



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Bi-Monthly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 92, July 2008

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS!

On June 20th I experienced a medical emergency that required my admission to St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor for diagnosis which resulted in a program which includes therapy and continues to date.

Because of my illness, I feel it's time to retire as secretary. I have been an active member of the Association for over twenty years and they have been good years.

This is to inform you that I will resign as Secretary/Financial Officer of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association effective July 1, 2008

Sincerely yours,
Charles Master

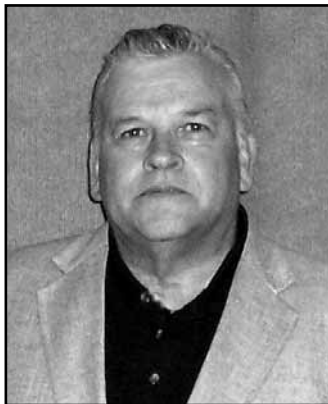
Editor's note:

Charlie,

It doesn't seem natural for the R.D.P.F.F.A. to be without your services, particularly when there have been so many accomplishments achieved during your involvement with us.

The Association, it's Officers, Board of Directors and membership want you and Elsie to be aware of our appreciation for your efforts on our behalf and our desire for your recovery!

Get well and stay that way!



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

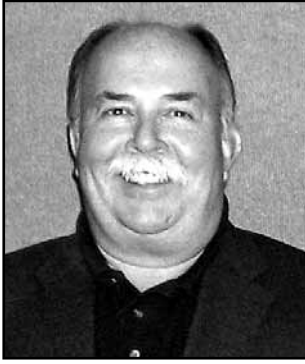
As you have become accustomed to, I will start with an update on the outstanding lawsuits that affect our membership.

We were given the date of June 17th as the date in which an agreement was to have been reached, or the trial on our Healthcare lawsuit in front of Judge Torres

would resume. As we should have expected that date has come and gone with no settlement. Chris Legghio, the attorney handling the case, has informed us that they are very close to a settlement. Only a few issues remain to be resolved. We hope to have a final decision soon. We will notify you when a decision is issued.

On the case that was heard in Judge MacDonald's court room, which involved members with US Health being overcharged for their premiums, as you know a decision was reached. But as of this date there has been no decision on when the refunds will be sent out. The city says that the delay was caused by the attorney handling the case, Bruce Campbell resigning. A new attorney has been assigned to the case, we will continue to monitor this case, and update you as information becomes available.

(continued on page 10)



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Needless to say there has been a lot happening involving the Association over the past few months.

I would like to begin by saying that the east side meetings appear to have been a great success. We had over 320 plus members attend which, was the most at any General Meeting we have had. This took everyone by surprise including myself. It was a scramble to order more pizzas but it all worked out and everyone seemed to have a great time. There were a few small problems with getting more tables set up for seating and serving the pizza but this is something we will work out for the future meetings. Just to let all local members know, we will be alternating the General Meetings starting in September or this year. They will begin in September with the east side location which is the American Polish

Century Club, located at 33204 Maple Lane, Sterling Hgts., (14 Mile and Hoover area) and continue alternating month to month with the west side location at the Monaghan K of C Council, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. This will make it easier for all our local members and members who may be in town on our meeting dates to attend. Again, I would like to thank all the Entertainment Committee members and anyone else, who stepped in and helped out for the huge turnout,

In keeping with the social agenda, just a reminder to everyone that the picnic and golf outing are fast approaching, with the picnic on Saturday, August 9th and the golf outing on Friday, August 22nd. If anyone is interested in golfing give the office a call and set up your foursomes, the price is \$60.00 per golfer. Hope to see everyone at these events.

We also have a few seats left for the Las Vegas trip scheduled for September 22nd through the 26th. With the price of air fare rising daily this is turning out to be a great deal at \$550.00 per person, so if you think you may be interested give the office a call.

On another important issue, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), while at the last Executive Board Meeting for N.A.P.O. I talked to Bill Johnson the Executive Director of N.A.P.O. I asked for an updated status of these two bills in Congress. He advised me that with this being an election year if something does not happen by the end of June or the first half of July the legislation will probably die in committee. No elected official wants to be involved in more spending while campaigning for their job. With this writing taking place in July you can probably see that nothing has happened. There is nothing saying that the legislation

(continued on page 7)

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



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RECORDING FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Charles Master

The open enrollment program on healthcare is upon us again and once more the City intends to increase premiums at an astronomical rate. It is difficult to believe that not too many years ago we paid nothing for basically the same benefit.

All indications are that the cost of healthcare will increase two fold and it is a continuation of the City's effort to divert a large portion of hospitalization costs to the retiree and his/her families.

It has been stated previously that it is a long range program spelled out in the Boyle Report. It clearly indicates that this is a five (5) year projection of increases for healthcare coverage's.

Nothing comes as a surprise when dealing with the City. It becomes a matter of give and take and the question of pension monies being used to negotiate a benefit for active employees is one example. We have nothing to offer and, therefore, we have no bargaining position.

This puts us in an awkward position of having to protect benefits we have already received by defending them in a court of law.

Our present court case before Judge Torres exemplifies this Association's commitment to defend the rights of all its members.

We cannot stand by idly and accept changes which would be detrimental to the good and welfare of the members. We must challenge decisions that are not in our best interests and would eventually create great harm to all retirees.

We cannot accept newly implemented changes and broken promises. We must fight to keep things as they should be.

Theodore I. Cohen

Certified Public Accountant

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SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CHARLES MASTER "DUFFERS DERBY" GOLF OUTING

FOR R.D.P.F.F.A. MEMBERS!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008
9:00 A.M. Shot Gun Start

Salt River Golf Course

38633 23 Mile Road
Chesterfield, MI
586-725-0311

COST: \$60.00 PER PERSON
Breakfast, Lunch and Supper

Registration forms are available from the Association Office. Call 1-586-795-1734. Retired members should return them before June 30, 2008. Non-member applications will be processed after that date. Retirees and active members are invited. Foursomes and singles.

A WORD OF WARNING:
23 Mile Rd. East of I-94 is Under construction and has limited lane coverage so "LEAVE EARLY!"



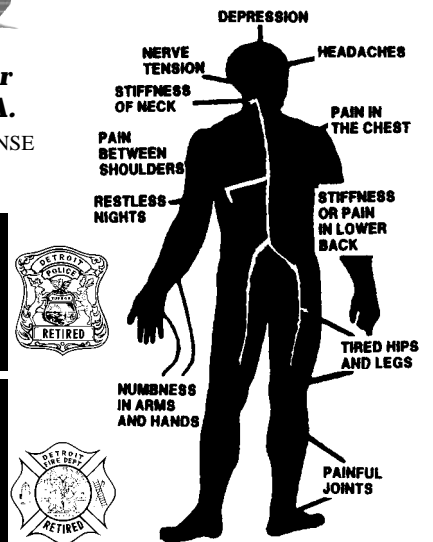
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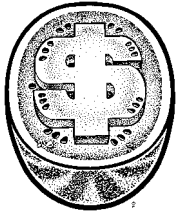
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PENSION CHAIRMAN

Gregory Trozak

As many of you may already know, the Association had filed a lawsuit against the active unions and the City. The Pension Board is also listed in the suit since several Trustees are union officers. For those who are not aware of this litigation and for everyone, I will attempt to explain my reason for supporting this litigation.

Back in the early spring, the City Administration presented a so called stimulus package that would balance the budget and put the City on the right course for the future. This package included a total of \$75,000,000.00 that the Pension Board would allow the City to forego paying into the pension system. When this was presented, the Pension Board knew nothing about this. As far as the pension system was concerned, the City owed approximately \$67,000,000.00 by June 30th. At the time the pension system was over funded and it was the City's intention to use this over funding and forego \$25,000,000.00 being paid to our pension fund on June 30th along with \$25,000,000.00 each of the two following years as long as the pension system remained over funded. This over funding in the past, as we all know, was used for the one and only time we received our "13th check". At that time the City, the unions and our Association negotiated the distributions of these monies. This request was made by the Administration at that time.

Last year, at this same time of year, the present Administration inquired about the over funding in the system. Soon after their request our Association along with all the active unions met in a meeting room at the Atheneum Hotel to discuss this request. Because of the ordinance passed several years ago that allowed the City to sell the Pension Obligation Certificates (POC), it was written in the ordinance that no monies could leave the pension system until the POCs were paid off. Because of this we would have to come up with a benefit requiring no payment of cash from the system. The active unions had a request for additional pay out of accumulated sick time from the City. Our Association would be willing to accept some sort of payment by the City towards our health care premiums. After all these discussions apparently the City did not think this would have been feasible and made their entire required pay-

ment on June 30, 2007 thus ending all proposals.

Now getting back to this year, I was approached informally while at the pension board meetings concerning the same request from several trustees. Then on May 13, 2008 a pension board meeting was held and the Trustees present passed a resolution allowing the City to forego the \$75,000,000.00 payment spread over the three year period. This meeting was called to order at 11:50 am and adjourned at 11:51 am. Prior to this meeting all the active unions met at labor Relations and signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" adding unused sick leave to average final compensation (AFC).

I would at this time, like to go on record as saying that I strongly support the active unions in their negotiation with the City and commend them for any additional benefits they receive through negotiations for their members. Now comes the "but", when the benefit you receive allows the City to forego making a payment into the Pension System that we as retirees depend on, I feel that the RDPFFA should have been included in the negotiations. We were included in the past. The Pension System Trustees may state that since no monies left the system, it was not necessary to include the retirees and the retirees know when they retired that any future benefits the unions negotiated do not include retirees or they may say the two agreements are not connected. Regardless of the stance they take, this Association disagrees. We feel that since these agreements, especially the resolution allowing the City to not have to pay \$75,000,000.00 into our pension fund over the next three years, has a direct impact on the RDPFFA and its members. They may say we have a weak case and no basis for our claims, we have to let them know that we are out here and do not begrudge any benefits they receive. We feel we should have been included in the negotiations since this involves pension monies whether it is money leaving the system or not being added to the system. Our Association should have been consulted, or at least, advised that this was happening behind closed doors. The lawsuit has been filed and only time will tell. The bottom line is these agreements affect the assets of our pension system.

As always, if you would like more information or have any questions please feel free to call or send an e-mail to the office and I will make every attempt to answer your questions. I apologize to anyone who sent an e-mail and received no response. The office computer system is being updated and there have been a few problems. Hopefully this will get ironed out soon.

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.

New Location: Step Inn Restaurant

325 N. Main St., Downtown Cheboygan, MI

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

Motor City Casino Lower Level Buffet

2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, MI

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

Grand River Grill, 2394 Grand River, Brighton, MI

Exit 145 off of I96

Welcome New Members!

April

Bulgarelli, Robert

Catlin, Donald

Dickinson, Ronald

Dorsey, Maria

Fields, Devon

Gaynett, Catherine

Nemecka Jr., Raymond

Slezak, Ralph

Smith, Timothy

May

Buoncompagni II, Peter

Cherry, Aaron

Leblanc, Renee

Monion, Courtney

Montgomery, Karlton

Sanchez III, Richard

Schumaker, Ellen

Washington, Betty

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

General Membership

Meeting Schedule

SEPTEMBER 2008 - JUNE 2009

THURSDAY AT 7 PM

EAST SIDE/AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, Michigan

Sept. 4 • Nov. 6 • Jan. 8 • Mar. 5 • May 7

WEST SIDE/MONAGHAN K OF C HALL

19801 Farmington Rd. - Livonia, Michigan

Oct. 2 • Dec. 4 • Feb. 5 • Apr. 2 • June 4

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 meetings 1st Sunday of the month 12:30 P.M.

“October to May” at Brandon Community Center

502 E. Sadie St. - Brandon, Florida

Snowbirds Of Michigan*

2nd Sunday of the month

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.

Arizona Roadrunners*

Members will be notified of

time and place by mail

*Refer to columns for specifics or program changes

Articles for the September, 2008

Issue should be “submitted” by

August 15, 2008

Hospitalization

John Devoy

Open enrollment for health insurance is here, or is it? The City of Detroit has seen fit to delay the open enrollment period for at least 60 days. With this delay, our members are denied the opportunity to make any changes, however the cost of your coverage will increase greatly.

The City's claim is that because of the present court case, you cannot change anything. However, last year the same case was in the same court, before the same Judge and we were allowed to make changes. This means the extra monies they collected for premiums is gone. We are protesting strongly!

For the first time in many years our Association held a General Membership Meeting on the East side and it was a great success, as many as 400 were in attendance. It was so successful; the RDPFFA has decided to alternate our monthly meeting sites between the East and West side locations. In September our monthly meeting will be at the East Side location, American Polish Century Club. The October meeting will be held on the West Side at the Livonia K. of C. Hall. This pattern will continue throughout the year on the first Thursday of each month except July and August.

Please attend when the meetings resume in September.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(Surviving Spouses)

Fern Garner

That very large envelope with the information about Health Care Options for City of Detroit retirees duly arrived. Conspicuously absent was the enrollment form if you elected to make any changes. A notice was included that said Police and Fire Retirees enrollment would be conducted in June. This was to coincide with the decision by an arbitrator appointed by the court for the long pending lawsuit filed by our Association against the City for increase in premiums for health care.

Now that decision, originally due mid June, has been postponed until October. Since no further word has been received it seems that we will have to pay the premiums as listed in the new schedules and only hope that that money will be returned to us, along with previous payments, when and if the lawsuit is settled in our favor. So we wait and see. As has been advised in the Unity, be sure to save all records of premium payments as well as co-payments and other fees paid to providers.

About the same time we received the health care packet, we also received the very elegant and glossy booklet from the Police and Fire Retirement System. It would seem that there are sufficient funds in the system to pay current retirees but recently the news has highlighted some questionable investments made by the board. This only emphasizes the need for greater oversight by our Association and the DPOA and Fire Fighters Association.

These are tough economic times, as we in the Detroit area see buyouts and layoffs in the auto industry, long the indicator of conditions in this area. But these are changing times and it takes great vigilance to just keep up with current trends. Thank goodness for our Association and its dedicated staff who are always looking out for us.

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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.

Name	Dept.	Rank	Date of Death
Adams, Dale	Police	Sgt.	5/18/08
Clarkson, Robert	Fire	F.F.	5/21/08
Cwengros, Elmer A.	Police	Lieut.	4/5/08
Damian, George R.	Police	P.O.	5/25/08
Dill, Arvell	Police	P.O.	4/9/08
Dobzyniak, John	Fire	Lieut.	4/12/08
Douras, James	Police	P.O.	4/1/08
Erzal, William R.	Police	Sgt.	4/7/08
Foresi, Serge E.	Fire	Lieut.	4/14/08
Fye Jr., Homer	Police	P.O.	5/13/08
Hutsko, Joseph W.	Police	P.O.	5/11/08
Johnson, Harold L.	Police	Insp.	5/22/08
Korejsza, David A.	Police	Sgt.	4/11/08
Lammert, Hans J.	Fire	F.F.D.	5/6/08
Martin, Charles E.	Fire	Capt.	5/15/08
Porter, Joseph W.	Police	Insp.	4/13/08
Reppenhagen, Mark E.	Fire	F.F.	5/28/08
Rooks, Daniel M.	Fire	Chief	4/7/08
Rushin, Robert D.	Police	Lieut.	4/12/08
Skidmore, Jack	Fire	F.F.	4/17/08
Townsend, James	Police	Sgt.	5/20/08
Turner, Henry	Fire	Insp.	4/7/08
Walker, Joseph B.	Police	Sgt.	4/19/08
Wandrie, Otto B.	Fire	Lieut.	4/10/08
White, James H.	Police	P.O.	5/25/08
Wilczewski, Edward J.	Police	Sgt.	5/7/08
Winningham, Edward L.	Police	P.O.	5/14/08

VICE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

will die but a “betting man” can see the writing on the wall. He did assure me that as soon as the new session of Congress begins in January 2009 they will again begin initiating the re-introduction of both bills. This means that all our members should continue calling, writing and e-mailing your Congressman or Congresswoman in the United States House of Representatives and your United States Senators and stress how important this legislation is to our members and this Association.

The Board of Directors voted to begin monitoring the Michigan Legislature to ensure that our pensions remain solvent and the state laws continue to give us this protection and watching for any proposed new legislation or changing of current law concerning health care or any matters that may be of concern for our members. We are going to use a lobbyist to assist us in these matters. We will keep everyone updated should any important issues arise. The price to retain this lobbyist will be high but the current conditions of the State and City make this a priority for our Association.

Until the next time I would like to say thanks again to all who helped out at the East Side General Meeting and I hope to see as many members as possible at the Picnic, the golf outing and the first meeting in September. Remember the meetings will alternate between the two locations above starting on the east side. Enjoy the remaining summer.

ATTENTION WDERs. WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

The next reunion luncheon is October 18, 2008. We need your home address or e-mail address to send you information. Please contact Barbara Weide at 734-416-9176 or weidebarbara@sbcglobal.net.



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REMEMBRANCE AND THANK YOU

The following supporters, their names and in the names of their loved ones, have contributed most generously to our Appreciation, Building 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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Baginski, Henry J. <i>in memory of Joseph Galvszka</i> | Kotula, Thaddeus J. |
| Barton, Dennis P. <i>in memory of James "Ram" McDonagh</i> | LaCoursier, George |
| Beer, Ferdinand A. | Lobstein, Milton W. <i>in memory of Ed and Robert Lobstein</i> |
| Chakan, Sharron A. <i>in memory of John Chakan</i> | Monahan, James D. |
| Chase, Rita A. | O'Grady, William P. |
| Chubb, William J. | Patrell, Joseph P. |
| Cunningham, Helen <i>in memory of Sgt. John Cunningham</i> | Priebe, Richard G. |
| Ellyatt Sr., Edward E. <i>in memory of Ernest Chalmers</i> | Retired Police and Fire Club of Florida |
| Gotelaere, Phyllis A. | Roberson, Alexander B. |
| Heinrich, Jenny <i>in memory of Charlotte and Walter Heinrich</i> | Saier, Elizabeth <i>in memory of William J. Saier</i> |
| Hudson, Barbara Ann <i>in memory of William A. Hudson</i> | Smith, Raymond C. |
| Hudson, James C. | Tanderys, Jim <i>in memory of Lt. Andrew Zazula</i> |
| Keech, Claire E. | Wolff Jr., William J. |
| Knobelsdorf, Donald G. | Wooley, Joe E. <i>in memory of George Wooley</i> |



RETIRED DETROIT POLICE AND FIRE CLUB OF FLORIDA

Nancy Schmidt

Just trying to catch you up on some of the happenings over the last few months.

As most of you know, Joe Hutsko died May 11, 2008 and was buried May 20th. Joe was well liked and was one of the "Good Guys", always there to lead or lend a helping hand. He will be missed by all who knew him. His funeral was well attended by our members. "May he rest in peace".

Over the past few months we have lost Ray Kuhn, Betty McClellan, Lois DeMercy, George Pollock and William Sind. May they rest in peace!

The Election of Officers was held on May 4th, with the results being: President, Bill Schmidt, Vice President, Harry Ramsey, Treasurer, Dolores Larsen, Secretary, Wally Hamer, Sgt-at-Arms, Jim Bateson, Chaplain, Ron Goosen and Entertainment Chairman, Bill Larsen.

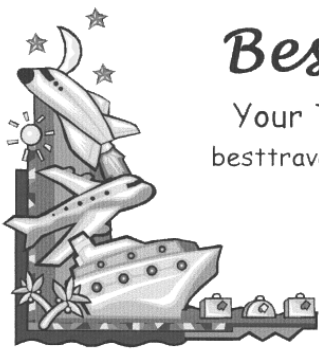
We would like to thank both Jim and Edith Caulfield, Jim for being our Chaplain and Edith for being our outgoing Treasurer. May God Bless you both and we all wish you well.

Treasurer Dolores Larsen has informed us that two donation checks have been sent out, along with letters of appreciation to the RDPFFA of Michigan in the amount of \$400.00 and to the Brandon Recreation center for \$250.00 for the use of the hall.

At the May meeting, a vote was taken and passed that we will have an extra Pizza Party. They will be in February and April. At the November and December meetings we will be having a couple of extra door prize drawings added to the 50/50 drawing, complements of the club.

If you need to pay dues they can be sent to Dolores Larsen 399 Walnut Ct. Palm Harbor, Florida 34683. Her phone number is 1-727-786-3429, if you have any questions regarding your dues.

We look forward to seeing you all in October. Have a great and safe summer.



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Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

It was good to get back with our Snowbird friends and members. Unfortunately, shortly after we got back we found out that our long time friend and President of the Florida Club, Joe Hutsko passed away. Joe will really be missed. Our friend and Snowbird President Moe Gekiere is back in the hospital with pneumonia again and our friend Don Andrizzi is also having a difficult time with his lungs. We send get well wishes and prayers to both of you.

I missed last month's article because I was under the weather. So we have to catch up on the May Anniversaries: Jerry and Evelyn Brehm, Ed and Marsha Dreslinski and Ted and Maryann Ponik (51 years). May Birthdays: Doris Shumaker, Marsha Dreslinski and Moe Gekiere.

June Anniversaries: Mike and Joann Cherry, Jerome and Della Rozanski. June Birthdays: Mike Cherry, Marge Helzer, Roland Raska, Ed Dreslinski, Bev. Clayton, Ginny Rogers, Barney Barnauskas.

Turkey Raffle winner: Betty Henahan. 50-50 winners: Jerry Tibaldi, welcome back Jerry, also Ernie Huffman, Loraine Dennerly, John Pietrangelo and Mike Cherry.

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Our Mackinac Island trip was great! Our rooms had balconies that overlooked the lake. We had a sit down all you can eat dinner at the Mackinac Grill on Friday night. Saturday morning a Continental breakfast then we all went as a group on the Ferry to the island. A carriage ride around the island, a visit to the Fort, and then a carriage ride to the Grand Hotel where we had a buffet that was fabulous. Then lest we forget, we sat on the porch and rocked our hearts out watching the spectacular view. Our toll was reimbursed and we also received extra money from each of the Kewadin Casinos. It was a fun outing.

Our next activity is our picnic on August 10th at 12 noon at Alcona County Park in Glennie. We have fun and easy games including bingo and lots of great food. All free to members and their guests. Just bring a dish to pass if you can. Any Detroit Police and Firemen who happen to be up north that weekend are always welcome.

Do you remember in the early 1950's the carmakers came out with small fuel efficient cars like the Henry J., Hudson Jet and the Nash Metropolitan. They were on the right track back then – What happened??? Stay Healthy

ATTN: City of Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

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PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

As you may know we have filed a new lawsuit, as a result of a deal that was entered into between the city and the active Police & Fire unions.

On May 13, 2008 the City of Detroit, the Detroit Police & Fire Pension Board and the active unions entered into an agreement that afforded benefits to the City in the amount of \$75,000,000 and increased retirement and sick time benefits for active members of the pension system. This was accomplished by allowing the City to forgo making full pension contributions (\$25,000,000 per year for 3 years). The retired members of the pension system were given no consideration during these negotiations.

So on June 26 we filed a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court, against the City, the Pension Board and the active unions, asking that this backroom deal be nullified and the City be required to make their full pension contributions. Our Attorney Michael Stafani advised us the lawsuit has been assigned to Judge William J Giovan's Courtroom. A copy of this lawsuit was posted on our web-site rdpffa.com

I now want to move on to other matters of importance to our Association. We will be asking for your assistance in the following efforts we are undertaking.

We have started the process to form a State wide organization of which our membership will automatically become a member. We will also be inviting other retired Police, Fire, Sheriffs, EMS, other Public Service Officers to join this coalition to influence legislation in Lansing that is beneficial to Public Service retirees.

We ask that if you know retirees from other departments or cities, you inform them of our goals and urge them to join our new Association. They can contact us at the office 586-795-1734 or obtain information at our web-site, rdpffa.com. We're also working on setting up a new web-site, and new phone number for the state wide organization. We are now working with attorney Bob Buydens, in our attempt to form this new Association. Once we have completed all the legal requirements, additional information will be sent out, but we need you to assist in our recruiting efforts now.

We have also expanded our efforts on the political front. For years we have donated monies to Detroit politicians, that have gained office in part by our efforts and donations, only to have them turn a deaf ear to us in non-election years. In order to prepare our Association for the battles ahead, we have enlisted the services of a lobbyist.

The lobby firm we have retained is Michigan Legislative Consultants (MLC). It is Michigan's oldest lobbying and political consulting firm. They have served a wide range of clients, from the largest international corporations to the smallest local grassroots efforts.

MLC will put us on the political map by helping us build relationships, advocate for legislation that benefits us and advise us on where we should make the most effective PAC contributions. The firm will be drafting a strategic governmental affairs plan which you will be hearing more about in the future.

The firm has several well qualified lobbyists acting on our behalf, our main representative, is Timothy Ward. Tim joined MLC after founding and operating a law and lobbying firm. Prior to his law firm career, he acquired over 15 years in government service, lobbying and campaign management. Tim capped his government service as Governor Engler's Director of External Affairs at which time he was appointed by the Governor to manage his 1998 re-election campaign. Prior to his

(continued on page 11)



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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.

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 10)*

service in the Engler Administration, Tim served in staff positions in the Michigan House and Senate as well as Oakland County government. He also served as Senior Director of Government Affairs of the Michigan Credit Union League. He is a graduate of Albion College and the Michigan State University Detroit College of Law.

These new efforts we are undertaking will be difficult, and expensive. But the alternative of just standing by, waiting on the side lines may be even more costly to our members and the Association. We need only to look at the most recent revelations. The increase cost and reductions in our healthcare benefits. The unlawful use of 75 million dollars from our pension system. This Association must be prepared to take immediate and decisive action, whenever the interest of our members are at risk. We must send a clear message that this Association will not stand-by idly while any Organization or Association misuses the resources of our pension system.

We also need to put the politicians on notice that we are a large and well organized political force that they will have to deal with, as they look to tax our pensions and make other changes at the state level that will have a negative effect on our membership.

Regarding our efforts with the lobbyist, it will be necessary to raise more funds that can be used for the purpose of political action. As you know we are not allowed to use general fund money for this purpose. So we will need to increase our Political Action Fund. You can be of assistance, if you would like to support our new efforts on the political front, send in a donation to

the office. Be sure to include in the memo that, your donation is for the Political Action Fund. You may consider sending this Association the funds you had set aside for your dues to the Active Unions. Their recent deal with your pension money, points out that they are not interested in looking out for your interest.

So once again I ask for your assistance in these new and expanded efforts on your behalf, by your Association.

The new plastic style membership cards are at the office and will be mailed out shortly. We are waiting for a decision on our hospitalization case, then we will mail out your new card along with an update on the decision.

On behalf of the Association, I want to thank you for your support as we move your Association in a new direction.



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Westside Silver Ladies

Geri Henningsen

I'm hoping this article finds all of you enjoying our summer. The Westside Silver Ladies has been experiencing some health issues leading up to our June meeting... Dorothy Bliss, Martina Burke, Hilma Clifford, Doris Kaiser, Marilyn Noseworthy, Eleanor Popiela and Gayne Zell. Please keep them in your prayers as well as Marie McCarthy and her sister.

Our May and June luncheons had great turnouts. 18 members for May plus a guest, Jean Zoumbaris who was visiting from Virginia. Mary Wagner won the 50/50 raffle. We had 21 members attend in June and one guest, Ethel Johnson, Lessie Johnson's daughter. Dolores Linn won the 50/50. Dolores Tanana has been a member for awhile and was able to attend the luncheon for the first time.

Reminder; RDPFFA picnic will be here soon. This year's date is August 9th. If you've attended in the past, you know what a great day it is. If you haven't, please try to do so this year. The price is terrific ... FREE!! The food is delicious and the Retirees work long, hard hours to make this a successful event. Fran Murphy, Donna Hope, Dolores Weaver and myself usually attend every year so stop by and say "HI".

BIRTHDAYS; Donna Hope - 7/26, Shirley Brandt - 7/27, Meta Bateson and Eleanor Popiela - 8/5, Dolores Linn - 8/10. Best wishes from all of us for a beautiful birthday.

Thought for the day ... "Sooner or later, we all quote our mothers"!

Let's meet at Archies ... Geri Henningsen, 734-335-6778.

A Lesson From Robins

It was the last two weeks in May,
The weather was still not warm.

I observed two busy Robins,
Engaged in what to them was norm.

Picking up sticks and bits of string,
To build a nest quite strong.
On top of my rear door outside light,
Where nothing could go wrong.

It was under my back door awning,
Away from the wind and rain.
Safe from marauding neighbor's cats,
Flying back and forth time and time again.

It soon was occupied by three small blue eggs,
Kept warm by either parent it seemed.
When finally replaced by three small mouths,
It seemed like something I only dreamed.

They soon seemed too large for that tiny nest,
Constant clamoring for more food.
I watched them daily as they filled the nest,
I took pictures of that hungry brood.

One morning, as I went to check the brood,
They came out, pushed by a doting parent.
Flying as best they could to bushes and my garage,
In different directions, they we sent.

I wish that I could have been like them,
Boot them out when they were grown.
Maybe then I could have that peace of mind,
That I have never known.

By Roy H. Moerschell

**13th Annual
15th Precinct
Oldtimers Picnic**
September 13, 2008 • *Noon Til Dark*
Camp Rotary

(29 Mile between North Ave. and Romeo Plank Rd)

Cost: \$5.00 per person

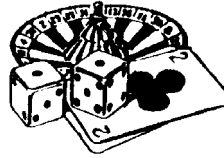
Contact: Bill Boyd (586) 978-1664

wboyd4422@wowway.com



Silver Ladies

Carol Curley



NEVADA JACKPOTS

Tom Hulkkonen

Member News:

Wilma F., Treasurer, is “filling” our treasury with membership dues again! Thank you Silver Ladies.

The May 50-50 was won by Irene, our President. The lucky winner for the June 50-50 was Sophie Z.

Along with Louise and Delphine having June Birthdays, I somehow missed Millie Stone. So Happy Birthday Millie! Now for July, Happy Birthday to Sophie, June and Wilma F. Looking forward, Marie is our August Happy Birthday recipient!

Good health recovery wishes to June, Marie and Jennie, and thanks to our thoughtful members for the cards, phone calls, maybe visits and prayers. Hope you always remember our fellow Silver Ladies.

Now it’s our pleasure to welcome our newest member Mary “Betty” Sznawajs!

“See-you-at-the-picnic” July 8th at 12 noon, at Dodge Park #1 pavilion (thanks Barb). Please bring your own place setting, beverage and the “specialty dish”.

If you’re interested in joining our happy group, call Irene Brooks at 1-586-749-8894.

A thought: which is better 96 degrees Fahrenheit or 20 degrees Fahrenheit and icy? You can’t move in either case.

President Breed opened the May 10th meeting at 10:00 A.M., with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a silent prayer for our fallen brothers and our soldiers out there in harm’s way. He reminded those attending of the upcoming RDPFFA educational seminar and dinner and passed around the application forms. We had a good laugh as he described pulling up to the train station and watching the train leaving. He and Evie missed the train ride but made it to Tony Pakula’s house for the festivities. Everyone who attended the card and dice party had a good time. Kudos to Tony.

Terry Hilden passed around some literature on the CCW laws pertaining to retired police officers here in Nevada. As the department did not give retirement ID cards with a picture on them, we cannot apply for the Federal CCW permit that is available to retired Police Officers. It’s another reminder of the City’s shabby treatment of their uniform services retirees.

I mentioned that we have \$390.00 in our treasury. I also asked if there were any volunteers who would like to run for our elected offices. We haven’t elected new officers in many years and I feel there is a need for new elections, especially for Secretary/Treasurer.

I received a nice note from Dannine Harvey, with her 2008 dues, that said she is going back to Detroit to marry her Las Vegas love. Congratulations Dannine from the Nevada Jackpots on your betrothal.

The next business meeting is September 13, 2008.

Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Hulkkonen

ASSOCIATION OFFICE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!

Our medical equipment has been depleted and there is a need for wheelchairs and walkers with wheels.

We ask that if you have borrowed any of our medical equipment and have no further need for the items, please return them to the office.

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ARIZONA ROADRUNNERS

Al Helquist

The next meeting of the Roadrunners shall be on Sunday, September 14, 2008, commencing at 12:00 noon at the Wild Horse Pass Casino. Barring any unforeseen problems, we should be in our Private room, according to the new Catering Manager.

At our May 3rd meeting we had approximately twenty-five persons in attendance, even taking into account that some of our members have fled to the northern climes of Michigan. Hope that they are staying dry.

The 2008 Las Vegas Convention is scheduled for September 22nd to the 26th at the South Point Casino and Spa. All that are planning to attend get your reservations for this event made A.S.A.P. Reservations must be made prior to August 15th and they should be \$85.00 per night.

Also if you haven't signed up for the \$2.00 monthly payroll deduction of your yearly RDPFFA dues, please do it, as it shall not only save you money, but also our Association.

Make a note of our next meeting date, September 14th and I shall see you there.

Till later, take care.

In the words of an Old Italian Proverb: If you scatter thorns, don't go barefoot.

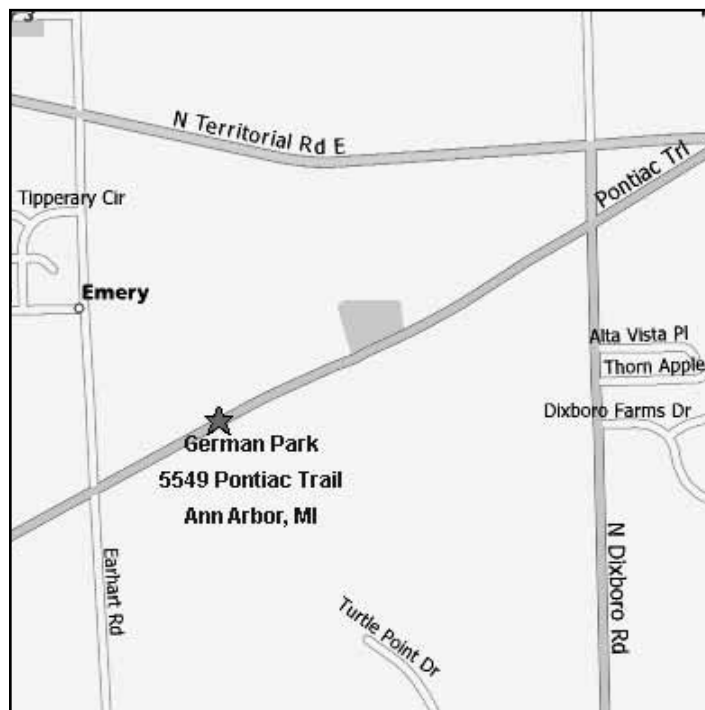
SPECIAL NOTICE!

Your Association invites all R.D.P.F.F.A. active members, associates and their guest (1) to attend the R.D.P.F.F.A. 37th Anniversary Picnic on Saturday, August 9, 2008 at the German Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Just show your current R.D.P.F.F.A. membership card and enjoy the day. Admission is by a valid R.D.P.F.F.A. membership card or ticket purchase only. Non-members and those requiring additional tickets can procure same at the gate for \$10.00 each.

A luncheon ticket will be issued upon admission to the park.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED NOON TO 3 P.M. ONLY!



EYE CARE UPDATE 2008

Metropolitan Eye Center will always provide the latest and safest treatments available for our patients. As a full-service eye center with an on-site optical studio, you can be assured we will do whatever we can to make your vision the best it can possibly be. Here are some services we provide.

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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.



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CATARACTS

If you believe you may have a cataract, don't worry. Every year, some 2.5 million Americans have cataract surgery. Modern cataract surgery has developed into one of the safest, most successful and most patient 'friendly' surgical procedures available. 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!

MULTIFOCAL LENS IMPLANTS

When our patients have cataract surgery, the improvement to their 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. The first step is to have a complete eye examination and determine if this type of implant is right for you!

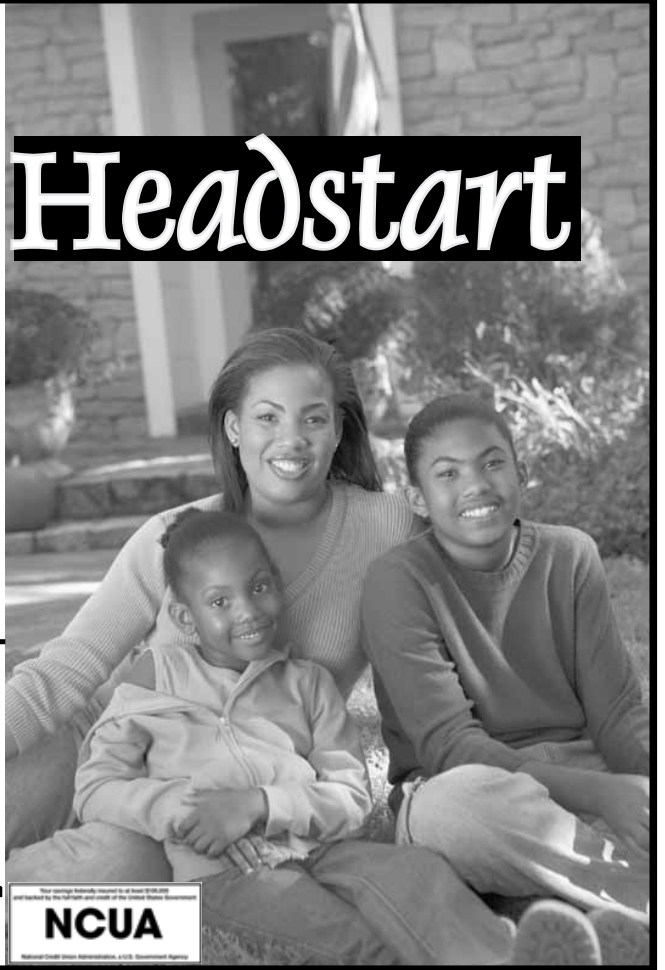
GLAUCOMA TREATMENT

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 usually 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 new 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.

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