

CITY OF TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION

Web site: www.tamparetiree.com

Message from the President

President

Larry Vincent

Secretary

David Keene

Treasurer

J.R. Hudson

Fire Vice Presidents

Billy Lynn

Albert Diez

Rudy Morris

Police Vice Presidents

Tom Depolis

Jim Zaleski

Juan Oliva

Editor

Mary Zaleski

If you have any

Information for the

newsletter contact me

at either:

(813) 672-2969 or

james.zaleski@verizon.net

Once again it is April and time to think about who will step up and take a spot on the Board. As you all know, your present Board members have been serving a long time and most are weary. So, begin to think about serving or nominating someone to serve as we continue to work for the best interests of all Retirees.

Positions that are up for this election are; President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fire Vice President and Police Vice President.

In recent months, some of our Members who live out of town have expressed their opinions about not being able to vote on issues and officers of the association. The by-laws do say that all Members have the right to vote. To date, the only Members who can vote are the ones who attend our local quarterly meetings. Obviously there are many Members who don't live in the area but would still like to vote on issues and officers. Your Board has labored with this problem and have come up with a way for all to vote. This will be accomplished by including a ballot in the quarterly Newsletter. It will require the Member to fill out the ballot and mail it in promptly. This is the only viable solution that we could come up with. Most Members don't know it but the Newsletter costs us over \$350 dollars each time we have a mailing. In order to change the way the association votes, we will have to change the By-Laws so that votes by mail will be counted. The changes to the By-Laws will be discussed and then voted on during the July Membership Meeting. I feel confident that the local Members will understand the frustration of not getting to vote and will welcome the change to our voting procedure.

By now, I believe that all Members know that we have paid the Trustees \$60 thousand to satisfy their Motion For Costs. One legal matter is still pending. It is the Motion For Sanctions. This Motion was filed after our Attorney, Fred Carrington, abruptly stopped the Motion For Costs hearing and asked the Judge to recuse himself. Because of this maneuver, opposing attorneys have filed a Motion For Sanctions claiming that their experts cost them \$18 thousand dollars to come to Tampa to testify. I fully believe this Motion is against our attorney and not the Retirees. When this matter goes to court, we will know for certain. Many of us have paid dearly for our trial efforts and I for one am tired of paying.

There is no date set for this hearing at this time but I feel sure that the Judge will mandate a date in the next month or two.

At the present time, I am on an insurance committee through the PBA. The committee is trying to put together a health insurance payment to help all Retirees pay for health care. This program is being driven by the Active Police Officers because they can see what they will pay when they retire. I have been assured that this benefit will go to all Retirees. It will have to be funded by the Actives and the City. The PBA will try to get this passed in collective bargaining. To do this, the Actives will have to give up a small percentage of any raise they get to pay into this fund. The program, at this time, is called the Enhanced Cost-Of-Living Check. As we all know, our cost of living raises don't keep up with the actual cost of living. This program will be good for all Retirees and we all need the help. Part of this program calls for a loan from the PRAA to set up a fund that will be managed by the trustees. It is expected that checks to all Retirees could become a reality in about a year. The committee believes that the fund could be in a position to pay out monthly checks to all Retirees of about \$1,000 dollars a month. It will all depend on how well the money earns interest in the year(s) before payments can begin. I think we can all remember how the cost-of-living became a reality. After a ten-year period, the PRAA began to pay us a cost of living each year. This program is based on the same premise. We expect that the fund will be able to start cutting checks after being in effect for a year. Each Retiree will get the same amount, just like the 13th. Check. From what I can tell, this is a positive move that will help all Retirees. There is still a lot to be done to get this program up and running and plans are being made every day. The program even calls for a Retiree to sit with the Trustees to make sure it is administrated in a fair and equal manner. The sooner this program gets under way the sooner the benefits will make their way to all

Retirees of the fund. The Chairman of the Pension Fund Trustees, Patrick Lynch, is invited to attend to explain this proposed benefit to all. Patrick has been working on this benefit for the last 3 years and feels very strongly that this is a benefit that all fund members should have. Patrick called us and met with myself and Fire Vice President Billy Lynn about 3 years ago. He explained the plan to us and asked for our input. As representatives of all Retirees, we have been briefed on this proposal from the beginning.

I would like to encourage all Retirees to attend the Membership Meeting on April 24th. Nominations will be taken for offices and changes to the By-Law changes discussed. Your Board of Directors will be asking the Members for their input on raising our dues. At \$24 dollars a year, there isn't much left after our meetings and mailings. We will also be talking about a Directors & Officers Errors and Omissions Insurance Policy. In todays world, this is a protection we can ill afford to do without.

We will have food for all starting at 6:30 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. See you at the church.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Vincent, President

City of Tampa Retired Fire & Police Assoc.

Nomination for Officers

We'll be taking nominations for the Board of Directors at this months meeting. Positions that need to be filled are President, Secretary, Treasurer, Fire Vice President and Police Vice President.

Ours like any association depends on it members to fill these positions, and we're looking for these positions to be filled with new people. So please step up to the plate your association needs you.

Let's be Fair

How well we all know that fairness does not always prevail in our world, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep on trying. If everything was always fair, we wouldn't have much use for our unions, less need for our law enforcement and courts, etc. I for one, am not holding my breath for this to happen. We retirees have just completed a process in seeking justice for what we all agreed was an improper taking of OUR P.R.A.A. account monies and using it elsewhere.

Our T.F&P. Assn. Met and the membership directed our elected officers to take the steps necessary to correct this. We fought the best battle we could with what we had to fight with, but fairness did not prevail. Then to add insult to injury, our elected officers were personally assessed costs. They were only given a short time to pay these costs or the costs would be higher. They personally paid \$2,000 each for what we directed them to do. This is not fair. Many retirees did not contribute to the effort at all and many of our members have stopped contributing as the fight is over.

We need to continue our contributions, first to repay our officers their fines and 2nd to build up our fund so we can do what is necessary to see that fairness and justice prevails in the future.

R.I.(Bob) Moore, T.P.D. Ret.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE RF&PA

APRIL 24, 2008

The below listed Article gives Members full voting Rights and privileges.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1(a) These Members accepted into the association shall have full voting Rights and privileges.

Needed changes to Section 1 – add a sub paragraph b., c., and d., which would read;

(b.) Those Members who do not reside in the Tampa Bay Area shall have the Right to vote, by mail-in ballot, on association issues and the election of association officers.

(c.) Ballots will be included in our quarterly "Newsletter." The issue(s) before the association for a vote will be posted. Those voting will mark their ballots, sign them and mail them to the association's mailing address, post marked prior to the meeting date.

(d.) Out-of-town Members will be able to nominate qualified Members to run for positions on the Executive Board. Nominations must be returned prior to the meeting date in April, each year.

ARTICLE V - DUES

Section 1. The dues shall be _____ dollars per month, or _____ () per fiscal year. Dues shall be paid annually.

(a.) Those Members who join during the fiscal year will pay a pro rated amount depending on which month they join.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF OFFICERS (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Currently, our By-Laws state that the President Secretary and treasurer shall serve a 2 year term in office. The above officers currently can serve until a successor is elected. In other words, the 3 officers can serve indefinitely so long as they are re-elected at the end of their term in office. Section 2, sub paragraph (b.) Each officer shall hold office for which elected until a successor is elected.

At the discretion of the membership, Section 2. sub paragraph (b.) can be deleted. This change would mandate that the President, Secretary and Treasurer only serve one 2 year term. If the membership wants this change then deleting Section 2. sub paragraph can be removed from the By-Laws.

Section 6. sub para (b.) Any officer shall be removed automatically for failure to attend four or more consecutive meetings, in combination without reasonable excuse.

Section 6. sub para (b.) needs to be changed to read: Any officer shall be removed automatically for failure to attend four or more consecutive board or general membership meetings, in combination without a reasonable excuse. The underlined words need to be added to this Section.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD

The officers of the Executive Board shall be officers of this corporation, They shall consist of the President, 6 Vice Presidents Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the Executive Board. Each officer shall be elected by a majority vote of those Members defined under Article IV, Section 1, attending the annual meeting in July of each year. Three Vice-Presidents must be from the retired Fire Service and the other 3 Vice-Presidents must be from the retired Police Service. The remaining officers may be from either retired services. These shall perform the duties prescribed in these By-Laws and in accordance with the parliamentary authority adopted by the association.

***In order for the Members who live outside of the Tampa Bay area to be eligible vote, the underlined sentence above will have to be deleted.

Note to all Members. Please read the above. If there are questions please be prepared to bring them up at the meeting. If you have changes to bring up, be prepared to submit the changes in writing, as per our By-Laws. The vote on these changes will take place at the July 24th. general membership meeting.

Note: Proposed changes and deletions are identified by UNDERLINING.

Reminder

The Retirees monthly luncheon will be held on Monday April 28 at 11:00am

Location is the Golden Corral at 6942 W. Hillsborough Ave. all are invited. Hope to see you there.

Pension Board Meeting

The Pension Board will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday April 24 at 1:30pm Location 3001 North Boulevard

Come on by the pension board loves the company

A Fifty Fifty Drawing will be held at the Membership Meeting so bring a couple of extra bucks.

IN MEMORY

The following pension members have passed away since our last Meeting

Wallace Butler - Police

Blanche Carter - surviving spouse of Curtis Carter

Ruby Ellis - surviving spouse of Elmer Ellis

Malcolm Gilbert - Fire

George Griffith - Police

Esther Hancock - surviving spouse of Howard Hancock

Zoradia Onis - surviving spouse of Manuel Onis

James Pless - Fire

James Rutland - Fire

James Toenes - Fire

Harold Whitman - Fire