UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE

Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters *Volume 162, Summer, 2025*

PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice summer weather. If you're like me, as I gotten older it seems like time just flies by and it won't be long before we are shoveling snow again. The Association has a number of events still coming up this year; including the Golf Outing on August 8, Soaring Eagle Casino on Nov 9 & 10, and the General Meetings Oct 2nd on the west side & Dec 4th on the east side. Mark your calendar and plan on attending, we would like to see you there.

Social Security Update: Many of us are still enjoying the increases we received on our Social Security with the passing of the Law eliminating both the Windfall and Pension Offset. During the Presidential campaign we all heard candidate Trump promising to eliminate Federal Tax on Social Security. Now with the new budget law passed in Congress, there were changes to retirees Social Security, but it did not eliminate all the Federal Tax for everyone. They did add an additional deduction amount of $6,000 single and $12,000 on joint return. I checked what my Federal Tax would have been this year with these new deductions, and it made of difference of $1440.00. That's still pretty good, but it could have been better. The new deductions are only good for a few years, so hopefully they will extend these additional deductions before they expire.

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. 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 some time and so far it's taken even longer than we thought to resolve it.

Not much happening on the political front, as you know Michigan has split Government in Lansing with Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans controlling the House, so not much is making it through the process. On the Federal level, we don't see anything that would have a major impact on us moving in Washington, so for the most part all is quiet and I guess that's good.

This is an Association election year and the information regarding the election is included in this copy of the Unity.

That's it for now, hopefully, we will see you around at the Association events.

RETIRED DETROIT POLICE & FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

FOR RDP&FFA MEMBERS & GUESTS

Date: August 8, 2025 (Friday)

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

Location: Oak Ridge Golf Club
35035 26 Mile Rd.
New Haven, Michigan
(586) 749-5151

Sold Out!

VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Greetings all! I hope everyone is enjoying the summer months with family and friends. The Association Annual Picnic is over and all that attended seemed to have a great time, the weather sort of cooperated, no rain but it was a "little warm". It is always good to see so many friends and catch up.

Just a few updates for everyone, the Pension System is in fine shape and as always, the annual increases will take place on the August 1st checks. Old plan Police members will see a 4% increase and Fire retirees will see a 3% increase. Those under the Legacy Plan will see the normal 1.025%. You should have received the so called "13th check" in the May check. The City again placed a $10,000,000 distribution in their new budget for retirees, 5 million for Police and Fire and 5 million for General retirees. The distribution has been approved by City Council and this time it is not necessary to get approval from the Bankruptcy Court. The actual date of the distribution has not been determined and when that happens we will let you know.

It appears the RDPFFA Annual Golf Outing scheduled for August 8th has filled up so it looks like it is successful as usual. The Association General Meeting will start up again in October at the west side location and we again this year have a get together at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort on November 9th & 10th with a Hospitality Room each evening. All the information can be found on our web site, RDPFFA.com along with all the Associations updates and information.

On the health care front for those who retired prior to January 1st 2015 the V.E.B.A. Board has again secured Priority Health as the insurance carrier for 2026 with all benefits remaining the same and a increase in the HRA and Medicare benefit. The Open Enrolment Package will be out in early fall for the opportunity to make any changes needed. Those retirees who retired after January 1st 2015 your benefits are handled by the active unions so any questions you may have give them a call.

That is all I have at this time so everyone continue to enjoy the remaining summer months with family and friends and if you have any questions or concerns please give the office a call. Just remember it is a whole different world out there so be vigilant and please be careful.

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Vice President
Gregory Trozak
Secretary/Treasurer
Allan Grant

PUBLICATION/EDITOR
Al Grant

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Ken Gidner - Administrator

OFFICE E-MAIL
rdpffa@hotmail.com

WEB SITE
www.rdpffa.com

SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

As this year moves along, the Association will conduct two General Membership meetings. One on October 2, 2025 at the American Legion Carl E. Stitt Post 232 23850 Military Rd. Dearborn Heights (313) 274-8298 and the last one for the year on December 4, 2025 at the American Polish Century 33204 Maple Lane Sterling Heights (586) 264-7990.

In addition, a notice of a Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association Election and Rules are in this issue. All elected RDPFFA positions are ending their terms on December 31, 2025. Therefore, a notice of the election of candidates must take place.

Notice of Retired Detroit Police and Firefighters Association Election

For the term in effect January 1, 2026 thru December 31, 2028

(See printed rules and procedures on page 4)

The following is information on all positions, duties and responsibilities.

President

Term – 3 years
Duties – Preside over General, Special & Board of Directors meetings. Sign all papers or checks requiring the President's signature. Appoint all Committees and Directors. Handle correspondence.

Vice President

Term – 3 years
Duties – 1st in line of succession
Assist with the operation of the Association. Updating the Board of Directors regarding all local, state and federal ordinances.

Secretary / Treasurer

Term – 3 years
Duties – 2nd in the line of succession
Keep correct records of all properties of the Association. Take and maintain minutes of meetings.

Sergeant at Arms (2 each)

Term – 3 years
Duties – Preserve order at all meetings.
take names of members attending meetings.
Perform other duties prescribed by President/Board.

Trustees (3 each)

Term – 3 years
Duties – Review the funds of the Association and audit all bills.
Perform other duties prescribed by the President and examine the books annually.

The President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be required to maintain and submit a monthly report, recording days and hours worked within the office. In addition, all Association activities or events attended outside of the office should be detailed. The above positions will not be eligible for sick time, vacation time or mileage/gas expense for travel to or from the office. There will be no excused or unexcused absences for elected personnel, although a make-up provision is available with approval of the Executive Board.

Office Closed

New Year's Eve and Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, plus Christmas Eve and Christmas

(continued on page 4)

RDPFFA 2026 Election Rules

Only Active Members are eligible to run for office, Associate Members are not eligible to run, or vote in elections. Candidates are not eligible to run for more than one elected position within the Association, Candidates may be nominated for any number of positions, but may, only accept and run for one position.

Nominations for offices will open on September 2, 2025 and will close on October 6, 2025, at the General Membership Meeting. Candidates for office may have their names entered into nomination during the nomination period at the RDPFFA office or at the October 2025 General Membership meetings.

The Chairman/Representative of the Election Committee will take Nominations from the floor at the September and October General Meetings. At the October General Meeting the Election Committee Chairman/Representative will close the nominations for all offices. For a Candidate to have his/her name appear on the election ballot, he/she must accept the nomination in writing within 5 business days of the close of nominates.

Following the close of the acceptance period, the Election Committee will cause the election ballot to be prepared, and insure that all Candidates listed have accepted the nomination, and that all Candidates are current Active Members of the Association. If only one Candidate has been nominated for an office and has accepted the nomination, then the Candidate will be considered elected, and no election shall take place for that position.

Ballots will be mailed to all currently listed active members on November 3, 2025; along with the ballot a specially printed return envelope will be included. In order for a ballot to count it must be returned to the RDPFFA office by November 17, 2025, and must be returned in the specially designated return envelope. As election return envelopes are received at the RDPFFA office, the envelopes will be counted, remain sealed and placed in a lock box designed for such purpose by the Election Committee.

Voided ballots will be kept separately; the Election Committee will count and tally the ballots prior to the December General Membership Meeting. During the ballot count observers will be allowed as well as candidates or their designated representative. It shall be the duty of the Election Committee Chairman to provide instructions and appoint personnel to count ballots.

The Committee at their discretion may recount any or all ballots cast. Any candidates may request the Committee to conduct a recount in any disputed position for which they were candidates within 7 calendar days of the December General Meeting. The request to the Election Chairman must be in writing and signed by the candidate making the request. Recount requests shall not be honored by the Committee if their total count for any office being contested shall show an identical count total for two consecutive tallies. All election results will be announced prior to the end of the December General Membership meeting. All ballots will be maintained at the RDPFFA office for a minimum of 60 days following the election.

Welcome New Members!

June 2025

Michael Gordon - Police
Cliff Powell - Police

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 9:00 A.M.
IHOP Restaurant ***(NEW LOCATION)***
8075 Nemco Way • Brighton, MI 48116
(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

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Updated!

General Membership Meeting Schedule:

AMERICAN LEGION

Carl E. Stitt Post 232

23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

October 2, 2025

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, MI - 7 PM

December 4, 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 Fall 2025 Issue should be "submitted" by September 19, 2025

Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from Northern Michigan

It was really nice to get extra money on a couple of our paychecks. Thank you to our RDPFFA officers and others who helped.

At out May meeting it was decided to have our own picnic again on Monday, August 11th, at 12 noon in Prudenville, MI at the same pavilion as last year – bring a dish to pass.

Zig Bogumil informed the members that the State of Michigan does a memorial service every year for the officers killed in the line of duty – we had a moment of silence in their honor.

May winner in the raffle, Pete Gernand, Carolyn Wood, Jerry Rozanski, Dan Zemaitis and Melanie Pauch.

At our June meeting we welcomed two new members, Tom Bagnasco and Dave Forton. We're happy to have you aboard.

June raffle winners were: Cindy Rem, Bob Haderer, Zig Bogumil, Mike Kniaz, Carolyn Wood, Cathy Jasper, Melanie Pauch, Peter Gernand, Dan Zemaitis and Tom Bagnasco. Thanks to Cindy Rem and Melanie Pauch for donating prizes and for Sue Kniaz who passed out double chocolate ship cookies she made. September 14th we have a Pontoon Boat trip planned.

August Birthdays: Debbie Karvonen and Lorraine Rudeen

September Birthdays: Karen Haderer, Carolyn Wood and Zig Bogumil

October Birthdays: Lillian Edwards, Bob Haderer and Donna Andrizzi

Looking forward to our "Snowbird's" picnic on August 11th.

Take care and God Bless.

Dan Zemaitis (989) 305-1035

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 (313) 596-2810 for further information!

Detroit Police Department Retired Badges

Silver – $45.00 EA.* **Gold – $55.00 EA.***

Available to R.D.P.F.F.A. Members

Contact Retired Detroit Police Officer George Toy at:

(248) 572-4458

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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

Please accept donation in memory of Sgt. Doug Freeman & Capt. Earl Sanders, two fine guys. Thanks for your effort as always.

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

Thanks for all the hard work that you do for us retirees.

Ron & Carol Smolka
Livonia, MI

Please accept check in memory of Eleanor Bohlinger, Thank You.

Paul & Denise Janness
Cheboygan, MI

In appreciation for my many, many friends past and present within D.P.D.

Bob Barron, (W.S.U.P.D.)
Sterling Heights, MI

Please use this donation for the remembrance of P.O. Robert "Bob" Smith, where it's needed most. Thank you for all the work you do for our retirees.

John & Kathie Wolf
Grosse Pte. Woods

I appreciate the dedication you and your staff spend supporting retirees concerns. Please accept these contributions with heartfelt thanks.

Fred Campbell
Warren, MI

Please keep up the good work fighting for the membership. It is appreciated. Enclosed is a donation for the P.A.C. Many Thanks.

Jim & Sandy Purrington
Whitmore Lake, MI

Enclosed is a check to be used wherever it is needed. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. In appreciation,

James & Sandra Slaton
(Ret. D.F.D.)
Naples, FL

The enclosed donation is in memory of: Sergeant Rosalind Roby-Means and Sergeant Bertha Parker. Thank you for your continued persistence to provide for the retirees.

Roslyn Beard-Banks (Ret. 2003)
Detroit, MI

Thank you for all that you have done, use as you see fit.

Gerald Parker
Belleville, MI

Living this far north I don't get to attend the meetings, but between the Unity paper & Snowbirds meetings my wife and I are kept informed. This donation is a small thank you for all the Association has done for all the retirees. Use where needed.

Jerome & Della Rozanski
Roscommon, MI

Use this donation wherever needed. Thanks for all the good work you guys do. In memory of Mark Amos & "Bud" Ramlow.

Rick Irons
Clinton Twp., MI

Please use this contribution at your discretion. Keep up the great work.

Mike & Pat Foley
Livonia, MI

Use this money where needed. Thank you for all you do.

Charles & Dorothy Mahoney
Las Vegas, NV

Many thanks for the tireless efforts of RDPFFA for all they do for the membership. Enclosed is a check for the P.A.C.

Jim & Sandy Purrington
Whitmore Lake, MI

Thank you for all the fine work you do! Use as needed.

Ken Flood
Linden, MI

(continued on next page)

Members Letters *(continued)*

Once again, we thank you for all you do for retirees. We appreciate your dedication and hard work on our behalf. Please use enclosed check wherever needed.

David & Susan Ramsey
Canton, MI

My husband Michael Gawronski passed away after a hard fought battle against pancreatic cancer. During that time we incurred thousands of dollars of medical bills, which Priority Health paid. I would like to thank you with all my heart for fighting for my husband and all retirees to obtain these benefits. Michael spoke so highly of you and all the work you do for the retirees. It is because of you that we were able to get the medical care he so desperately needed. Please accept this small donation in his name to continue your work. You are in my prayers every night. God Bless you.

Judy Gawronski
(On behalf of Michael Gawronski)

A donation in memory of all those fine people that helped us get here today and those that cannot enjoy growing old with us. People like the members of the RDPFFA.

Donald & Cindy Rem
Hale, MI

Please accept this donation with heartfelt thanks for all you do for us retirees. Please use wherever you see fit. Thank you.

Bill & Cathy Jasper
Hernando Beach, FL

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In memory of my dear husband, George E. Wooley - 1991. George was a honest, caring man who gave to his country, i.e. Vietnam War Vet as well as to his beloved city of Detroit as a Detroit Police Officer. I so appreciate all that the RDPFFA has done for me over the many years to date. I am truly grateful to all!

Elizabeth Wooley
Stevensville, MI

Enclosed 2 ckecks. One is for my dues for the remainder of the year. The 2nd check can be used wherever needed. Thank you for all you do for the retirees. A special thank you to Greg Trozak for telling me who to contact at the pension board to correct the technicality of my not receiving the supplemental pay' in my May check. I will get it in the June check.

Cheryl Parsell
(In memory of Stephen H. Parsell)
South Lyon, MI

Please use this donation where you need it most. In memory of Thomas J. Youngblood. Thank you for everything you do for us. Best regards.

Rosalie Youngblood
St Clair Shores, MI

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Bryan A. Sunisloe
Attorney and Counselor
(Brother of Retired Detroit Fire Chief, Kenneth A. Sunisloe)

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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 2025

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Boyd, William	P.O.	Police	11-29-71	5-27-99	4-23-25	77
Jarrett-Jackson, Mary	Dep. Chief	Police	6-23-58	1-4-94	4-25-25	94
Johnson, Rita	Inv.	Police	12-19-77	1-2-05	4-16-25	68
Ramlow, Leslie	P.O.	Police	9-24-73	1-23-09	4-23-25	78
Scott, Michael	P.O.	Police	5-5-69	6-1-94	4-9-25	80
Vann, Arnold	P.O.	Police	9-16-68	11-15-05	4-6-25	78
Wolinski, Edward	Lt.	Police	1-7-52	8-20-80	4-17-25	95
Eskau, Raymond	Capt.	Fire	3-3-51	7-17-83	4-1-25	95
Wilson, Joseph	Capt.	Fire	10-5-70	8-1-01	4-18-25	75
Zarro, Ralph	FEO	Fire	7-5-66	2-10-92	4-12-25	82

May 2025

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Frelick, Jon	P.O.	Police	8-1-66	2-1-02	5-5-25	82
Gumbrecht, Lawrence	P.O.	Police	9-7-71	10-21-05	5-23-25	78
Golinske, Joseph	P.O.	Police	10-12-70	1-17-90	5-20-25	78
Havel, Dennis	P.O.	Police	12-6-71	8-12-81	5-21-25	76
Kennedy, Adrienne	P.O.	Police	1-4-94	11-10-00	5-22-25	64
Osborne, Darrell	P.O.	Police	7-17-77	5-1-91	5-23-91	75
Rabon, Lacelle	Sgt.	Police	1-6-69	7-9-94	5-9-25	81
VanBuren, Stephen	P.O.	Police	1-31-55	10-24-81	5-27-25	91

June 2025

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bednarski, James	P.O.	Police	12-14-70	12-12-86	6-10-25	76
Belcastro, Mark	Sgt.	Police	5-4-87	1-31-05	6-11-25	60
Burrows, Theodore	Lt.	Police	2-17-69	3-29-94	6-12-25	79
Clark, Charles	Lt.	Police	1-4-94	9-1-17	6-29-25	58
Day, Joan	Inv.	Police	7-15-73	9-30-96	6-4-25	79
Gawronski, Michael	P.O.	Police	9-27-71	7-7-98	6-8-25	75
Kemp, Phillip	Sgt.	Police	8-2-65	6-27-92	6-28-25	86
Mallory, David	Lt.	Police	10-26-70	2-29-04	6-24-25	78
Sieloff, Norman	P.O.	Police	8-26-68	6-29-94	6-4-25	83
Smith, Marshall	P.O.	Police	4-21-69	7-11-69	6-8-25	86
Williams, Melvin	Insp.	Police	1-24-66	5-18-99	6-18-25	85
Becigneul, Francis	FEO	Fire	8-2-65	6-21-92	6-10-25	85
Messink, Roy	Bt. Chief	Fire	9-15-52	8-1-87	6-27-25	97

DEATH OF MEMBER

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE

Communications vary whether the 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 or 1 (800) 339-8344 and BeneSys at (833) 725-5336 to make sure that they were notified. Last but not least, notify the Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association at (586) 795-1734.

Fire employees, start by notifying the Detroit Fire Fighter Association, (313) 962-7546, the Detroit Firemen's Fund Association and Detroit Fire Mutual Fund, (313) 628-0099, and the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS), (313) 224-3362 or 1 (800) 339-8344, extension 221 and BeneSys at (833) 725-5336

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.

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!

Dues $45

For information contact:

Tony Treier: (586) 598-1386

15th Old School Reunion 2025

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
2 PM to 6 PM

IRELAND'S PUB
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$20 per person • Pizza, Salad and Pop

RSVP To Bill (586) 202-0894 or Gail (586) 876-9919

Firefighters Memorial Service

The Detroit Firemen's Fund Annual Memorial Day March to remember and honor all deceased Firefighters was held on Monday, May 26, 2025. 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:

Joseph Palm - President • Christopher Dixon - Vice President
Michael O'Lear - Secretary • James Montgomery - Treasurer

The Trustees are:

Shannon Moran, Kim Fett, Jon Bozich, Patrick Schwartz, Christopher Alef

We are located at:

1301 Third St., #329 • Detroit MI 48226
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