UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE

Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters *Volume 161, Spring, 2025*

PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

As we move into the warmer summer months, many of us are likely to see a little brighter future, because some of us have received our retroactive funds from the overturning of Social Security Windfall and Pension Offset provisions. The first Social Security checks with the new amounts are due in the April checks.

If you haven't received any update from Social Security, you should contact your local office to see if you qualify. The Social Security web-site last update shows that those retirees that have a complicated issue will take longer. They expect to have these cases completed by early November. Once again if you haven't received any information from Social Security you should take the time to check with your local office.

We continue to wait for a decision on our court case against the State of Michigan. The motion by the State was heard on January 22nd. The Judge said that it would take him some time to release a decision; we didn't think it would take this long. Just to refresh you regarding this case, it is in reference to $10 million dollars the State put into the budget for Healthcare VEBAs formed during a bankruptcy, and we believe we qualified for some of those funds. As with all court cases this is going to take time, so far it's taken even longer than we thought to resolve it.

Not much else going on, the state legislators haven't been doing much, other than working on the next budget. We are also waiting for our 13th check that the City said they were going to give to retirees. Hopefully you'll have that check by the time you get this article. I'm sure, like me, you're waiting and hoping for the stock market to start going back in an upward direction.

Our summer events are all scheduled re: The Picnic and Breakfast General meeting in Frankenmuth and our Golf Outing also make sure to check our Association Calendar of Events and the Upcoming Special events page in this Unity so you can make arrangements to attend some of the functions.

That's it for now; see you at the events this summer.

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VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Greeting all, I hope everyone made it through the winter months and welcome back all you snow birds and hopefully summer will be here soon. The good news is that all is well which means this will be a short article. By the time you read this you will have received the "13th Check" which leads me to my next note.

The Annual Picnic and June General Meeting in Frankenmuth is fast approaching, the picnic will take place on Monday June 23rd and the General Meeting is on Tuesday June 24th. There is also a Hospitality Room on Sunday June 22nd and Monday June 23th in the evening. Reservation can be made on line which after talking to the Bavarian Inn may be easier due to the fact that since they announced the opening of their new Water Park. If you are willing to possibly experiencing a delay on the phone, you can call (989) 652-7200, be sure to use our code which is "13U7RK". Rooms are the same as the last few years, $139.00 + taxes and fees. Hope to see many of our members there; this is where that "13th Check" may come into play.

Continuing with events coming up, the next General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 1st at the east side location, Polish Century Club, the RDPFFA Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday August 8th @ Oak Ridge Golf Club. Registration form and additional information is in the Unity.

Just a few things concerning the Pension System, we all know that the month of August is when the annual so called raises kick in. On the good news side "Old Plan" members will see raises; Fire retirees will get a 3% raise and Police retirees will get a 4% raise. All others will see the annual COLA of 1.0124% increase. I won't comment on whether this is good news or bad news.

I don't want to ramble on so I will close out by saying enjoy the spring and summer months, have a good time with family and friends and we hope to see many of you in Frankenmuth for the picnic and as always be careful out there and remember it is a whole different world we live in. Take care.

Special Note to all Retirees!

From time to time the Association receives submissions from members for publication in the Unity. While we would love to publish all your submissions, due to space considerations, we will focus primarily on those that pertain to our members themselves or to topics of importance to all members.

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SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

In past articles I've presented many facts and figures. In this article I would like to digress and present a human interest story that was sent to me by Associate Member Mary Cassidy.

The following is an article from The Detroit News
Picture Page – Wednesday, July 21, 1965
By Doc Greene

How Pull Helps Out If You're a Cop

The man on the phone said. "Well, he's out sitting with a dead man right now but he has to be back here by noon in time to leave, could I have him call you when he gets in?"

The guy on the phone was answering from Precinct 7 and it was Pat Cassidy sitting with the deceased.

This was yesterday morning.

At about the same time Big Tom Cibulka, six feet eight and 272 pounds of him, was walking around under Woodward on what they call the "white hat" beat and a kid who had figured the fare wrong didn't have enough dough for a ticket on the Bob-Lo excursion.

"I don't have enough" said the kid among a tear. Tom doesn't give away a lot of money every week but everybody knows that a man is nothing but an aged boy, so what can you do?

John Serocki was riding his three–wheel motorbike along Charlevoix in front of the Budd Wheel plant and wrote four parking tickets, then came downtown to tackle the rush hour traffic.

Ed Riley was working a car out of Precinct 13 and spent a portion of his morning helping strap up a psychopath for delivery to Receiving Hospital.

Relatives had called for the city physician, who committed the woman. Riley helped deliver her.

Jerry Farrell and the other guy in the No. 3 out of 16, recovered a stolen car.

"It was sitting there, parked funny and with all the windows open and we checked it and it was a hot car." He was explaining later.

This must be what policemen do when they're not being brutal to people is a thought.

A Salesman Gone Right

Carl Gabrys was working a car but it was Dullsville yesterday morning . . . no runs.

Ron Fournier was operating a two wheel bike and gave a ticket to a guy on Jefferson doing 50 in a 35 mph zone. Tom Costello spent the morning selling Policemen's Field Day tickets.

"I sold 12," he said.

Tom used to be salesmen before he went straight.

"Some days you sell 40. This morning I sold 12. It depends on when payday is and maybe how they feel and I feel and like that."

Here now was the police tug o' war team practicing for the pull against Toronto across second base at Tiger Stadium on the Sunday that is Aug. 1 this year.

Raleigh Bolio used to have to this heavy work back before he gave up food but now Raleigh only weighs 255 instead of the 320 that used to have him back at anchor where Farrell is now.

The eight of them had the eight pound boots on now and were lined up against 3,000-pound chuck of concrete.

Raleigh gave the signal to "lock" and the first seven dug in, low against the ground, holding the chunk in the air.

Farrell, the anchor, last man on the rope, was spraddled. If he falls, they all fall. They could take the white hands off the rope and let the blood circulate.

"If the other team pulled when they were like that, wouldn't it be an advantage?"

`A trick that Works`

"No" said Raleigh. "They're low and set and braced and a team would wear themselves out tryin'. It's a trick we have. It works."

He moves the team like a crew coxswain except that he stands alongside. He does it by hand signals.

Then Raleigh gave them a breather and they collapsed around the University of Detroit field where Rocky Parsaca and Lloyd Brazil and Eddie Pagan and Don Nott and the rest used to perform in a day when

(continued on page 4)

SECRETARY *(continued from page 3)*

football was a game there.

"What do you think of it?" asked Cassidy.

"I like it for its honesty but I am reminded of a remark made once by George Bernard Shaw on a matter called sex in which he mentioned `that the pleasure is so momentary and the position so ridiculous`"

We pulled 23½ feet back against the Toronto team we're facing at the Field Day." answered Cassidy. "You've got to pull the other team 12 feet, and they had pulled us 11½ and then we pulled 'em back and beat-'em."

The way a tug works is there are three white adhesive tapes on the rope, six feet between them, and similar marks on the ground. The middle one is place over the start. Then you pull their white tape over to your mark on the ground, a distance of 12 feet.

Casual Air of Competence

There is a great spirit among these cops over their rope.

They were very casual about that they had done in the morning in the manner in which a man is casual about the truly important things.

The attitude reminded of a good cop I once knew in Chicago who was working in a den of confusion and larceny and I asked him how he could keep on being a good cop and what was right and what was wrong anymore.

"I gave up trying to figure the right." He told me one night. "But I've learned to tell the wrong and I try to correct it. Wrong is easier to tell than right."

Jerry and Pat and several others all tried to tell the story at once about the Texan who watched them practiced one day and how they asked him what he thought, mopping the sweat away and massaging the callouses.

"It's OK. But in Texas we use mules for this kind of thing."

The RDPFFA receives requests for advice and assistance with subjects that could affect our members. Generally the Association will avoid making recommendations although, a sound warning to our members will be to research the subject matter before contributing with any solicitation by phone or mail.

Welcome New Members!

February 2025

Andre Brooks - Police

Olivia Moss-Fort - Police

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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 9:00 A.M.
IHOP Restaurant ***(NEW LOCATION)***
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(810) 225-6020
Exit 145 off of I96 (Enter off Grand River)

Former TMU Luncheon

Last Friday of the month
Duggan's Irish Pub
31501 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 549-3659

Call the Association Office if you need additional information

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.

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS* Updated!

General Membership Meeting Schedule:

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB
33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, MI - 7 PM
May 1, 2025

AMERICAN LEGION
23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM
December 4, 2025

RDPFFA ANNUAL PICNIC
Frankenmuth Heritage Park - Frankenmuth, MI
Monday, June 23, 2025

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Bavarian Inn - Frankenmuth, MI
Tuesday, June 24, 2025

RDPFFA November Event
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort - Mt. Pleasant, MI
Sunday, Nov 9 - Monday Nov 10, 2025

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 2025 Issue should be "submitted" by June 21, 2025

Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from sunny Florida

There is still cleanup, rebuilding and refurbishing of the beaches.

We lost two long time members: Charles (Dusty) Rhodes and Ed Krajewski. We send our sincere condolences to their families.

In February we met at Piccola Family Restaurant in Zephyrhills. FL and had lunch together. Those attending were: John and Carolyn Wood, Don and Cindy Rem, Mike and Sue Kniaz, Georgette Gekiere, Bill and Cathy Jasper and Dan Zemaitis. Good company, good food!

In March, we met at the Russell Stover store in Wildwood, FL and stocked up on our chocolates. We then met at Cody's restaurant in the Villages and had lunch together. John and Carolyn Wood, Don and Cindy Rem, Joann Cherry and Tony Fontana. Louis and Kathy Francis and Dan Zemaitis attended. Good company, good food and good chocolates.

May Birthdays: Marsha Dreslinski, Jerry Henningsen and Sue Kniaz

June Birthdays: Dan Marcrum

July Birthdays: Murial Corsiglia, Evelyn Brehm, Claudia Sevald, Joanne Nichols, Robin Mueller, Don Rem and Melanie Pauch

Our first meeting of 2025 will be on May 18, 2025 at Fred's of Roscommon at 1:00 p.m. because of Mother's Day being on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Family – "Where life begins and love never ends"
Take care and God Bless.

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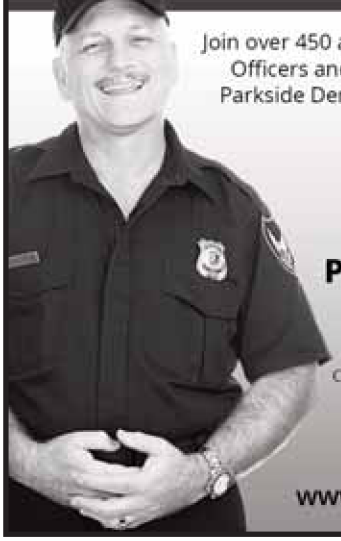

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Son of Stephen Parsell
Retired Detroit Firefighter

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

Members Letters

Thanks to all involved in the fight to get the full Social Security for our members. A job well done! Maybe those who rode our coat tails should think about making a donation & membership payment.

Rick Irons
Clinton Twp., MI

Summer is around the corner, can't wait. The enclosed checks are in appreciation for all the work that you did assisting in getting the Social Security benefits to become a reality. Also in remembrance of two good friends, Police Officer William Bowman my Scout Car and Cruiser partner and lifelong brother, also to Sgt. Eugene Fular my grade school classmate and Icelandic shipmate. Thanks again and hope to see you at the Frankenmuth picnic.

Daniel Budz
Sterling Heights, MI

Please deposit this check into the appreciation fund. It is in memory of Crime Fighter Shirley Wagner. Thank You.

Loren 'Crime Fighter' Wagner
Las Cruces, NM

The enclosed donation is in memory of: Allan Bickford & Sgt. Lorin Budzinski. Please use this where it is most needed. Thank you for all you do!

David & Melanie Pauch
Mancelona, MI

Enclosed please find my check for dues for 2025. The dues were not taken from the pension check. I want to thank you so very much for all your help and support when my husband P.O. Joseph O'Brien passed on in 2023. Thank you all again.

Joyce O'Brien
Lewiston, MI

Thank you to the hard working staff. You are truly appreciated. In memory of P.O. Richard Santarossa

Connie Santarossa
Roscommon, MI

Memorial gift of appreciation. Please accept our check in memory of our Dear friend Robert Scully, retired Detroit police Officer and Executive Director of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) in Washington DC. Thank You.

Robert and Noreen Livesey
Northville, MI

Please use this donation as you see fit. Also in the memory of Lt. Robert Amoe, a good friend. Thank you.

Captain Dan Lamphier
Sterling Heights, MI

Please use the enclosed donation at your discretion. Thank you for all you have done for me as well as all retirees. Keep up the great work.

William (Bill) Durkin
D.P.D. Class of 77-B
Fishers, IN

A donation in memory of my husband Alan Malesky. I look back over the last 25 years since I retired and see all this association has accomplished for police & fire retirees. So thank you to all the past and current Officers. To the current Officers your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Donna Mistele
Farmington Hills, MI

This donation is in memory of my husband, Jim Tanderys. Please use it wherever you need it most to continue to work on our behalf. Thank You.

Judy Tanderys
Northville, MI

Please accept this memorial contribution in memory of Paul Laube. I've known Paul for over 49 years, you couldn't ask for better friend or partner. Paul would do anything in his power to help anyone in trouble, or need a helping hand. May he rest in peace Please use this contribution as you see fit.

P.S. I want to thank everyone for their work helping us retired members, sometimes in difficult circumstances.

Jim Turner
Hudson, FL

Accept this in memory of Giacomo Buffa, Great Cop solid citizen & friend. Thanks to you.

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

(continued on next page)

Members Letters *(continued)*

Enclosed is a donation for the to use as needed We are grateful for all that you do and all that you have done over the years to help overturn the Windfall Elimination Act.

Robert Peterson
Howell, MI

Please fight for officers living outside of Michigan, so they can be covered under Priority Ins. & Medicare. We are not currently covered by Vanderbilt doctors.

Tom & Brenda Krantz
College Grove, TN

Please accept this contribution in memory of Michael Posler. Thank you for all you do! Use this wherever it is needed.

Carol Posler
Shelby Twp, MI

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.

Use this donation wherever needed. In memory of all the great members of S.T.R.E.S.S.

Jay & Geri Koby
West Bloomfield, MI

In memory of my wife Charlene, she passed away 2 yrs. ago and a big thank you for all the work you do for us. I received my Social Security check last week. Use this donation where needed.

Jim Ruhlig Sgt. CATS Crew
Linden, MI

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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 Entry

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Yost, Herman	Lt.	Police	7-18-55	7-18-87	6-11-24	93

January 2025

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Allen, Norbert	Lt.	Police	3-26-62	1-25-92	1-8-25	83
Braun, Daniel	P.O.	Police	4-1-64	7-1-74	1-28-25	82
Brown, Lamarr	P.O.	Police	10-6-86	2-28-12	1-30-25	66
Chuney, Carl Jr.	Det.	Police	11-20-95	12-1-23	1-23-25	60
Howard, Joe	Sgt.	Police	3-30-75	12-1-19	1-23-25	70
Howell, James	Sgt.	Police	1-3-55	1-3-80	1-17-25	95
Kukla, Joseph	P.O.	Police	10-9-72	1-22-03	1-7-25	76
MacDonald, Joseph	P.O.	Police	11-18-68	7-13-95	1-31-25	78
Pierrie, Gordon	P.O.	Police	6-30-75	1-5-02	1-7-25	74
Richardson, Cameron	P.O.	Police	11-27-23	Died Active	1-5-25	32
Scully, Robert	P.O.	Police	10-2-67	1-5-93	1-20-25	79
Smith, Donald R.	Sgt.	Police	5-5-69	1-21-94	1-6-25	78
Stephens, Ronald	Insp.	Police	3-13-61	8-8-87	1-29-25	89
Williams, Edward	Lt.	Police	7-3-70	7-20-04	1-13-25	77
Gehling, George	Capt.	Fire	7-7-52	11-24-85	1-27-25	99
Lally, Thimie	FEO	Fire	7-9-73	10-16-10	1-1-25	74
Wisniewski, Harry	FEO	Fire	10-30-72	3-22-04	1-24-25	80

February 2025

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bohlinger, Eleanor	Sgt.	Police	5-26-73	5-19-07	2-7-25	74
Carroll, Robert	Lt.	Police	1-6-69	1-30-99	2-17-25	81
Ferland, Daniel	P.O.	Police	9-21-71	6-5-85	2-17-25	74
Knox, Stanley	Chief	Police	5-16-66	1-1-94	2-14-25	85
McClanaghan, James	P.O.	Police	11-9-70	1-3-96	2-18-25	76
Patrick, Kelvin	P.O.	Police	9-6-83	8-14-06	2-6-25	68
Radcliffe, James	P.O.	Police	6-26-67	1-30-93	2-1-25	85
Samuels, John	Sgt.	Police	5-20-70	9-13-96	2-23-25	83
Sinnamon, James	P.O.	Police	3-7-55	4-1-82	2-9-25	96
Sterrett, Marsha	P.O.	Police	2-20-78	12-30-08	2-23-25	80
Ferguson, Edward	Sr. Chief	Fire	9-5-61	5-30-99	2-13-25	85
Parsell, Stephen	Lt.	Fire	10-5-70	10-19-94	2-27-25	75

March 2025

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bouyer, Sharon	P.O.	Police	10-24-77	10-26-02	3-12-25	71
Clayton, Gloria	Lt.	Police	3-26-74	7-3-24	3-5-25	73

(continued on next page)

IN MEMORIAM *(continued from page 12)*

March 2025 (continued)

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Elrick, Charles	P.O.	Police	6-18-73	12-8-87	3-12-25	79
Erickson, Mark	P.O.	Police	9-30-96	10-28-16	3-7-25	66
Gunderson, Elwood	Sgt.	Police	1-25-65	1-25-90	3-9-25	85
Moure, Alfred	P.O.	Police	4-26-75	5-22-06	3-22-25	75
Mull, Bert	Sgt.	Police	3-21-66	3-21-88	3-12-25	82
Nuber, William	P.O.	Police	8-25-47	8-25-72	3-2-25	100
Reese, Richard	Lt.	Police	7-9-56	9-2-89	3-7-25	90
Robinson, Gerald	Lt.	Police	7-21-86	10-1-19	3-20-25	69
Sexton, Ronald	P.O.	Police	5-26-69	1-27-01	3-13-25	81
Taylor, Herbert	P.O.	Police	9-16-68	7-23-87	3-12-25	81
Bitten, Louis	Lt.	Fire	8-2-65	5-6-92	3-16-25	82
Lewis, Wilbert	Bt. Chief	Fire	4-23-73	2-23-10	3-11-25	74
Williams, Charles	Lt.	Fire	4-11-72	12-10-98	3-11-25	72

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Date: August 8, 2025 (Friday)

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

Location: Oak Ridge Golf Club

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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: $80.00 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.

No refunds for "no" shows.

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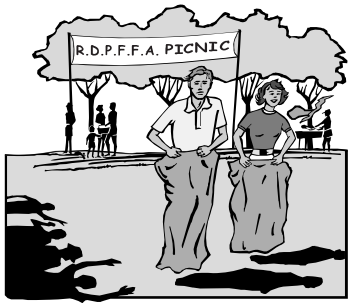

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