



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 153, Spring, 2023



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

We've made it through another Michigan winter, but this one was relatively mild, and now it's time for to make plans for our scheduled summer events. The Association has a number of events scheduled for the summer which include; Frankenmuth General meeting and picnic on June 26 & 27, RDPFFA Golf Outing August 11 and in the autumn, Firekeepers Nov 5 & 6, hope to see you there.

Legislation:

The Association had another major legislative victory, when we were able to amend the Michigan Pension Tax legislation. House Bill 4001 was signed into law by the Governor on March 7, 2023. This law eliminates the state pension tax, but is phased in over 4 years for everyone except for Retired Police and Fire Fighters. The law goes into full effect for Police and Fire retirees starting with calendar year 2023. The new law allows you to select the New Pension Tax law or stay with the current law. You will need to study this new law to see which one gives you the greatest benefit. Under the old law you were given a deduction of 35 thousand single and 55 thousand on a joint return, and once you turned 67 years old the deduction could be used on any income not just retirement. Under the new

law there is no limit for Police or Fire on amount of deduction, but it does not include any income after age 67. It will be important that when you do your taxes next year you make sure that whoever you have doing your taxes is familiar with the Tax laws and the way they effect Police and Fire Retirees, because Police and Fire are the only ones treated differently under both Pension Tax versions.

Our Association is also continuing to work on legislation regarding the Open Meeting Act. The legislation would allow some flexibility for Trustees of Pension Board & VEBA Board to still be able to participate and vote in meetings that they are unable to attend in person. We will also be following any other legislation that may have either a positive or negative effect on our members.

On the Federal level, once again legislation has been introduced to eliminate the Social Security Windfall and Pension Offset. With all the trickery that the members of the Ways and Means Committee did last legislative session, I wouldn't get overly excited about this legislation becoming law. Strangely the new legislation has the same bill number as was used in the last session. The current bill number is H.R. 82- Social Security Act of 2023 and currently has 210 co-sponsors. There are currently no co-sponsors from Michigan. As you may recall if the legislation receives 290 or more co-sponsors and the Ways and Means Committee has not taken any action, it could require a full vote by the House of Representatives, but don't hold your breath. Just maybe after 50 years of trying, something might happen to get the Act changed.

That's it for now; if you have any questions on the upcoming Association events give us a call at the Office.



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Spring is in the air but you have to remember a lot of us are in Michigan so some of us are still wondering what season it really is. I hope everyone is doing well. Not a lot happening which is probably a good thing, so this will be a short article. The March General Meeting was well attended, the food was great, we saw some new faces and our guests provided some good information and naturally the attendees cleaned out their trinkets they brought for giveaways. The next General Meeting will be held at the east side location, The Polish Century Club, on May 4th hope to see you there.

The Annual Picnic will soon be approaching so we would like to give an update for those planning on attending. Again this year the Picnic and General Meeting will take place in Frankenmuth with the Picnic at Heritage Park directly behind the Bavarian Inn on Monday June 26 and the June General Meeting at the Bavarian Inn on Tuesday June 27. There will be a Hospitality Room on Sunday and Monday night at the Bavarian Inn. Reservations for the events can be made at the Bavarian Inn for both or single nights (Sunday & Monday nights), the rate is the same as previous years @ \$109.00 per night plus tax. When making your reservation use our Group Number 13H0RX and call (989) 652-7200. Those that are planning on attending and not making reservations we ask that you give our office a call and letting us know you plan on attending. We ask

this so we can get an approximate number of attendees so no one goes without getting a piece or two of the famous chicken. A couple other upcoming events to add to those busy calendars, The RDPFFA Annual Golf Outing scheduled for Friday, August 11th and again this year there is going to be another gathering at Fire Keepers Casino & Resort on Sunday and Monday, November 5th & 6th. Stay tuned, more information on these events will be forthcoming.

Another issue that all our members need to check on and update if necessary concerning life insurance policies the member may have. Recently it has come to our attention that problems are becoming more frequent when a member passes away and the matter of the beneficiary receiving the benefits is listed on the policy. Should any member have policies with the Benefit & Protective Association for Police, the Fireman's Fund for Fire or if you have any policies that you may have continued with the active unions it would be a good idea to contact them and check on who you have listed as beneficiary.

That will wrap it up for me this time so as always if you have any questions or issues please give the office a call. So enjoy the spring & summer months take care, stay safe and remember it is whole different world we live in.

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



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www.rdpffa.com



SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

In this article I would like to draw your attention to addressing the issue of increasing membership to our organization. I discussed my concerns with a fellow member. He voiced the opinion that he thought we weren't getting new members because the Association had nothing to offer the younger generation and many do not want to get involved.

Our Association joins hundreds and probably thousands of social clubs across the United States struggling with their membership numbers such as: Fraternal Orders of Association along with a number of other Societies and many other non-profit groups. For instance, VFW, American Legion, P.L.A.V., also numerous common interest fraternities all seem to have this dilemma.

Attitudes and outlooks have changed from the past generation that used to get involved with voluntary groups or unions. Regrettably, I cannot explain the change or why it happened, but we need to find a way to inform members and convey our message. All members will benefit from our past and future achievements and the Association's efforts tend to go unnoticed. A positive approach must be advanced explaining the need for increased membership which will strengthen our financial position to maintain our purpose. The \$3.00 per month payment to the Association is such a small price to pay for all of the benefits received.



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Robert Siedlik at (734) 953-8558 or robs1278@gmail.com

Our organization is known as the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association. The purposes of the Association shall be, Objective, Section 2, to promote a spirit of good fellowship and a closer personal relationship among members and their families. The Association is organized and shall be operated exclusively for the purposes set forth in Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have five General Membership Meetings, two on the west side and two on the east side where members receive information and get together to rekindle friendships from the past and the opportunity to establish new ones. Also at the meetings a meal and beverages are provided to promote fellowship. The fifth General Membership Meeting is held in Frankenmuth with a RDPFFA sponsored breakfast in the morning.

Secondly, and most important is our first objective, Section one in the restated bylaws, to provide the members with information concerning the status of Pensions, Hospitalization and Insurances and to keep the members informed on all matters relative to the best interests of the Association and its members.

The elected Officers of the Association and the Board of Directors are at all times keeping an eye on any potential reduction of our members' benefits. What's more, a quarterly magazine is published and sent to all members with the latest information and updates. In response to the opinion stated in the first paragraph, I feel that stating the organization has nothing to offer is incorrect. This led me to present this information to our members and encourage them to help our Association in enrolling members. If you come by a non-member help us with recruiting; thirty six dollars annually is a small price for joining the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association.

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Frank Rossi: (586) 421-2155

Welcome New Members!

2022

December

Dougherty, Erik - Fire

2023

January

Arasim, John S. - Fire

Brooks, Robert - Fire

February

Esaw, Derek - Fire

Irwin, William - Fire

Nowicki, Arn - Fire

Shinske, Robert - Fire

Small, Dwayne - Fire

Kilburg, Michael - Fire

March

Brawner, Christine - Police

Jones, Ronald - Fire

Ross, Alton - Fire

Shirk, Thomas - Fire

Straughter, Keith - Fire



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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

5th Precinct Oldtimers Breakfast

Second Monday of every month at 10:00 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 - (586) 566-1233

45841 Hayes Rd • Shelby Township, MI 48315

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.

Little Chef Restaurant 101 Brookside Lane,
(Enter off Grand River) Exit 145 off of I96

Call the Association Office

if you need additional information

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS* **Updated!**

General Membership Meeting Schedule:

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, MI - 7 PM

May 4, 2023 • December 7, 2023

BAVARIAN INN

Frankenmuth, MI

June 27, 2023

AMERICAN LEGION

23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

October 5, 2023

RDPFFA Annual Picnic

Bavarian Inn - Frankenmuth, MI

Monday, June 26, 2023

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 Summer 2023
Issue should be "submitted" by
June 16, 2023**



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Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from sunny Florida

It's still great down here even though we have to contend with the red tide and the Spring Breakers.

It was real nice getting our February check that included our back pay and nice raise. Thanks to all the people who made that happen.

I'm sorry to say we lost another long time Snowbird member – Doris Shumaker passed away. Our sincere thoughts and prayers to her family.

In February, we had a get together Piccola Family Italia Restaurant in Zephyrhills, great food and hospitality. They let us: John and Carol Wood, Mike Kniaz and Sue Burkhalter, Don and Cindy Rem, Joann Cherry and Tony Fontana and myself spend a couple hours visiting and not kicking us out.

May Birthdays: Marsha Dreslinski and Henningsen

June Birthdays: I know we have some people born in June, but I don't have them listed on my Roster down here, that said, "Happy Birthday to all those I missed.

Thanks much to our RDPFFA Officers and Volunteers for all you do.

Our First meeting of 2023 is Sunday, May 21st at 1:00 p.m. at Fred's of Roscommon, all are welcome.

Stay safe, healthy and God Bless.

Going back to Michigan in April. (727) 397-6226

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Son of Stephen Parsell
Retired Detroit Firefighter

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



Members Letters

Thank you for everything the Association has done to help the family of Eugene Fular. Please accept this donation in memory of my husband, Gene Fular. I appreciate all the help and support from everyone especially Elaine Kisner and Tasha Cowan from the Benefits office. These two women are angels.

Gene made so many friends within the department throughout the years that I could not begin to name individually. If you met him, you were his friend for life. He loved being a Policeman especially working in the S.T.R.E.S.S unit. He worked hard when he had to go back in uniform, became an Investigator and finally a Sergeant. Thank you again and again.

Anne Fular
Macomb, MI

Once again the chance for Social Security equality has passed us by. Please use this donation for our PAC to help the members of the House and Ways and Means Committee to eliminate the Social Security Windfall and Pension Offset. Many of us really need the money that we paid into Social Security. Thank you for all you do.

Jay Kobay
West Bloomfield, MI

Please accept my apology for missing our dues. The other check use as needed in Richard Walczak's memory. Thank you for all your hard work.

Ruth Walczak
Fair Haven, MI

Thanks to all the Officers and Trustees for your hard work on our behalf. Keep up the good work, use this check where needed.

Rick & Diana Irons
Clinton Twp., MI

In memory of my partners on 16 easy, John Korona and Dave Logsdon. Thank you for all that you do for us retirees.

Ron Smolka
Livonia, MI

I am an old plan retiree having been so for over 34 years. In receiving this month's pension check it caused

a permanent smile on my face. I think the RDP&FFA should get a piece of my much deserved raise. Please use this for the appreciation fund.

Larry Seneski
Shelby Twp., MI

Dear RDPFFA Association, please use this donation in appreciation for political lobbying on behalf of the members.

Charles Flanagan
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Dear Friends, thank you for all that you do for us. Please use our donation for whatever your needs may be.

William "Bill"
& Jessie Durkin Class of 77-B
Fishers, IN

Please use the enclosed donation where it is most needed. Many thanks for everything the Association does for us retirees, those who are members, as well as those who are not. Would like to see more members from the Crime Lab and Evidence Tech Unit at the Picnic!

Dave & Melanie Pauch
Mancelona, MI

Couldn't ask for a better team supporting retired Detroit Police & Fire. Thanks for everything you do.

Juan & Kathryn Hedtler
Brownsville, TX

With our deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all your hard work, time and effort.

David & Susan Ramsey
Canton, MI

(continued on next page)

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Members Letters (continued)



Silver Ladies



Carol Curley

RDPFFA, use this as you see proper. Thanks from all of us.

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

Thank you to your organization for all you do for us.

Tom & Elaine Puszyk
Cadillac, MI

Please use additional funds in any manner to help the Association, Thanks.

Larry Crowder
Canton, MI

I want to thank you for all you do. Please use this check wherever needed, in memory of my husband Sgt. James M Hardy, 1961-1986 (2002)

Mary Jane Hardy
Traverse City, MI

Thank you for all the work you put into helping our Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters. You always keep us up-dated, and available to answer any concerns I may have. Please use this check wherever needed.

Donald & Cindy Rem
Hale, MI



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.

This is the week before Easter that this article is being written. We Silver Ladies are still getting together for lunch to enjoy conversation and each other's company. We are older, fewer of us than we'd like and have to adjust to the changes happening around us in this America.

Our priorities are still family, travel and living independently and fun! Some of us have had health problems but we keep in touch by phone if we can.

We have tried a few differs restaurants through the years and now have settled into Nick's 22nd STREET STEAK HOUSE on the northeast corner of Van Dyke & 22nd Street in Shelby Twp... The Atmosphere is pleasant, prices are reasonable, service is good, the variety of food is very good and we usually have a little left to take back home with us!

We meet at 1 p.m. now! Come join us for lunch. Any questions, just call (810) 392-2668.

God Bless us everyone



Dr. Laura Salome
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THE THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL

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Date: August 11, 2023 (Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. (Shot Gun Start)

Location: Oak Ridge Golf Club

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Michigan

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- (a) 18 holes of golf with golf cart.
- (b) Breakfast (continental style).
- (c) Lunch and beverages.
- (d) Dinner at 3:00 p.m.
- (e) Beer and beverages served in the club house and designated areas on the golf course.

Cost: \$75.00 per person, with a gift for every registered golfer.

Golfers **must register** individually before 8:30 a.m. to receive tee and cart assignments.

SCRAMBLE format with Shotgun start will promptly begin at 9:00 a. m.

Please return score cards after 18 holes of golf.

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REGISTRATION FORM (THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED PROPERLY FOR EACH GOLFER)

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ADDRESS

PHONE

1 _____

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3 _____

4 _____

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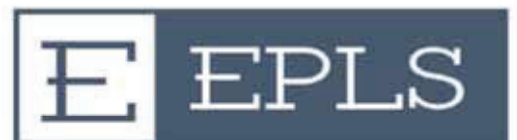
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IN MEMORIAM

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.

December 2022 (late entries)

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bankhead, Susie	P.O.	Police	2-27-75	12-12-87	12-11-22	81
Lewandowski, Elizabeth	Lt.	Police	9-22-65	1-15-91	12-11-22	79
Koontz, Lowell	Capt.	Fire	7-1-65	6-22-92	12-22-22	84
Ouellette, Marvin	FF	Fire	10-30-72	6-7-77	12-20-22	76

January 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bannon, Timothy	P.O.	Police	9-18-72	8-27-05	1-9-23	71
Boucher, Richard	Sgt.	Police	9-12-60	12-15-77	1-18-23	83
Freigruber, Edward	P.O.	Police	11-6-71	2-15-92	1-27-23	73
Giganti, Anthony	Lt.	Police	11-18-63	5-29-98	1-13-23	84
Harris, Donny	Cpl.	Police	10-30-00	Died Active	1-21-23	45
Kuhlman, Robert	P.O.	Police	6-29-65	6-27-92	1-5-23	81
LeValley, Fred	P.O.	Police	9-25-67	3-4-88	1-6-23	78
McPherson, Gerald	P.O.	Police	1-6-69	1-7-94	1-10-23	79
Phelps, Cecil	P.O.	Police	11-18-63	1-18-89	1-31-23	86
Posler, Michael	P.O.	Police	10-29-73	4-18-91	1-3-23	70
Reardon, Patrick	P.O.	Police	9-8-70	1-3-97	1-7-23	74
Rudnik, William	P.O.	Police	5-17-70	7-3-95	1-1-23	84
Strickland, Hubert	Sgt.	Police	8-8-68	7-21-05	1-30-23	83
Wallet, Robert	Lt.	Police	4-26-71	2-14-05	1-13-23	78
Zimmer, Erich	P.O.	Police	8-2-65	8-3-96	1-9-23	82
Browne, David	Sgt.	Fire	9-5-61	1-29-78	1-22-23	84
Pfaff, Raymond	FEO	Fire	9-5-61	2-7-74	1-28-23	84
Stieber, Paul	FEO	Fire	12-14-70	4-30-06	1-6-23	73
Weinert, William	Sgt.	Fire	6-26-72	10-4-90	1-2-23	79

February 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bardy, Donald	Sgt.	Police	1-24-72	1-30-99	2-27-23	75
Elliott, George	P.O.	Police	11-13-65	11-13-92	2-14-23	78
Ethington, Matthew II	P.O.	Police	1-29-19	Died Active	2-19-23	26
Guzdziol, Faustine	P.O.	Police	1-3-56	6-22-92	2-27-23	91
Jacobs, John	P.O.	Police	10-24-66	1-25-02	2-2-23	81
Maciejewski, Robert	P.O.	Police	5-18-70	5-19-95	2-22-23	83
Martin, Maria	P.O.	Police	12-9-19	Died Active	2-19-23	22
Schumaker, Eileen/Foley	P.O.	Police	7-2-77	7-7-07	2-13-23	72
Slappey, Gary	P.O.	Police	5-26-77	4-15-93	2-24-23	66
Bernert, Gerald	Sgt.	Fire	3-12-73	12-22-96	2-19-23	72
Dubrawski, John	FEO	Fire	6-2-69	12-13-02	2-12-23	77
Frank, William	Lt.	Fire	9-9-57	2-5-84	2-22-23	87
Jagger, James	FEO	Fire	10-1-68	1-6-94	2-24-23	80
Lawrence, Robert	FEO	Fire	5-4-70	8-30-82	2-12-23	78

IN MEMORIAM *(continued from page 12)*

February 2023 *(continued)*

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Martin, Marlon	FF	Fire	2-3-86	1-24-90	2-23-23	69
Sumeracki, Daniel	FFDA	Fire	2-24-75	2-15-10	2-2-23	72

March 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Andrews, Nathan	Insp.	Police	8-5-68	4-25-94	3-18-23	78
Bavol, Joseph	Sgt.	Police	4-21-69	7-7-95	3-29-23	81
Bowens, Fred	Lt.	Police	8-20-90	Died Active	3-13-23	62
Fair, Debra	Cmdr.	Police	1-12-87	1-13-12	3-17-23	67
Ferguson, Leroy	P.O.	Police	7-18-55	5-25-84	3-8-23	93
Jenkins, Doris	Sgt.	Police	8-5-78	3-23-96	3-10-23	75
Jensen, Jack	Sgt.	Police	3-2-53	1-4-80	3-14-23	92
LeBlanc, Renee	P.O.	Police	10-28-85	1-28-08	3-25-23	59
Lebowitz, Paul	P.O.	Police	12-28-47	1-2-73	3-1-23	97
Margiewicz, Donald	P.O.	Police	8-26-68	7-22-95	3-29-23	76
Munroe, Robert	P.O.	Police	10-9-72	7-14-99	3-7-23	81
Rogers, Phillip	P.O.	Police	10-7-85	1-20-06	3-29-23	73
Schaal, Gary	Sgt.	Police	8-2-85	8-14-10	3-8-23	68
Sylvester, Donald	P.O.	Police	9-25-67	11-7-92	3-15-23	77
Johnson, Anthony	Sgt.	Fire	2-11-85	1-26-08	3-5-23	64
Ladson, Allan	Bt. Chief	Fire	11-18-57	12-22-94	3-26-23	88
Nevin, Michael	Bt. Chief	Fire	3-2-87	7-11-22	3-1-23	58
Smagghe, Marcell	Bt. Chief	Fire	7-30-56	1-11-92	3-11-23	89



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MICHIGAN TAX UPDATE!

Retirees born between 1946 and 1952 are entitled to an increased deduction on their Michigan Tax Return. This could result in additional \$650.00 per year.

Also, Retirees born after 1952 and retired before January 1, 2013 are entitled to a deduction on their State of Michigan return which may result in up to \$2,000.00 per year.

Michigan allows you to amend tax returns for 4 years.

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Michael Norris, RTRP
RDPFFA member

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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 you current. We don't want to lose you in the process.

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