

CITY OF TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION

Web site: www.tamparetiree.com

Message from the President

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If you have any

Information for the
newsletter contact me
at either:

(813) 986-4488 or

james.zaleski@verizon.net

It is October and we are still on the litigation trail. Our Appeal Brief was filed on October 3, 2006 and an answer from the Trustees is due 20 days later. Our Brief is posted on the Tampa Retirees Website for your review. The answer to our Brief will also be posted for all to review. Once we receive the Answer Brief from the Trustees, we will file an answer via our Rebuttal Brief. In the Rebuttal Brief, we will have the opportunity to strengthen any area we think may need to be strengthened, clarified or expanded. Our Rebuttal Brief will also be posted for all to read. At our last general meeting in July, our membership directed the Board of Directors to move ahead with the appeal and to enter into any settlement negotiations that are fair, equitable and have merit. On October 4th, I met with Trustee Chairman Marc Hamlin. We discussed the Dec Action and the Appeal. I proposed to Marc that we try to settle the pension issues to the satisfaction of all. I suggested that the Trustees enter into a written agreement that states the \$209 million assessed against the PRAA would be a one-time thing and would not be done in the future. This would restore the provisions of Coniglio and our contracts. It would also negate the possibility that the Actives and City may have to repay the \$209 million if we prevail in the DCA. If this were agreeable, the Retirees would withdraw the Appeal. I felt this was an equitable settlement for both parties. Marc told me he would check with the powers to be and get back with me. In a few days, Marc called and said the Trustees could not go along with the suggestion I made re settlement. Marc did say that if the Retirees would drop the Appeal the Trustees would probably drop their Motion for Costs. He reminded me that the 13th. Check would be paid immediately if the Retirees accepted.

At this point in time, that is the offer to settle from the Trustees. This offer and the one I made are not binding on either party. Any settlement reached would have to be approved by the Trustees and our Membership. In other words, the parties were just talking, back and forth, trying to see if there was any room for an equitable settlement. At this time, the answer is "NO."

At this point, our best hope is the District Court of Appeals. When the Judges read our Brief and review the court transcripts, it should be very obvious that our contracts have been breached and our PRAA Fund looted. There is no other way to look at it. I am still confident that we have a solid case and feel the DCA will be able to recognize the wrongs committed towards the Retirees and our contracts. Every time I read the order from Judge Stoddard I am stunned by his lack of insight into the issues, lack of concern for the well being of Retirees and his lack of intention to rule in an appropriate/unbiased way. In 2007, when Judge Stoddard runs for reelection, we will be sure to make our displeasure known in spades. We need to work very hard to make sure that the Judge isn't on the bench after the election. We will be joined in our efforts by the people affected by the TECO power lines in the Himes and Kirby area. Stoddard also looked the other way when these home owners cried foul and retained Attorney Paul Antinori to file a legal action to have the power poles removed. Seems like this Judge isn't going to make any waves that disturb the City or big business, regardless of who is involved and the issues. He really needs to be removed from the bench. This needs to happen.

I am sure that it seems like years since any action has been taken. Well, this is the track of litigation. Seems like you hurry just to wait. So, here we wait.

Although things seem to be just sitting, the affairs of the RF&PA are ongoing. Some members are very busy in the political arena. We are working in 6 campaigns, some very active and some in just a token way. But, this is an essential thing we are involved in. If Retirees are going to survive future attacks, we are going to have to have friends in political office, friends we can talk to and who will safeguard our best interests. The RF&PA has a Political Action Committee.

The members are: Rudy Morris, Jim Zaleski, J.R. Hudson, Aria Green, Billy Lynn and myself. We are staying busy. We walk neighborhoods, put up signs, work polling places, call voters on the phone, personally contribute money to campaigns and many other tasks that we are called on to perform. We have been aided by wives Wylene Green and Anne Vincent. I don't want to forget Ernie Gafford. He is very involved in the political process and keeps the Committee informed of political issues and needs. We are very busy, trying to make friends who will remember us when it counts. In another section of this Newsletter, you will find a list of candidates who we have been working with and fully support. The candidates we list will be friends of the Retirees when elected. We strongly suggest to the membership that you support these candidates with your vote and the votes of family and friends. We sincerely hope you will vote for each of them on Election Day.

On the Pension Board front, everyone knows by now that the Trustees did not renew the services contract for Jim Loper. His contract expired on June 30th. The Trustees advertised for a new Fund Attorney and there were 4 applicants, one of them was Jim Loper. After each attorney told the Trustees why they were the best for the job, the Trustees selected Mr. Ron Cohen. Mr. Cohen is very qualified and competent and the Trustees did us all a service by selecting him to replace Jim Loper.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2006 @ 6:30 PM, at the Church. Refreshments at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:00. Make plans to attend.

We have invited a number of candidates to come to the meeting and speak to our Members. I think it is important to hear what these candidates have to say about our issues and other issues that affect us all.

We plan to have a discussion regarding the plight of our 13th. Check. This is not a dead issue and there



NEWS OF NOTE



are things that can be done to ensure that the benefit will be paid regardless of SS 112.61. It will take some work but I understand it is doable. That's about it for my part. Please make plans to be at our meeting. This is your organization, take part in its' functions. See ya at the meeting.

Larry Vincent

Audit Report and Financial Statement for Period of
August 1, 2001 through July 31, 2006

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	22,435.40
Deposits	342,570.90
Subtotal	365,006.30
Expenditures	<364,313.39>
Ending Balance	692.91

Expenditures

Office Supplies	<9,584.09>
Hall rental and cleanup	<5,955.07>
Meeting refreshments, door prizes	<12,369.82>
Photo copies	<130.00>
Legal Fees	<253,587.80>
Actuaries	<62,780.25>
Court Reporters	<5,252.10>
Taxes, tax prep	<3,782.25>
Post Office Box	<414.00>
Bank Fees	<624.81>
Funeral Donations	<3,573.69>
Video Tapes	<112.35>
Web Site	<163.50>
Lobbyist	<5,983.66>
Total Expenditures From Checking	<364,313.39>

Ending Balance Checking 692.91

TOTAL ASSETS 692.91

Upcoming Elections

The Hillsborough County General Election is Tuesday November 7, 2006.

Most of our Board members and many other members have been involved in several political campaigns and make the following recommendations:

U.S. House of Representatives-11 Kathy Castor

Florida Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink

State Senator District 10 Ronda Storms

State Senator District 12 Victor Crist

State Representative District 60 Ed Homan

Hillsborough County Commission 7 Mark Sharpe

Circuit Court Judge District 44 Emily Peacock

City of Tampa City Council 4 John Dingfelder
(Election for City Council March 2007)

Politics can be a nasty business but it is a necessary evil and if we don't get involved our issues will never get the attention they deserve. It's important that we support these candidates, both financially and with our votes.

I remember a line from a recent movie "If you don't vote you don't count." So make sure you count and be sure to vote.

IN MEMORY

*The following pension members have passed away
since our last Meeting*

Robert J. Akins, Fire

*Wanda M. Dougherty surviving spouse of
James J. Dougherty, Fire*

*Edith P. Locke surviving spouse of
Tommy E. Locke, Police*

*Evelyn J. Neal surviving spouse of
Delano G. Neal, Police*

William J. Norris, Fire

Email

If you have an email address and would like to get monthly updates be sure to email me your address at james.zaleski@verizon.net

Website

If you haven't visited our website recently be sure you do. There's plenty of information that can be of help to retirees.

Jerry Wotherspoon has spent a lot of time putting that website together for our benefit. So please take some time and visit it often. (www.tamparetiree.com)

The Pension Board will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday October 26 at 1:30pm
Location 3001 North Boulevard
Come on by the pension board loves the company

Dues are Due

A few of our members still haven't paid their annual dues

If you haven't paid them yet please enclose them in the envelop included in this newsletter. The amount of the annual dues are \$24.00 and we request that you make your checks out to RF&PA.

Remember surviving spouses DO NOT pay dues for their membership.

If your not sure whether or not your paid up please call me at (813) 986-4488 or email me at james.zaleski@verizon.net
Thank You

Reminder

The Retirees monthly luncheon will be held on
Monday October 30 at 11:00am
Location is the Golden Corral at 6942 W.
Hillsborough Ave.
all are invited. Hope to see you there.

A Fifty Fifty Drawing
will be held at the Membership Meeting so
bring a couple of extra bucks
It's for a good cause/the legal fund

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