Oh yes, and the next expiration of the debt ceiling in early '13

Now, I'm not a cynic, but if Greece and the debt ceiling can cause problems, maybe one or more of the eight listed above could as well. So, our version of the year is tactical: take profits if possible and protect against the storm (if there is one). What does it all mean? Well, suppose last year I told you I knew two things would happen: the US Treasury would be downgraded, and that Steve Jobs would die. You'd probably logically avoid Treasury bonds and sell your Apple stock. Both would have turned out to be bad ideas. So, for now, we have to look at the upcoming storm clouds, pay attention, and modify the plan as necessary. To quote Yogi one more time: 'If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be.'

Westside Silver Ladies

Geri Henningsen

THIS COLUMN IS DEDICATED TO ELAINE PRINCE & LESSIE JOHNSON

Both of these wonderful people were active members of the Westside Silver Ladies until health problems kept them home. Elaine, who was a sister to another one of our members - Dolores Linn died December 18, 2011 and Lessie Johnson died March 12, 2012. Our love and prayers go out to their families and loved ones. Our condolences, also to Dolores Smith for the loss of her brother and to our Eastside Silver Ladies on the death of their long time member, Fern Garner.

HOLD THE DATE: The RDPFFA picnic is being held this year on August 11 at Kolping Park, 47440 Sugarbush Road, Chesterfield Township. It starts at noon. I know it's a ways out but it is well worth the ride. Let's show our support to the Association that is so supportive of us.

Due to great winter weather, our luncheons have had some good turnouts. Congrats to our 50/50 winners ... Dolores Linn for January, Betty Cavin for February and myself for March.

SPEEDY RECOVERY to Gayne Zell (knee replacement), Nancee Hay and all our members who have had some health issues. **HELLO** to long time members we don't get to see ... Elmira Affelt, Sally Emerick, Ginny Kaltenback & Fran Murphy.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Irene Melady - 4/20, Marilyn Noseworthy - 4/24, Betty Cavin - 4/27, Ginny Kaltenback - 5/1, myself - 5/4, Theresa Zalewski - 5/7, Marie McCarthy & Dorothy O'leary - 5/12, Fran Murphy - 5/17, Elaine Wallace - 5/18 & Dolores Smith - 6/20.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "People are like stained glass windows. They sparkle & shine when the sun is out but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed ONLY if there is light from within".

Let's meet at Archie's...
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Nancy Schmidt

We are into March already and the weather is great. This is when you really appreciate living in Florida. Let me catch you up on what has been happening down here. The January meeting brought a little bigger crowd, thanks to some of the Snowbirds whom we were very glad to see again. We also signed up new members, Chester and Joyce Blacha from Venice FL.

Those with Birthday's were Joyce Blacha, Marv Kammer and Dan Zemaitis. Honored with Anniversaries were Bill and Dolores Larsen 58 years and Dan and Jey Zemaitis 56 years. Dues and donations received from Ken Hedeem and Jerry Brehm. The 50/50 was won by George Stanbury and Maija Goosen. Correspondence was with Tom Sowell and Walter Rakicki. Bill spoke with Mo Gekiere, he had a stroke but is doing better. I also spoke with Lynn Shanks whose wife Linda was in the hospital. Take care Linda and get to feeling better real soon.

Well, now for the February Pizza Party. We had 37 in attendance which included guests Herb Heads and Pat Cardinal. We were happy to honor Al and Jo Balogh who were celebrating their 66th Anniversary. Donations of dues by life members were from Ken Hedeem, Larry Kelly and Ed Krejewski and also a donation from Don McDonald and Bill Schmidt toward the Pizza and to Jim Bateson for supplies. The 50/50 was won by Bill Larsen and Ed Krajewski, the hand carved Golf Club Birdie donated by Al Balogh was won by Jerry Brehm. At this time we proceeded to Party, Pizza Party that is.

The March Meeting/Annual Dinner was held at the Clearwater Country Club. We had 59 in attendance. A little drinking and a lot of mingling took place until the meeting was opened at 1:30 by President Bill Schmidt. After greeting the members and guests he read the names of members we lost this past year, Tony Klimbal, Joan Wooley, Dick Luckee, Lorraine Bateson, Shirley Whitman and our very own Sweatheart, Fran Maione.

Chaplain Ron Goosen gave an opening prayer that included a prayer for our ailing Jim Caufield and asked us all to keep him and Edith in our Prayers. Jim Bateson and Ron Goosen were honored with a Past President

Ribbon for their dedication to the club. Henry Macinkowicz spoke for a few minutes and mentioned that donations to the PAC Fund are very much appreciated by the RDPFFA. It was good seeing Henry and Ann. Maija Goosen had a birthday and Ray Audrey Kosmack had another Anniversary. Congratulation to you all!

Activity Chairman Bill Larsen also greeted the crowd. He and Dolores did another fine job this year of setting this all up. Thanks again to our "Club Photographer" Beverly Kuhn for taking pictures and also Don Rem for helping out. Can't wait to see them all! The 50/50 was won by Harold Milner and then he drew the next ticket which was his wife Carol's ticket. That's got to be lucky. The Crocheted Afghan went to Ken Hedeem who proudly presented it to Marge Frisch-Hedeem. Dinner was served at 2:00 PM and if you missed this event, you missed a good time, a great meal and a whole lot of good friends.

As always you can reach me at 1-352-683-7924 or on the Internet at njschmidt@gate.net
Stay Safe and Well.



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Dr. Avery M. Jackson, III, Director of the Michigan Neurosurgical Institute, completed a Neurosurgical Complex Spine Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Jackson has extensive training in complex spinal cases, brain and spine tumors, head and spine trauma, vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty and minimally invasive surgery.



Greetings from sunny Florida:

Even though the Florida club members all treated us real nice and we did meet with some of our Snowbird friends who are also Florida Club members, Jey and I are anxious to get back to Michigan.

During our absence we lost 3 long time Snowbird members. Bill Henahan, Ed Dreslinski and Ed Podczervinski. Our deepest sympathies go out to Betty Henahan and her family, Marsha Dreslinski and her family and Ann Podczervinski and her family. They will all be missed very much.

Just a reminder, our first Snowbird meeting in 2012 will be on Sunday, May 20th at 1:00 p.m. at B.J.'s Restaurant on Center Street (Old U.S. 27) in Gaylord. We will be looking forward to seeing all of you.

Some of our group will be camping the weekend of May 20th at the Gaylord K.O.A... Our annual picnic will be Sunday, August 12th at 12 noon in Glennie – all are welcome.

Jey is working on Agaua Canyon train trips after the first meeting some time.

January Birthdays

Dan Zemaitis, Paul Ninelist, Gar Nicholls, Leroy Symons, Ann Podczervinski and Frank Samborski

January Anniversaries

Dan and Jey Zemaitis

February Birthdays

Diana Kapagian, Dorothy Peters, J.C. Genter, Jerry Tibaldi, Pauline Zazula and Barbe Whiting

March Birthdays

Evelyn Brehm, Elizabeth Dewaelsche, George Perry, Gordon Kivela, Shirley Haidys, Cornelius Reyst, Jerry Rozanski, Violet Prater, Richard Vanleen, Steve and Phyllis Wagner

April Birthdays

Marlene Ambrose, Leon Buda, Mary Stano, Georgette Gekiere, Maryann Ponik, Mike Kniaz, Karen Haderer, Pat Shaheen and Cindy Rem

April Anniversaries

Bob and Karen Haderer

Get well wishes go out to Walt Dewaelsche, Moe Gekiere, and Shirley Haidys, We wish you the best.

Take care and stay healthy and God Bless.

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WHERE: FISHBONE'S - 23722 Jefferson
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TIME: 7:00 PM to? - (Food at 8:00 PM sharp!)

FOOD: Hot Hors d'oeuvres (CASH BAR!)

COST: \$10.00 per person at the door.

Door Prizes - 50 - 25-25 Raffle
(Feel free to donate a door prize if you'd like)

Reservation not necessary
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IMUTSS@Yahoo.com.

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VITAMINS

According to the Seddon Harvard University study, Lutein and Zeaxanthin have been correlated to a 43% lower prevalence of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). Lutein protects the retina by functioning as an antioxidant and by blocking harmful ultraviolet radiation that can damage the delicate macular tissue.

Antioxidants from Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Zinc, and Selenium have been shown to stabilize and prevent further progression of AMD. Patients who have already developed the disease are encouraged to take a vitamin with high doses of Lutein and antioxidants to minimize further loss of vision. Vitamin supplements designed specifically for the eye (MaxiVision) are available in our Optical Studio. Specific dietary components, particularly the carotenoids found in dark green leafy vegetables have shown great promise in reducing the incidence of AMD. Vitamin supplements are readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract resulting in increased blood serum levels and macular pigment density. Omega3 supplements available in purified fish oil enhance the beneficial effects of these vitamins. High concentration pharmaceutical-grade supplements are recommended for optimum effect. These supplements are also available in our optical studio.



CATARACTS AND MULTIFOCAL LENS IMPLANTS

If you believe you may have a cataract, don't worry. Every year, 3 million Americans have cataract surgery. Modern cataract surgery has developed into one of the safest, most successful and most patient 'friendly' surgical procedures available. The improvement to your vision can be life changing. With the latest advancements in multifocal lens implant technology, we are able to offer even more dramatic vision changes to improve not only your distance vision, but also your intermediate and near vision, as well. In some cases, bifocal intraocular lens implants can reduce the need for reading glasses after surgery. It is quick and painless and almost always results in a dramatic improvement in vision for the patient. That's good news since cataracts are a normal part of the aging process!

The first step is to have a complete eye examination and determine what type of implant is right for you!

GLAUCOMA TREATMENT

It is estimated that almost 50% of people who have glaucoma don't even know they have it because they have not had a comprehensive eye exam. The pressure in the eye is unusually elevated in patients with glaucoma, but there is no pain or visual loss until it is too late. Left untreated, vision gradually declines and eventual blindness will result.

Fortunately, glaucoma can be detected by your doctor during your comprehensive eye exam. Early treatment can prevent visual loss. Advances in treatment include new eye drops called prostaglandins and a revolutionary laser treatment called SLT. Using SLT to treat glaucoma, doctors can eliminate the need for eye drops in some cases! You have a higher than normal risk for glaucoma if you are African American, have a family history of glaucoma, or had an eye trauma. For more information, go to our website, or call for an appointment.

LASER VISION CORRECTION

We are delighted to be using the Bausch & Lomb Zyoptix™ Personalized Laser Vision Correction System for the treatment of nearsightedness and astigmatism. This revolutionary technology is enhanced by the use of an additional space-age laser, INTRALASE[®] that creates the LASIK flap without the use of a blade. We call this 'High Definition Vision'! The advanced diagnostic system used analyzes thousand of data points across the entire eye - to produce a personalized vision treatment plan.

By using the B&L Zyoptix System for traditional LASIK or PRK, our doctors are able to treat most patients who desire to eliminate or reduce their need for glasses.

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AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION TREATMENT

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a disease associated with aging that gradually destroys sharp, central vision. Central vision is needed for seeing objects clearly and for common daily tasks such as reading and driving. AMD affects the macula, the part of the eye that allows you to see fine detail. AMD causes no pain.

In some cases, AMD advances so slowly that people notice little change in their vision. In others, the disease progresses faster and may lead to a loss of vision in both eyes. AMD is a leading cause of vision loss in Americans 60 years of age and older.

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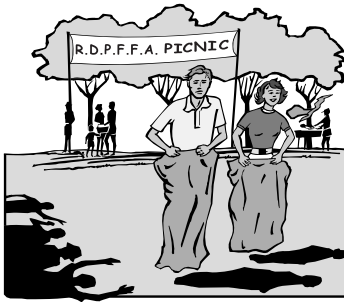
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