



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 159, Fall, 2024



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

We're closing in on the end of another year, and the Association has just a couple events left before the New Year. Our December General Membership meeting and the event at the Soaring Eagle Casino.

As you may know, the Association has taken legal action against the State of Michigan over a Budget issue that made 10 Million dollars "As Written" available to "Healthcare VEBAs, that were established in a Bankruptcy from the City of Detroit. The State did not allow our Healthcare VEBA, that was established during the Bankruptcy for Police and Fire Retirees that were retired on or before December 31, 2014. We were notified by our Attorneys that we may have some hearing on the Lawsuit in November, but the issue is far from being completed. We will keep you updated dates as we work through the legal system.

This is also an election year which includes a Presidential election. So most of the State and Federal legislators are out campaigning for their elections, so there isn't much going on as far as legislation in the State or at the Federal level.

Once again the issue of the Social Security Windfall and Pension Offset is back in front of the Legislators in Washington. The legislation has the same Bill number as it did two year ago (H.R. 82). Once again this piece of legislation has gained more than the required 290 co-sponsors which could force

action in the US House of Representative. Currently there are 329 co-sponsors, 210 Democratic, and 119 Republican. All the Democratic Representatives from Michigan are co-sponsors, and one Republican (John James). We have sent letters to all the Republican Representatives in Michigan on this issue, requesting their support, but have not received any responses.

We will continue to follow the legislation, but as for this legislation ever becoming Law, there is very little likelihood of that. This issue has been in front of the Legislators for over 40 years. The new House Rules regarding legislation with 290 or more Co-sponsors this year which is the same as it was two years ago when the same legislation had more than 290 co-sponsors. The action by the Full House is required if the Committee that has been assigned the Legislation does not take any action to report the Legislation. As you recall two years ago the Ways and Means Committee met and reported the Legislation without a recommendation. This removed the requirement for action by the full House. The same thing or some other trickery is likely to happen on this years legislation. But we will continue to monitor and hope that this time it does move through the systems.

That's it for now, don't forget to Vote, and hopefully we'll see you at the Association events.

**This will be the final Unity
Newsletter for 2024, so everyone
here at the R.D.P.F.F.A office
and the Board of Directors would
like to wish you a bountiful
Thanksgiving, a very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

I hope everyone is doing well and you enjoyed the summer months with your family and friends. That means that fall is here and the holidays are right around the corner. With that in mind just a reminder that the General Meetings began with the first on the west side at American Legion Stitt Post, which was well attended. The next will be the December meeting, which will be held at the Polish Century Club on the 5th of the month. The March meeting will be back at the American Legion Stitt Post on the 6th and the May meeting is back at the Polish Century Club on the 1st.

I'm not sure if this will reach everyone in time, but the RDPFFA is having a function at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant on November 3rd & 4th. For those who have already registered we look forward to seeing you.

Again next year the Association will be having the annual picnic and June General Meeting in Frankenmuth at the Bavarian Inn, the dates will be June 22-24, 2025. The picnic will be held on Monday the 23rd and the meeting on Tuesday the 24th and naturally the hospitality rooms will be on Sunday and Monday evenings. There will be more information available in the months to come, just wanted to get the dates out there for those busy calendars.

Moving on with the Pension System updates. The City made their annual contribution to the system which was required after a 10 year absence because of the

bankruptcy ruling where the Foundation contributed the 18.3 million annually for those 10 years. The roughly 83 million was sent to the system by the due date. Also, the City is planning on making quarterly contributions to the system versus once annually. These required contributions will assist the Pension System in making their monthly payments of approximately 23 million dollars to those of us still around to receive our monthly checks. As of the end of September, the Pension System's assets were approximately 2.8 billion, so our pension system is in good shape at this time.

Now, for those of you who were not at the October meeting or did not see the video of the meeting, the talk of a 13th check has resurfaced and it appears it may happen. Don't get too excited and plan on that cruise or trip to Las Vegas, unless you own a large boat or live near Las Vegas. In the City of Detroit budget, 10 million dollars was budgeted for retirees, 5 million to the General System and 5 million to the Police & Fire System. Although, as of this writing, the City Council has yet to approve the budget but they do expect them to do so.

The bottom line is, the 5 million will be divided between all recipients of the system. This is where the issue of how it is divided comes into play. They want to do it fairly so they are looking into taking the total number of years actually worked and dividing that number of years into the 5 million. They feel that those that may have only worked say 10 or 15 years whether it was that retiree vested or went off on disability. They plan on having a payment method figured out, hopefully, by the time the December 13th check will be distributed. I will allow you to do the math because it is way over my head. For those that want to make an attempt, there are around 8000 retirees and beneficiaries receiving pensions. If we hear of anything new or any updates we will get the information out there.

(continued on page 4)



Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association Inc.

2525 E. Fourteen Mile Road • Sterling Heights, MI 48310-5969

(586) 795-1734 • Fax (586) 795-2183

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



OFFICERS

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www.rdpffa.com



SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

Over the years as Secretary-Treasurer my articles reflect the occurrences of the day. From time to time I would take the opportunity to report and move to an issue beneficial for our members to think about or review.

The Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association annually publish and mail a quarterly magazine to the homes of nearly 5,000 members of the RDPFFA. The publication is designed to keep the membership of the Association informed on economics and social events of interest to them. Past issues are listed and posted on our Web-Site for those who wish to examine them.

Routinely, the first issue of the year, the Secretary-Treasurer's article is focused on income and expenses of the Association from January 1 to December 31. It contains a summary of year end numbers compiled by the RDPFFA listing categories and identifying annual expenses with figures:

Issue 144 / Winter – 2021 Issue 148 / Winter – 2022 Issue 152 / Winter – 2023 Issue 156 / Winter - 2024

For those who remember reading information and want to check the material, I made a guide listing the issue, date, year and subject matter. (Secretary-Treasurer's article)

Issue	Season	Year	Subject Matter
89	January	2008	Benefits obtained for all retirees Page 3
121	Spring	2015	RDPFFA history of office locations Page 3
130	Summer	2017	Retiree non-members list Pages 8 thru 15
136	Winter	2019	List of some accomplishments Page 1, 4 (President's article)
138	Summer	2019	Support – ads supporters, Associate members Page 3
140	Winter	2020	Retiree non-members list Pages 8 thru 15
141	Spring	2020	Pension Check Deduction Codes Page 5
142	Summer	2020	Did You Know That??? (Secretary-Treasurer's article) Page 3 50 Years (1970-2020) Tribute to past Elected Members, Trustees and Directors Page 16
143	Fall	2020	50 Years (1970 2020) Tribute to Elected Members, Trustees and Directors Page 3
149	Spring	2022	Illustrations showing membership statistical losses and additions Page 3
150	Summer	2022	Retiree non-members list Page 12 thru 20
151	Fall	2022	Living Trust, Wills and beneficiary updates Page 3
155	Fall	2023	Estate planning and updating beneficiaries Page 3
158	Summer	2024	Building maintenance - 2525 E. 14 Mile Page 3

Go to: <https://rdpffa.org/unity.html> A list of PDF issues are available to download.

VICE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

My head is spinning after attempting to put all this on paper (way too many numbers and dates) so I am going to close this out by saying Happy Veterans Day, which is right around the corner, to all the veterans out there and remember if you are not a member of the VFW or American Legion for Police & Fire we would love to have you on board.

I know it is a few months away but I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a great Holiday Season. Spend time with family and friends and please be careful out there. Remember, it is a whole different world we are living in.

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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

11th Precinct Retirees Luncheon

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

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Fire Fighters Breakfasts

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

Dimitri's Opa Restaurant – (NEW LOCATION)

50875 Gratiot Ave, Chesterfield, MI 48051-3133

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.

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ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

General Membership Meeting Schedule:

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, MI - 7 PM

December 5, 2024

AMERICAN LEGION

23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

March 6, 2025

RDPFFA November Event

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort - Mt. Pleasant, MI

Sunday, Nov 3 - Monday Nov 4, 2024

East Side Silver Ladies*

1st Tuesday of the month

Time: 1:00 P.M.

See Column for Location

Snowbirds Of Michigan*

Meet 2nd Sunday of the month

May thru November

at “Fred of Roscommon”

430 N. 5th Street - Roscommon, MI

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

***Refer to columns for specifics or program changes**

Articles for the Winter 2024

**Issue should be “submitted” by
December 21, 2024**



Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from Northern Michigan where fall is in the air.

At our July meeting, we welcomed new members Pete and Carol Gernand. Carol also won some money in our drawings along with Mike and Sue Kniaz.

In August we had our picnic in Prudenville, Mi thanks to John and Carolyn Wood. We had a good turnout. There was lots of great food, cornhole, euchre and camaraderie. We also had live entertainment by S.W. and members.

September meeting we had our election of officers. John Wood was re-elected as President, Don Rem as V.P., and Cindy Rem as Treasurer and Dan Zamaitis as Secretary. We thanked Bob Haderer for his many years of service as Vice President.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF U.S.

POST 1519

Police and fire fighters looking for members. Must have overseas wartime service!

For information contact:

Bernie Brennan at (734) 420-0250 or bbren16752@aol.com

September money winners: Karen Haderer, Carolyn Wood and Zig Boqumil.

Oct. Birthdays: Lillian Edwards, Bob Haderer and Donna Andrizzi

Nov. Birthdays: Zig Bogumil, Bill Jasper, John Wood and Mary Ann Sypniewski

Dec. Birthdays: Bob Rentz, Ted Ponik and Joann Cherry

Happy birthday to all and any I missed!

Note: October 13th will be the last meeting of 2024 as voted by the membership. Our first meeting of 2025 will be May 18th at Fred of Roscommon at 1:00 p.m.

A nice saying: "Good friends are like the stars – you don't always see them but they're always there"

Take care and God Bless.

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DEATH OF MEMBER

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE

Communications vary whether member was Police, Fire, or Sergeant and above. If you are Police make your first call to the Detroit Police Benefit & Protective Association, (313) 870-9304. Followed by either a call to the Detroit Police Officer Association, (313) 567-8770, or the Lieutenants & Sergeants (313) 961-5699, which ever applies.

While the Detroit Police Benefit & Protective Association will normally contact the City of Detroit with the information it would be reasonable to follow up with a call to the Pension Bureau, (313) 224-3362 Ext. 221 or 1 (800) 339-8344 and BeneSys (833) 725-5336 to make sure that they were notified. Last but not least, notify the Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association, (586) 795-1734.

Fire employees, start by notifying the Detroit Fire Fighter Association, (313) 962-7546, the Detroit Firemen's Fund Association, (313) 628-0099, Detroit Fire Mutual Fund call Firemen's Fund Association to leave a message, and the Detroit Pension Bureau, (313) 224-3362 or (800) 339-8344, ext 221.

The above agencies will assist you with the notification process. It would be a good idea to put this information with your secured legal documents or some other obvious place where your survivors can locate it.

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Grandson of Carl Parsell
Former President of the D.P.O.A.
and retired Detroit Police Officer



Members Letters

Here's a small donation to be used wherever you decide is appropriate. This is given in memory of Gerald Litner: Academy-mate (Class of 3-13-61), loyal friend & all-around good cop.

Joe & Gerlinde Schrader
Hillsboro, Oregon

Please use this check where it is needed, in memory of my husband, Don Wandzel (Papa Wan). Thank you for all you do for us.

Elaine Wandzel
Macomb, MI

Please use this donation wherever it is needed. Thank you for the great work you do on behalf of the retirees.

The Snowbirds
Roscommon, MI

Please use this where the need is most.

Kathy & John Gallaher
Shelby Twp., MI

Please use this donation where it is needed most, and thank you for all that you do to help us retired Police Officers and Fire Fighters. This donation is in memory of my wife Janet and good friends and partners; PO Frank Walls, Lt. Ken Borio, Cmdr. Bill Corbett.

As always the Picnic was great!

Larry Holland
Harbor Springs, MI

Thank you for all you do to help the retirees. Keep up the good work. You are appreciated by the members. Please accept this check for the PAC in memory of Lenny Stevens and Thistleton Robertson, two great guys who will be missed by all who knew them.

Jim & Sandy Purrington
Whitmore Lake, MI

Use as needed, thank you for your work!

Charles & Dorothy Mahoney
Las Vegas, NV

Thanks from all of us that count on you.

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

Check is in memory of my wife, Irene Siedlik.

Thanks
Bob Siedlik
Livonia, MI

RDPFFA Officers, please apply this donation where needed. Thank you for all you do.

Jim & Kathy Kelly
Clinton Twp., MI

Dear Members:

As a retiree of many years, I apologize for not donating to the Association to help with all the work that it does for us. While reviewing the Memoriam page over the years, I have seen names of my academy classmates and names of many officers that I worked with or for. This caused me to stop and think about how much time I may have left and what the Association has accomplished for all of us, and it caused me to feel regret about not expressing my appreciation.

The enclosed check is in memory of the best person I ever met while working for the Detroit Police Department. My wife of 53 years passed away a few months ago whom I met at headquarters. The older retirees who had any contact with Personnel will remember Ginger, the redhead who was the Director's secretary. She and I had a wonderful marriage and I know she would fully agree that it is time I expressed my appreciation for the Association.

Finally, for my supervisor who once told me that I deserved a five for moral courage and a one for tact on my service rating. Thank you and I want you to know that I did think about that for a few years, and I eventually took your advice.

Michael J. Nickerson
Macomb, MI

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

For your information and the Association's 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 our records current. We don't want to lose you in the process.

HONORING THOSE WE'VE LOST

Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial Ceremony

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

A Memorial Ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 commemorating the Anniversary of 9/11 and to honor law enforcement and fire fighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. The event was held at the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial in Pontiac, Michigan. The service opened with a Processional led by the Metro Detroit Police and Fire Pipes and Drums followed by Master of Ceremonies Jason Colthorp, anchor/reporter with WDIV Local 4. After the opening ceremonies, Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard (founder of the Michigan Fallen Heroes Memorial) presented the Memorial Scholarship. Al Grant represented the RDPFFA.



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side of the RDPFFA home page for a link!

Procedure to Obtain Retired Detroit Police Photo ID Cards

To obtain an ID card in person:

- Public Safety Headquarters

1301 Third Street, Detroit, MI 48226-2503

- Go to Central Photo for a digital picture

(located on the 3rd floor of Public Safety Headquarters)

You will be directed to the 6th floor to Detroit
Police Personnel to complete process.

- Bring old DPD ID Card and Driver's License
-They will keep your old ID card.

Due to varied Covid restrictions please call

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13th Precinct Quarterly Retirees' Luncheon

11:00 A.M. - 2nd Tuesday of
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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.

Late Entries

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Valentine, Dan	Sgt.	Police	1-3-56	7-9-01	3-16-23	89
Taylor, Charmayne	P.O.	Police	5-5-86	7-8-12	6-28-24	72

July 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Anderson, Deborah	P.O.	Police	7-29-85	6-28-18	7-1-24	63
Bloomfield, Julie	Inv.	Police	10-15-69	4-21-90	7-4-24	77
Domagalski, Thomas	Sgt.	Police	7-17-55	7-19-89	7-24-24	91
Hartman-Burnett, Brenda	P.O.	Police	8-1-83	8-1-08	7-13-24	70
Kudla, Charles	P.O.	Police	5-10-71	5-3-85	7-16-24	76
Martin, Robert S.	P.O.	Police	2-7-66	8-26-91	7-4-24	80
Miller, Kenneth	Inv.	Police	11-21-79	2-11-06	7-16-24	80
Peplinski, William	Lt.	Police	7-13-59	3-14-86	7-3-24	87
Reedy-Randall, Gerrie	P.O.	Police	8-11-97	3-1-18	7-7-24	50
Reid, William	Lt.	Police	3-29-71	2-28-98	7-22-24	75
Robertson, Thistleton	P.O.	Police	3-5-55	7-12-90	7-4-24	92
Thomas, Rodolfo	Dep Chief	Police	12-30-74	10-25-97	7-1-24	75
Brown, Kenneth	FF	Fire	7-2-62	8-19-77	7-9-24	83
Brown, James C.	FF	Fire	8-8-77	11-3-84	7-20-24	72
Cashen, Timothy	Bt. Chief	Fire	12-11-72	8-1-11	7-23-24	72
Dysarz, Norbert	FEO	Fire	9-9-57	5-6-83	7-8-24	89

August 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Budgis, John	P.O.	Police	1-3-56	1-3-81	8-18-24	89
Bullard, Anthony	P.O.	Police	11-10-78	7-6-02	8-24-24	72
Champagne, Fred	Sgt.	Police	5-3-54	6-8-82	8-28-24	92
Cook, Ronald	Lt.	Police	1-16-67	7-6-02	8-29-24	85
David, Walter	P.O.	Police	9-12-49	6-15-67	8-22-24	97
McDonald, Douglas	P.O.	Police	12-1-86	3-1-14	8-16-24	59
Schuster, Ralph	P.O.	Police	7-8-57	9-21-62	8-6-24	89
Slater, David	Sgt.	Police	5-1-68	5-16-94	8-25-24	80
Worden, John IV	P.O.	Police	2-26-68	4-2-88	8-1-24	84
Arbuckle, Russell	Sr. Chief	Fire	6-2-69	9-4-07	8-31-24	76
Kosmalski, Lawrence	Dept. Chief	Fire	5-1-67	1-31-03	8-21-24	81
Woods, Adolphus	FF	Fire	10-23-89	2-7-10	8-5-24	74

(continued on next page)

IN MEMORIAM *(continued from page 12)*

September 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Abate, Philip	P.O.	Police	12-16-72	6-14-91	9-16-24	76
Balough, John	Sgt.	Police	7-16-54	7-11-88	9-10-24	93
Bolderson, John	Sgt.	Police	4-25-60	1-15-88	9-5-24	86
Cureton, Harold	Asst. Chief	Police	7-1-66	11-2-04	9-26-24	82
Jones, Wondia	P.O.	Police	4-21-86	12-1-11	9-8-24	72
Kropik, Ann	Sgt.	Police	7-5-77	1-12-90	9-20-24	79
Milner, Harold	Sgt.	Police	11-16-50	1-7-76	9-22-24	97
Murray, David	P.O.	Police	10-18-71	8-1-86	9-11-24	77
Schulz, Phillip	Sgt.	Police	1-8-62	7-6-89	9-12-24	86
Smith, David L.	P.O.	Police	3-29-71	2-9-90	9-26-24	83
Topp, Anthony	Lt.	Police	6-12-95	10-14-15	9-26-24	51
Grabruck, Daniel	Lt.	Fire	12-2-63	6-23-78	9-1-24	72
Grimes, Charles	Capt.	Fire	1-22-73	1-2-08	9-17-24	75
Heidelmeyer, George	Lt.	Fire	8-3-53	7-11-81	9-14-24	92
Stevens, Leo	Lt.	Fire	2-4-63	1-4-90	9-15-24	81



PLEASE NOTE:

The RDPFFA would like to recognize and thank Olejnik Farms for their generous contribution of flowers adding to the beauty of our building grounds.

AMERICAN LEGION

Post 161

Police & Fire Fighters Looking for Members

Must have military service!

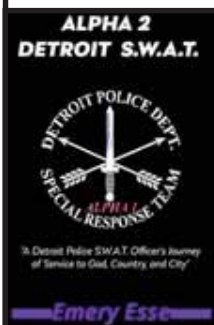
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ALPHA 2: Detroit S.W.A.T.

Dear Brothers & Sisters in L.E. & Military,



I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you—my book, "ALPHA 2: Detroit S.W.A.T.," has just been published! This has been a labor of love and dedication, and I am incredibly excited to finally share it with you. You can now purchase "ALPHA 2: Detroit S.W.A.T." on Amazon.

I truly appreciate all the support and encouragement I have received throughout this journey. Your support means the world to me, and I would be honored if you could check out the book. If you enjoy it, please consider sharing with others in law enforcement, friends & Family, and leaving a review on Amazon—it would help tremendously.

Thank you once again for your support. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on "ALPHA 2: Detroit S.W.A.T." IN HIS GRIP!

Emery Esse (Ret. Detroit P.D. SRT)
srtalpha2@gmail.com



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For more information go to:

https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/ Once there, you will find a link to download the VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit.

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

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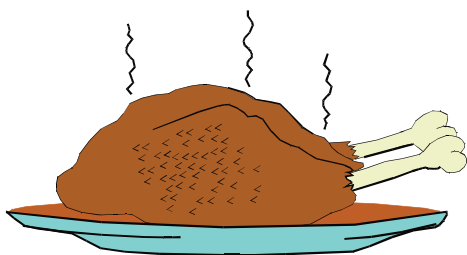
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