UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE

Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters *Volume 156, Winter, 2024*

General Membership Meeting Notice

Due to a scheduling conflict, our General Membership meeting locations have been changed for March and May. The March meeting is at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights and the May meeting will be held at The American Legion in Dearborn Heights. Make sure to note this change on your calendar.

PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and had a great time with family and friends. Happily New Year to all. All the snow birds that fled Michigan to escape the cold, it seems you may have left a little early. So far this winter the Michigan weather hasn't been too bad. Here it is in early January and haven't had to shovel any snow yet. Hopefully the warmer than normal weather will continue, but we may pay for it with a late spring.

New Pension Tax laws, when you get around to filing your income tax this year remember there is a new Michigan Pension Tax Law. Under the new law, Police and Fire retirees Pension/Retirement income is totally tax free for the state of Michigan. All other retirees have a 4 year phase in. You can still file your tax under the old me method or use the new. Under the old you got a deduction of $35,000 for single $55,000 if filing joint return, and $70,000 if both retired from governmental agency that did not participate in Federal Social Security. After you reached age 67 these deductions were allowed on any income not just retirement. Under the new method there is no limit on the amount you can deduct, but it is on retirement/Pension income only. So, I suggest when you do your taxes, that you make sure whoever you go to, is familiar with the new Michigan law, and police and fire tax deductions.

Federal legislation regarding Social Security's Windfall and Pension Offset; a number of members have been calling regarding H.R. 82 of 2023 which would overturn these issues. There has been legislation on these issues ever-since it was enacted and as you know nothing has ever come from it. H.R. 82, of 2023 has the number of co-sponsors (currently 301) that would require the full House of Representatives to take up the issue if the Ways and Means Committee does not take any action. This is the same situation we saw in the last legislative session, and the Ways and Means Committee did just enough so that the Full House of Representatives would not have to take any action, and they will likely do the same thing again. We will continue to monitor this legislation just in case something does happen and will let you know.

Covid, if you are still testing yourself or other family members and looking for the test kits, you can still receive free ones through the US post office and some

(continued on page 4)

VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone! I hope you all had a great start to the new year and enjoyed a great Christmas and holiday seasons with family and friends. We shall see what 2024 brings.

Along those lines we would like everyone to be aware that the March and May 2024 General Meetings have changed locations. It was necessary to switch the dates due to scheduling issues with The Polish Century Club. The March meeting will take place on March 7, 2024 at The Polish Century Club and the May meeting will take place on May 2, 2024 at the Carl E Stitt American Legion Post #232. Both will continue to open at 5:00 pm with dinner served around 6:15-6:30pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Make a note and we will continue to keep everyone updated.

The Holidays always seem to slow our busy lives down a little and this includes the pension system, the V.E.B.A. and this Association so there is not a lot to report on these issues, which in a way is probably a good thing. You do not have to listen to me ramble on but I will try and give updates on a few things.

The city is required to make their annual contribution to the pension system for the first time in 10 years and it is due by June 30th. I will keep you informed of any news or information. Those who have Priority Health should have received their $50.00 monthly "Medicare buy back" by now since the few problems seem to have been worked out and corrected. Remember, those who have Priority Health will no longer need to submit their monthly bills for the HRA payments.

Moving to the Association news, other that he changes in meeting locations we may start thinking about the Annual Picnic and June General Meeting in Frankenmuth. Our members can now make their reservations for the event which is scheduled to begin on Sunday June 16, 2024 with an evening hospitality room. The Annual Picnic will be Monday June 17, 2024 and if that is not enough, a second hospitality room Monday evening. Lastly, the June General Breakfast Meeting will be Tuesday June 18, 2024. Those members that are planning on attending and spending the 2 nights can call the Bavarian Inn @ (989) 652-7200 and give them our booking code, "13O5WA" (that is the letter O not the number 0). Rooms begin @ $139.00 per night for the standard double room. More info and times will be made available as the events move closer.

Well it seems my ramble is coming to a close but naturally I have a few closing remarks. All you Veterans out there, the VFW and American Legion would love to have you join and support the Police and Fire groups for both these great organizations. Any information you may need is located in this UNITY issue.

Keeping along those same lines, this Association, as we all know, is losing more members than gaining members, so if you know or have family members who are not members or were members, ask them to join. Remember you may need their support to help you get to some of our events in the future (just kidding). The last reminder is to make sure you have your beneficiaries updated per your wishes.

So, until the next time, everyone enjoy the New Year, be careful out there, watch your back, take care of your family and friends and remember this isn't the world we grew up 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.

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SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

The following is the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Associations previous year activities, income and expenses from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

A direct quote from the Restated Bylaws of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association states, in part, "The purposes of the Association shall be: To provide the Members with information concerning the status of Pensions, Hospitalization and Insurances." The organization achieves pension issue goals by supporting two elected pension representatives, one fire and one police, who in return report to the membership on all relevant activities. Hospitalization Benefits, are regularly monitored by elected Trustees, three are RDPFFA Board of Director members who report to the participants all applicable information.

Additionally, the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association objective is to promote a spirit of good fellowship and a closer personal relationship among members and their families. Attempting to accomplish this goal the Association arranges an annual picnic and coordinates a golf outing. The Association is organized and shall be operated exclusively for the purposes set forth in Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This is a summary of year end numbers compiled by the Retired Detroit Police Fire Fighters Association Secretary-Treasurer. Over 4,500 persons were participants in the Association at the end of 2023, of those included, 3,917 started the year on payroll deduction and the Association ended the year with 3,801 on payroll deduction. Other members are those not enrolled who pay annually along with persons not eligible for automatic payroll deduction. The following list represents categories identifying annual expenses; Events $6,950 (14 donations), General Membership Meetings $10,094., Honorariums $36,135, Insurance $4,927. (Average yearly cost - 3 year policies), Office Expenses $23,435, Payroll Expenses $112,821, Professional Fees $30,000, Professional Services $8,664, Property Taxes $8,363, Unity Magazine $13,857 and Utilities $11,282 along with a variety of categorized operating cost of $6,426. Investment expenses are not included.

The yearly Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association expenses as of December 31, 2023 were $330,783. The Association had a total income of $201,074; this number includes $148,398 in dues, $24,495 in appreciation and $28,181 in other income. The dues assessment of $36.00 annually does not cover the Association's annual expenses which then, are supplemented by transferring investment funds. In 2023, $120,000 of investment earnings was transferred to the Association's fund to deal with expenditures.

December 31, 2022 total expenses was $338,283, December 31, 2021 end of the year total expenses was $261,118, December 31, 2020 end of the year total expenses was $254,441, December 31, 2019.end of the year total expenses was $261,402.

Left out from the above values of total assets is the office located at 2525 E. 14 Mile Road Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310-5969 which is owned by the organization. The above numbers are calculations for members' informational purposes only and are not to be construed as a professional audit and official certified numbers.

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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.

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

other locations within your communities like the Health Dept. and some libraries', so before you spend your money take a minute and look for the free ones.

At our December 2023 general membership meeting, we had a larger than normal attendance. It was good to see so many that haven't attended for some time. It was kind of reminiscent of the meetings from a few years ago when we had larger crowds. Keep it up. While on the subject of General Meeting, please be aware that the General Membership meeting locations have been changed for the March and May. The March meeting is at The American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights, and the May meeting will be held at The American Legion in Dearborn Heights.

That's it for now, stay safe and try to attend the Association events.

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

Welcome New Members!

October 2023

Gray, Sheila - Police
Greenleaf, Dale - Police
Scott, Krista - Police
Gill, Vito - Fire
Gulley, Lee - Fire

November 2023

December 2023

Metiva, James - Police
Valley, David - Police
Barron, Bob - Police - Associate
Rojowski, Jennifer - Police – Associate
Brown, David A. - Fire
Cartledge, Joseph - Fire
Flowers, Kevin - Fire
Sisoy, Gregory - Fire
Williams, Albert - Fire

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,
(Enter off Grand River) Exit 145 off of I96

Call the Association Office if you need additional information

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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

March 7, 2024

AMERICAN LEGION

23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

May 2, 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 Spring 2024 Issue should be "submitted" by March 22, 2024

Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from sunny Florida:

Not much going on down here except for the day after day of sunshine.

However, the Christmas enthusium spirit, decorations, friendliness continue to abound.

At our last 2023 meeting we had some big money winners in the drawings - they were:
Carolyn Wood, Mike Kniaz, Dan Zemaitis and Sue Kniaz – Yeah!!

Deember Birthdays: Ted Ponik, Dennis Flanagan and Bob Rentz

January Birthdays: Dan Zemaitis, Jerry Ciesinski and Bernie Mueller

February Birthdays: Diana Kapagian and Gene Karvonen

I'm trying to get a luncheon get together down here for January some time. If anyone is interested give me a call so I can get back to you.

This article won't be out till after Christmas, so our "Snowbirds" officers would like to wish all of our fellow Police and Fire families a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year.

My Florida Phone number is: (727) 397-6226 • Dan

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

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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 use this donation wherever it is most needed. I give it as a memorial of my wife Charlene; we shared almost 65 blessed years together. Thanks for all you do for us.

Ret. Sgt. Jim Ruhlig
(Original C.A.T.S. Crew)
Linden, MI

Such great work done by all in our organization. Use this donation wherever you see fit. Thanks for everything you've been doing on our behalf.

Juan & Kathryn Hedtler
Brownsville, TX

Don Taylor I enjoy all you do and have done. Thanks to Greg Trozak, Al Grant & Woody! Please use this wherever it is needed. In remembrance of many passed partners, Michael Babiuk (#13 & Homicide), Ronald Sanders (Homicide, (Warren Sturr Classmate), & Ronald Marvin (Homicide).

Tom Collins
Scottsdale, AZ

Please use this donation in memory of Danny Ellis who was killed in the line of Duty on February 3, 1971, at the age of 29.

Tom Beski
The Villages, FL

I humbly submit this donation in memory of my husband Sgt. Louis "Louie" Fithian, to be used where needed. Thank all of you for your help and for being there for us!

Barbara Fithian
Rector, AR

Please accept this check in remembrance of my Dad (Fred Melawi) retired from the city as a Police Officer in 1977. He passed away recently.

Val Buckley (his daughter)
Macomb, MI

In honor and remembrance of our dear friend for sixty seven years, Thomas W. Sowell.

James & Marie Stephens
Trenton, MI

Here's a small check to be used at your discretion, it's given in memory of Joe Shearrer, one of the best street cops I've had the honor of working alongside. Keep up the good work. As Ray Downing said, keep on compiling that list of our departed co-workers; a sad but necessary accounting for us survivors.

Joe & Gerlinde Schrader
Hillsboro, OR

Please use this as you see fit, in memory of my brother James M Veda DPD, Thank You.

Ed Veda
(Retired Senior Chief DFD)
Macomb, MI

Accept this for your use as you see fit, in memory of two excellent Police Officers Jack Bowen and Danny Vassar, they served well.

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

Thank you to one and all for all your hard work. I am so very thankful. In memory of P.O. Richard Santarossa.

Connie Santarossa
Roscommon, MI

Thank you for all your hard work. It is appreciated very much. Please use the excess of the enclosed check where needed most. Have a blessed holiday.

Charles Staples
Surprise, AZ

Enclosed are my checks for 2024 Dues and another to help in your most important work of protecting our retirement interest. I served in the Detroit Police Department 9/12/1960 to 9/13/1985. Retired now 38 years at 87 years old & looking at 88 soon. My wife Barbara and I have been married 68 years and surviving even with the aches and pains of these advanced years. Hang in there fellows and gals, it certainly is worth it. God bless you all!

John Burgess
Paris, IL

Enclosed is a check to be used as you chose in memory of our Brother STRESS Officer, Thomas Turkaly Jr. Thank you, The Men of STRESS.

John Ricci
Morrice, MI

(continued on next page)

Members Letters *(continued)*

Please use as you see fit in thanks for all you do for us & in memory of my husband Robert Dooley.

Judy Marchwinski
Odessa, FL

Some of my Firekeepers winnings. Doesn't happen often, happy to share. Thanks to everyone involved in putting the Firekeepers trip on. Use this wherever needed. Keep up the god work!

Rick & Diana Irons
Clinton Twp., MI

Please accept this check in memory of Police Officer Jack Bowen, a great friend, officer, and team mate. Use this donation where it is most needed.

Bob & Pat Scully
Surprise, AZ

Thanks for taking care of us retirees. Use this donation as needed.

Jay & Geri Koby
West Bloomfield, MI

Please accept this donation in memory of my partner John/Jack Kelly #837 3rd Precinct.

John Quayle, Retired
Sterling Hgts, MI

Please accept my donation for all the good & hard work you do for us, spend it in how you see fit. I've been retired almost as long as I was employed.

John Wisniewski
Homosassa, FL

13th Precinct

Quarterly Retirees' Luncheon

11:00 A.M. - 2nd Tuesday of
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Notice to all Veterans!

Eligibility for free interment in a Department of Veterans Affairs national cemetery now can be set prior to the time of a veteran's death. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial program (VA Form 40-10007), veterans and their family members can learn if they are eligible for free burial or memorialization in a national cemetery such as the one in Holly, Michigan. Forms are available through service officers such as the ones who work at the Veterans Support Center in Clinton Township.

Call 586-776-9810 for availability

Silver Ladies

Carol Curley

Yea! Autumn! A lot of rain and humidity fell on this past summer, and then the minuscule mosquitos made war on us. They're still at it too!

I swear the trees grew larger this year with thick leaves that are now turning colors and flickering to the ground. The fruit trees branches were bending to the ground. The fruit trees were bending to the ground with heavy crops! It's even difficult to keep the grass cut and trimmed cause it grows so fast and happy. If the rain and humidity continues our snow should be about three feet deep this winter!

We Silver ladies have fun getting together and sharing our summer stories and adventures. Some members have been traveling the states and even abroad! We enjoy the food and prices at Nick's Restaurant. It is reasonably priced and seems we always get to take an extra serving home with us.

Come join us for 1:00 p.m. lunch!

Call (810) 392-2668 for more information.

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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*

Tim Sobrero, AFSPP
tim@tridentax.com

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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.

September 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
McFadden, Elmer	P.O.	Police	6-24-74	12-21-06	9-20-23	80

October 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Balone, Vincent Jr.	P.O.	Police	3-3-71	9-18-87	10-27-23	74
Banks, Alfreda	Sgt.	Police	1-13-86	3-1-15	10-11-23	71
Bowen, Jack Jr.	P.O.	Police	5-16-66	6-27-92	10-23-23	86
Christopher, Wilber	Sgt.	Police	2-11-63	7-11-90	10-1-23	87
Clark, Marvin	P.O.	Police	1-13-86	2-1-16	10-19-23	65
Cunningham, Sondra	P.O.	Police	12-15-71	3-1-97	10-20-23	77
Edwards, Roy	Sgt.	Police	10-17-71	1-6-01	10-22-23	77
Gordert, Robert	P.O.	Police	7-1-61	9-8-71	10-10-23	84
Kopp, Kenneth	P.O.	Police	9-6-66	9-8-93	10-29-23	81
Lewis, Calvin	Corp.	Police	3-26-01	7-23-21	10-2-23	54
Loeffler, Robert	P.O.	Police	7-21-48	8-21-73	10-9-23	96
Nunn, Clarence	P.O.	Police	9-20-71	10-26-96	10-18-23	74
Pruitt, Donald	P.O.	Police	5-17-77	5-18-95	10-25-23	79
Skikun, Peter	P.O.	Police	9-7-54	2-26-93	10-2-23	95
Tibaldi, Gerald	Sgt.	Police	9-25-67	10-7-91	10-7-23	77
Turkaly, Thomas	Sgt.	Police	10-26-64	9-23-91	10-10-23	80
William, Aaron	Sgt.	Police	3-24-77	12-27-02	10-27-23	75
Bryant, Jason	FF	Fire	7-27-20	5-14-23	10-22-23	44
Casterlow, Kenneth	Capt.	Fire	5-4-70	5-29-02	10-14-23	81
Holihan, John	FF	Fire	7-1-65	8-14-78	10-11-23	83
Malik-Ul-Mulk, Mujahid	Insp. Sr. FP	Fire	7-2-62	8-1-89	10-2-23	84
Reyes, Peter	Bt. Chief	Fire	5-19-47	7-10-85	10-18-23	99
Smith, Jerry	Sr. Chief	Fire	1-16-56	1-13-95	10-21-23	88

November 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bennett, Clarence	P.O.	Police	5-18-74	7-22-02	11-7-23	71
Davenport, Frank	Sgt.	Police	1-10-52	1-10-77	11-6-23	98
Gallant, LaVerne	Sgt.	Police	12-4-72	1-6-98	11-11-23	74
Kendzierski, Anthony	Sgt.	Police	4-27-64	4-28-89	11-30-23	80
LaPere, William	P.O.	Police	12-14-72	7-19-03	11-30-23	79
Lewis, Stephen	Lt.	Police	10-21-68	6-15-82	11-15-23	77
Melasi, Goffredo	Sgt.	Police	3-10-52	5-19-77	11-13-23	94
Mozelle-Washington, Venessa	P.O.	Police	5-5-79	5-13-88	11-10-23	67
Phelps, Mary	P.O.	Police	7-15-75	4-1-88	11-16-23	76
Sowell, Thomas	P.O.	Police	7-8-57	10-5-83	11-27-23	87
Darden, Albert Jr.	Sgt.	Fire	4-23-73	8-22-94	11-30-23	75
Inman, Charles	FFD	Fire	11-13-00	2-27-13	11-9-23	53

(continued on next page)

IN MEMORIAM *(continued from page 12)*

December 2023

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Austgen, John	P.O.	Police	5-26-69	5-27-94	12-27-23	77
Dodson, Norman	P.O.	Police	7-10-61	5-28-77	12-3-23	88
Fleming, Tallen	P.O.	Police	11-4-85	1-3-08	12-20-23	54
Fryc, Robert	P.O.	Police	5-27-68	5-22-95	12-19-23	79
Hornbuckle, Raymond	P.O.	Police	2-20-78	5-28-13	12-20-23	75
Jackson, Devon	Sgt.	Police	8-24-99	8-31-10	12-16-23	59
Johnson, Ronald	P.O.	Police	3-1-71	10-22-93	12-23-23	80
Kinney-Williams, JoAnn	Sgt.	Police	5-19-77	1-31-06	12-16-23	73
Kowalski, Richard	P.O.	Police	6-17-68	6-26-87	12-23-23	77
Riley-Gray, Bikira	Corp.	Police	11-30-00	Died Active	12-9-23	53
Talik, Edward	Sgt.	Police	4-3-67	4-24-92	12-12-23	77
Tomaszewski, Edward	P.O.	Police	10-26-64	10-31-89	12-26-23	81
Tomlinson, Melvin	P.O.	Police	4-6-87	6-2-20	12-22-23	69
Williamson, Robert	P.O.	Police	11-30-70	7-3-96	12-25-23	77
Beauregard, Guy	Lt.	Fire	1-2-62	1-31-87	12-30-23	86
Hopfner, Carl	FEO	Fire	3-5-51	4-6-76	12-10-23	93

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