



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 158, Summer, 2024



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

Time flies, we're already into the middle of summer and before we know it, we'll be back in cold snowy Michigan winter. But for now we are in summer and a number of Association events are scheduled.

We just completed our Frankenmuth events, which were once again well attended by a large group of members, and a good time was had by all.

The Association Golf Outing is scheduled for August 9th at Oakridge Golf Course, and a new event has been scheduled for November 3, at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mount Pleasant, Mi. If you want to participate in the Soaring Eagle event you have until October 13, 2024 to contact the Hotel to book your room. Our Association has a group rate of \$139 plus 6% tax and resort fee of \$24. The Group code is RDP110324. The Soaring Eagle phone number is 877-232-4532. The Association General Meetings start back up on the Westside at the Carl Stitt Post 23850 Military Rd Dearborn Heights.

Not very much happening in regards to legislation, it's summer and the legislators aren't meeting. It's an election year, so all the politicians both State and Federal are all out pushing for votes. Looks like it is going to be an interesting year regarding the Federal Election.

On the Federal level we still continue to monitor H.R. 82 regarding the Social Security Windfall and

Pension Offset. Co-sponsors continue to sign the Bill which now has 323 co-sponsors, this will require some action be taken on the Bill, but as always happens, we don't expect the Bill to be voted out of committee.

The Association has moved forward with the Lawsuit against the State regarding the 10 Million which was included in the Budget passed last year for Healthcare VEBAs, that were established in a Bankruptcy. This lawsuit will likely drag on for some time. Nothing happens fast in the courts. We will keep you updated as it moves through the system.

That's it for now, enjoy your summer, and hopefully we'll see you at some of the Association events.



New Association Event

The Association will host a new event coming in November of this year. On Sunday November 3rd and Monday November 4th we will be having a get together at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant. There will be a Hospitality Room at the Casino on both nights (8:00 pm - 11:00 pm) so everyone can get together and talk about their winnings.

Rooms will be available for our group for \$139.00 + \$24.00 (resort fee) + 6% tax. Reservation can be made by calling the Resort @ (877) 232-4532 and press #1 for reservations using our group code RDP110324. You can also use the Resorts website www.soaringeaglecasino.com. Once on the website choose the Book Now tab and change Promo Code to Group Code and enter our code. Our group rate will be available until Sunday, October 13, 2024, so if you plan on attending, make those reservations.



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Well, it looks like summer has finally arrived and we will see how long it stays around. It started out with a few pretty nice days in Frankenmuth, the picnic was a great event and the weather did cooperate for 90% of the day, the other 10% only got in the way of those that chose to stick around for last call. And speaking of last call the two nights at the Hospitality Room were also well attended and everyone seemed to have a great time. Again this year we had a great turnout and it was great seeing so many of our members attend. The event for 2025 will again take place in Frankenmuth with the picnic on Monday June 23rd. A lot more information will be coming; we just wanted to get the date out there.

The Association will also have a new event coming in November of this year. On Sunday November 3rd and Monday November 4th we will be having a get together at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant. There will be a Hospitality Room at the Casino on both nights (8:00 pm - 11:00 pm) so everyone can get together and talk about their winnings. Rooms will be available for our group for \$139.00 + \$24.00 (resort fee) + 6% tax. Reservation can be made by calling the Resort @ (877) 232-4532 and press #1 for reservations using our group code RDP110324. You can also use the Resorts website www.soaringeaglecasino.com. Once on the website choose the Book Now tab and change Promo Code to Group Code and enter our code. Our group rate will be available until Sunday, October 13, 2024, so if you plan on attending make those reservations.

Keeping along the lines of events this is just a reminder that the General Meetings will begin in October at the west side location and continue into December on the east side, returning to the west side in March and back to the east side in May. The Annual RDPFFA Golf Outing is scheduled for August 9th, 2024. See the information in the Unity.

Moving over to the Pension side of things there have been rumors floating around concerning a 13th check. As of this writing I just want to assure everyone that these are just rumors or just talk as some say. Should anything change we will make sure the information will be provided.

Getting into some good news, we know that the month of August is fast approaching and this means that our annual so-called raises will hit those pension checks. On the good side Police under the old plan will see a 4% increase and Fire members under the old plan will see a 3% increase. Those of us under the legacy plan (pre-January 1, 2015) will see the annual 1.0124% increase. Those under the new hybrid plan (post January 1, 2015) will see a 1% increase. You are correct it is not much but on the bright side this may allow you to make those reservations at Soaring Eagle with the chance to allow you to make reservations for the picnic in Frankenmuth next year. I was told when I was a kid to try and always look on the bright side.

In closing, I would like to wish that everyone enjoys the rest of the summer, spending time with family and friends. And don't forget, all you Veterans, the Police & Fire American Legion and VFW Posts are always looking for new members. You can find all the information in the Unity. If you are out and about and near the office stop in and say hello and like I mentioned in Frankenmuth we had the parking lot repaved and added a few more handicap parking spaces so check it out. As always be careful out there, keep your eyes open, it is a whole different world we live in.



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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Vice President

Gregory Trozak

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WEB SITE

www.rdpffa.com



SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

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.

Recurrently, the first issue of the year, the Secretary-Treasurers article is focused on income and expenses of

the Association from January 1, to December 31, with a summary of year end numbers compiled by the RDPFFA listing categories and identifying annual expenses with figures.

At the General Membership meetings the Secretary-Treasurer reports a brief update of income and expenses and states that financial reports are available for members to review in the office during business hours. The Board of Directors meets monthly and approves all of the expenditures.

On April 1, 1996, the Association moved to its present location which is 2525 E. 14 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48310. The facility was purchased and paid off within a few years thanks to the generous donations from our members. The following list is an account of necessary expenses and needed purchases to more efficiently run the business of the Association or maintain the property and building value.

Month	Year	Board approved	Cost
June	2011	Office (remodeled)	\$ 8,800.00
September	2012	Hot Water tank (new)	950.00
November	2012	Back flow preventer	1,000.00
July	2017	Air Conditioner (new)	4,385.00
November	2017	Building entrance repair	5,700.00
October	2018	Sump Pump (new)	375.00
November	2019	Multi-Split Air Conditioner	5,933.00
July	2020	Phone system (new)	3,000.00
March	2021	Siding repair / Water proofing	5,000.00
October	2022	Generator (building)	13,875.00
July	2022	Landscaping (shrub removal)	4,200.00
February	2024	Trees removed (five trees)	3,400.00
June	2024	Parking Lot (asphalt repaving)	49,540.00
TOTAL			\$106,148.00

Annual expenses	Cost
Association Special Events	\$ 40,000.00
Building security – alarm	240.00
City – Winter and Summer taxes	8,900.00
Computer, IT Security, Website Services	9,464.00
Furnace - Service Agreement / Maintenance	1,200.00
General office – Supplies etc....	28,000.00
Insurance - Building / Liability / Directors	5,600.00
Membership Meetings – Bldg. Rental / Food	15,000.00
Postage – Mailing	5,000.00
Property - Grass cut / Snow removal	4,500.00
Back Flow Inspection and Sprinkler system maintenance	400.00
Total	\$118,304.00

The above costs are for products purchased and operating expenses. Members may call the office at (586) 795-1734 and ask for Secretary-Treasurer Al Grant for questions regarding expenses.

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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.

Welcome New Members!

April 2024

Rowe, Robert - Police

Tosqui, Aric - Police

Smith, Dean - Police

June 2024

Morris, Joseph - Police

Grysko, Robert - Fire

Schneider, Jeffrey - Fire



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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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,

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ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Updated!

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

October 3, 2024

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 Fall 2024 Issue
should be “submitted” by
September 24, 2024**



Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from Northern Michigan: Our May meeting was well attended. Nice to see our members again.

We are happy to welcome new members, Bill and Cathy Jasper. Sadly though, we found out that long time member and friend, Jerry Brehm had passed away. Our deepest sympathy's go out to his wife Evelyn and their family.

At our June meeting we decided to have our own picnic again on Monday, Aug. 12th. at 12 noon at the same pavilion in Prudenville, Michigan.

The members also planned on going to the RDPF-FA picnic in Frankenmuth, Mich. on June 17th.. Those that attended the picnic were: John & Carolyn Wood, Bob and Karen Haderer. Bob Rentz, Pat Samborski, Rich Carlson & Linda Sheill, Don and Cindy Rem,

Paul & Claudia Sevald, Dave & Melanie Pauch, Gene & Debbie Karvonen, Marsha Dreslinski, Tom Collins, Bill & Cathy Jasper and Dan Zemaitis and Carl Watkins, as always a good time was had by all.

July Birthdays: Evelyn Brehm, Robin Mueller, Don Rem, Charles "Dusty" Rhodes, Paul Sevald & Melanie Pauch

August Birthdays: Debbie Karvonen & Lorraine Rudeen

Sept. Birthdays: Delphine Raska and Carolyn Wood and Happy birthday to all and any I missed

Quote for thought. "Friends are Lifes Gifts"

Take care and God Bless.

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Retired Detroit Firefighter

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



Members Letters

My retired brother from the Scottsdale, AZ Police Department sent me a wonderful statement shared on page 9. I'm sure that you, like many of us, can relate to these meaningful words that will bring back both good and not so good days of yesterday's long gone.

My tenure was 09-12-1960 / 09-13-1985. At 88 years of age I'm in reasonably good health and thanks be to our Lord God for blessings without end. 25 years and one day with the D.P.D. Thanks over and over again for your dedication and service

John W. Burgess
Paris, IL

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Insp. Ed Zupancic and all the great guys at old #5 (Jefferson & St. Jean). You guys keep up the good work!

Anthony Thompson
Harbor Beach, MI

Hi Guys, sorry I have been behind, but things have been happening. Please use donation where needed in memory of 4 good friends; Carl Hall, Tom Coon, Jack Rice and Ed Tomaszewski.

Ron Weidner
Palm Coast, FL

In memory of my husband, Sgt. Gerald A. Bernert (DFD), please use this donation where most needed. Thank you all for the many years of never ending hard work - Great job! We appreciate all you have done.

Jenene Jacques
Chesterfield, MI

Please accept this donation on behalf of my dear wife, Barbara, who died just over 2 years ago. Additionally I'm giving a shout out to my brother, Pat and my son, Kevin who like me are DPD retirees. Thanks for the great work you and the rest of the RDPFFA officers do on our behalf.

Dan McKane
Canton, MI

Please accept this donation to use wherever needed in memory of Fire Insp. John Vanden Boom. Thank you for the great job you continue to do.

Marilyn Vanden Boom
St Clair Shores, MI

In memory of Dick Nolan, John Darnell and Jerry Pastula, Thank you for all that you do for us.

Ron & Carol Smolka
Livonia, MI

A small note of my appreciation from this humble retiree; Thank you all for the deeds you have done. This check is for my appreciation as a donation to use as needed.

Donald & Cindy Rem
Hale, MI

Thank you for all you continue to do for us retirees. In memory of Carl Parsell

Stephen N. Parsell
South Lyon, MI

Mr. Don Taylor & RDPFFA Staff: Please find the enclosed check to the RDPFFA in memory of my father, Henry S. Sedmak and my brother-in-law, Leo Studzinski. Your efforts to preserve and protect the well-deserved benefits of police and fire retirees are greatly appreciated. Use the funds wherever most needed.

Mike Sedmak
Port Austin, MI

Once again we wish to thank you for all of your time, effort and hard work that you do for all of us! Use this check wherever needed.

David & Susan Ramsey
Canton, MI

First and foremost, I want to thank you and everyone that helped effect the change in the State income tax law on police/fire pension. Additionally, I would like your help with an ongoing problem with the interpretation of that law. Specifically, some officers are not receiving the full exemption of their pension and have been unable to recover all of the tax withheld. This is affecting single and widowed officers. My company (General Tax Service) is holding several such files which we have not been able to file correctly. I believe the problem lies between the State and the software companies. If we can discuss this further please give me a call.

John Tsampikou
Chesterfield, MI

Enclosed is a check in memory of Crime fighter Shirley L. Wagner. This check is to go into the "Appreciation Fund".

Loren E. Wagner
Las Cruces, NM

Blessed are the Peacemakers

“When a police officer leaves the “job” and retires to another life, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder.

We wonder if he, or she, knows what they are leaving behind, because we already know. We know for example that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing of those past times. We know in law enforcement life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he, or she, throws them away, they will be on them with every step and breath within them. We also know how the very bearing of the person speaks of what he, or she, was, and in their heart, still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the law enforcement world with a respect for what they do; for you have been there, you have been one of the few chosen to walk the beat, to safeguard your community.

So, what we wish for you as a retired law enforcement officer, that in your heart, you never forget for one moment that, Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God (Mt 5:9) And you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever know (Author Unknown)”

Note: The meaningful statement – Blessed are the Peacemakers (Author Unknown) updated with pronoun changes is moving thoughts from the past. This reflective tribute, similar to the above was sent to our office back in 2019 by Lawrence Holland. To review go to RDPFFA web site, it was published in Unity #137 (Spring) on page 3 of the magazine – When Cops Retire (Author Unknown).

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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.

April 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Brehm, Gerald	Sgt.	Police	5-3-54	5-30-81	4-13-24	92
Brown, Demetrius	P.O.	Police	8-2-99	8-3-20	4-4-24	51
Carpenter, Beverly	P.O.	Police	1-27-86	6-17-93	4-28-24	73
Dennison, George	Sgt.	Police	12-5-66	12-23-91	4-20-24	79
Illsley, James	P.O.	Police	6-5-50	7-22-75	4-21-24	98
Johnson, Gerry Sr.	Cmdr.	Police	5-18-74	10-7-99	4-18-24	70
Oleniacz, Michael	P.O.	Police	5-26-70	5-21-75	4-19-24	75
Olson, Susan	Sgt.	Police	12-12-73	11-10-99	4-21-24	72
Tanderys, James	P.O.	Police	8-1-66	6-30-92	4-5-24	81
Bell, George	Bt. Chief	Fire	12-4-50	9-1-86	4-30-24	97
Dement, Edward	FEO	Fire	9-22-86	3-6-03	4-29-24	62
Marshall, James	Capt.	Fire	1-2-68	6-29-98	4-22-24	81
Richards, Carl	FF	Fire	11-18-57	2-21-76	4-8-24	91
Ryan, John Jr.	Lt.	Fire	10-25-54	8-6-82	4-20-24	93
Shinneman, James	Capt.	Fire	2-11-74	4-30-06	4-27-24	77

May 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Cislo, Raymond	Sgt.	Police	11-26-62	1-3-98	5-24-24	86
Conover, Peggy	Corpl.	Police	6-24-96	6-30-16	5-23-24	55
Day, Lawrence	Sgt.	Police	7-21-68	2-15-97	5-26-24	80
Duch, Michael	P.O.	Police	6-18-73	11-5-92	5-5-24	72
Easley, Carolyn	P.O.	Police	3-1-83	9-1-89	5-22-24	75
Freeburn, Francis	Sgt.	Police	6-6-55	8-20-87	5-21-24	94
Gnotek, John	Sgt.	Police	3-6-54	1-10-80	5-7-24	93
Jackson, Benjamin	Insp.	Police	9-24-56	6-27-92	5-25-24	91
Kaler, Edwin	P.O.	Police	5-4-70	7-31-95	5-4-24	84
Medalis, William	P.O.	Police	3-26-62	6-2-87	5-25-24	85
Myers, Russell	Sgt.	Police	12-10-68	1-24-98	5-15-24	77
Nagy, Dennis	P.O.	Police	9-25-61	10-3-86	5-21-24	84
Reid, Patricia	P.O.	Police	11-7-79	4-1-11	5-4-24	69
Saunders, David	P.O.	Police	5-17-71	6-27-85	5-6-24	74
Murray, Hillary	Lt.	Fire	7-19-73	11-29-02	5-31-24	81
St. John, Joseph	Lt.	Fire	11-18-57	5-9-86	5-11-24	89

(continued on next page)

IN MEMORIAM *(continued from page 12)*

June 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bullach, Peter	Sgt.	Police	5-6-68	5-7-93	6-6-24	77
Cotton, Lucius	Lt.	Police	5-13-63	8-12-96	6-24-24	86
Lewis, Willie Jr.	P.O.	Police	4-21-82	9-28-02	6-25-24	67
McGhee, Samuel	P.O.	Police	2-22-71	1-15-05	6-9-24	74
Metyko, John	Sgt.	Police	7-10-61	7-13-91	6-16-24	84
Pearce, Robert	Lt.	Police	6-17-68	5-11-94	6-30-24	78
Raniszewski, James	Sgt.	Police	8-13-62	4-25-98	6-21-24	83
Tuer, Craig	Inv.	Police	7-22-68	4-25-94	6-10-24	77
Wandrie, William	P.O.	Police	11-8-71	7-18-97	6-6-24	73
Evans, Thomas	FFD	Fire	2-6-67	8-4-75	6-21-24	81
Martin, James	Bt. Chief	Fire	7-2-62	9-1-94	6-24-24	89
Ventre, Alfred	Capt.	Fire	10-30-72	6-29-06	6-20-24	74



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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



Firefighters Memorial Service

The Detroit Firemen's Fund Annual Memorial Day March to remember and honor all deceased Firefighters was held on Monday, May 27, 2024. Everyone gathered at Engine 9's quarters on Lafayette and began marching at 9:00 a.m. to Elmwood Cemetery. The annual service was then held at the cemetery following the procession.

The Officers of the Association are:

Kim L. Fett - President • Shannon Moran - Vice President
Jon R. Bozich - Secretary • James Montgomery - Treasurer

The Trustees are:

Chris Alef, Christopher Dixon, Michael O'Lear II, Joe Palm, Patrick Schwartz

We are located at:

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ATTENTION VETERANS!

Free burial at the Great Lakes National Cemetery is available for you, your spouse and your dependent children age 21 and under. Benefits available include a gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for burial allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

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. If interested in the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, please contact David Hahn at (248) 328-0386.

REMEMBRANCE AND THANK YOU

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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Elliott, Walter & Dolores *in memory of Nick Zazula & Jerry Brehm*

Girardini, Celestino & Eleanor *in memory of Phil Weinand*

Jacques, Jenene *in memory of Sgt. Gerald A. Bernert (DFD)*

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