



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 160, Winter, 2025



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

Here we are in the middle of another Michigan winter, and it appears that global warming isn't working very well in Michigan. As I write this article we are preparing for several days with high temperatures in the single digits or below. All the snowbirds are south enjoying much warmer weather. Spring is just around the corner, Thursday, March 20th, so we should be okay.

On the issue of the Windfall and Pension Offset, the impossible has happened. HR 82, passed out of both the US House and Senate with large bipartisan support. After watching this legislation come up year after year with numerous co-sponsors only to die without any movement for over 40 years, I think most everyone expected the same thing to happen again.

But, a miracle happened and HR 82 was signed into Law by President Biden. Now the question is, "how long will it take Social Security to implement the legislation. HR 82, is retroactive back to January of 2024. So you will receive a year of back pay once it is implemented. If you have filed for Social Security and they are aware of the fact that your Social Security is being reduced by the Windfall or Pension Offset, you shouldn't have to take any action, and your adjustments should happen automatically. But if you haven't filed for Social Security because you were told that

because of the Windfall or Pension Offset, you won't receive anything, you need to contact Social Security and update your information. Hopefully, we won't have to wait too long before we see some movement in Social Security in implementing the Social Security Fairness Act, HR82.

As for local legislation, not a lot is happening right now. Currently the legislators are working on legislation to change the wage and sick time that were approved by the Michigan Supreme Court. The current language would raise minimum wage and require all employers to give their employees sick time. The Restaurant Association has stated if they have to comply with these new requirements, many of them will go out of business and others will have to raise prices by 20%, if the legislators don't pass new legislation, these changes would go into effect on February 21, 2025.

The legislators have passed new laws that go into effect this year that allows, for first time in Michigan, Police Departments to be able to use cameras for issuing tickets regarding motorists that violate the law when passing stopped school buses displaying flashing red lights, and for violations within construction sites.

We continue to monitor our lawsuit against the State regarding funds that were included in the State Budget. As you know the Association has taken the position that the language as written made our VEBA eligible for some of the 10 Million dollars included in the budget. "As Written" would mean available to "Healthcare VEBAs that were established in a Bankruptcy from the City of Detroit. The State did not allow our Healthcare VEBA, that was established during the Bankruptcy for Police and Fire Retirees that were retired on or before December 31, 2014. We were

(continued on page 4)



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Greetings all, I hope everyone had a great safe Christmas and New Year celebrations with family and friends. I'm sure all the snowbirds are already enjoying the warm weather and sunshine although, as I am writing this, it is below zero here and I guess they got a few inches of the white stuff in northern Florida. We have to keep in mind that spring is on the way.

Starting out there are a few updates from the Pension System and let's start off with the "13th CHECK". Although everyone is treating this as a 13th check this is money from the City's budget that was placed in the budget for the benefit of both Police & Fire and General Retirees affected by the bankruptcy. Ten million dollars was in the budget which is to be split 50/50 with both systems. Right now the money should have been approved by City Council and the next step is to receive the approval of the Bankruptcy Court which should get approved once the paperwork is submitted. Normally, the court approves issues that are agreed upon by all sides, which this is. After all the legal issues are resolved the money will be transferred to the Pension System for distribution on the next pension check after the deposit.

Once deposited, the five million from the Police & Fire System will be divided equally between all retirees

receiving a pension the month of distribution. There are over 8,000 retirees, so you can do the math, I don't have my phone nearby. When the money will be distributed is the issue right now, it does not look like it will be include on the March check so April or May looks probable. The money is on the way. It all depends on the traffic situation.

The other question that comes up this time of year is the delivery of the 1099s for 2024. By the time you receive this issue you should have received your 1099.

Last, but not least, the Pension System is doing fine. The P&F system has over 2.8 billion dollars, so that is something the majority of us will not need to worry about.

Switching over to future events the Association has upcoming, the next General Meeting will take place on March 6th at the west side location, American Legion Stitt Post 161. Next, is the east side meeting which will take place at the Polish Century Club on May 1st.

We will have the RDPFFA Annual Picnic again taking place in Frankenmuth Heritage Park on Monday June 23 which will be followed by the June General Meeting on Tuesday June 24 at the Bavarian Inn. Reservation can be made at the Bavarian Inn by calling 855-652-7200 and mention our group number 13U7RK. The rooms are \$139.00 per night plus a resort fee of \$29.95 plus tax. There will be a Hospitality room on Monday & Tuesday evenings at the Bavarian Inn.

The 34th Annual RDPFFA Golf Outing will be at the Oak Ridge Golf Course on August 8th, there is an enrolment form in this issue of the Unity so get those foursomes together.

Again this year, the Association is planning on a get together at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, the dates are November 9th & 10th and the rooms are \$139.00 per

(continued on page 4)



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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OFFICE E-MAIL

rdpffa@hotmail.com

WEB SITE

www.rdpffa.com



SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

The following is the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Associations previous year activities, income and expenses from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

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 arranged an annual picnic along with a sponsored event at a casino, furthermore the RDPFFA 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 2024, of those

included, 3,803 started the year on payroll deduction and the Association ended the year with 3,635 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 \$6,100 (16 donations), General Membership Meetings \$26,497., Honorariums \$40,195, Insurance \$5,591. (Average yearly cost - 3 year policies), Office Expenses \$93,306, Payroll Expenses \$109,170, Legal Fees \$120,674, Professional Services \$8,664, Professional Fees \$200, Property Taxes \$8,824, Unity Magazine \$13,339 and Utilities \$10,442 along with a variety of categorized operating cost which is \$159,569 total for building improvement or repairs. A majority of the Associations assets are professional manage and the investment expenses are not included in this piece of writing.

The yearly Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association expenses as of December 31, 2024 were \$481,897. The Association had a total income of \$200,957; this number includes \$148,624 in dues, \$15,910 in appreciation and \$36,423 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 2024, \$300,765 of investment earnings was transferred to the Association's fund to deal with expenditures.

December 31, 2023 total expenses was \$330,112, December 31, 2022 end of the year 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.

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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PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

notified by our Attorneys that we may have some hearing on the Lawsuit scheduled for January 22, 2025 on the city's motion to dismiss. If we prevail, as we expect to, things may start moving along a little faster. We will keep you updated.

That's it for now; hopefully we'll see you at the Association meetings and upcoming summer events.

VICE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

night plus resort fee plus tax. We will get out more information and our group# later. A hospitality room is going to take place on both Sunday and Monday evenings, just what to get the dates out there so members can make plans and save the dates.

We hope to see many of you at one or more of these events so get those calendars updated and you have a few more months to stuff those mattresses (maybe with some of that "13th CHECK). I would like to close out by hoping everyone enjoys the rest of winter with family and friends no matter where you are and if there are travel plans involved please be careful, remember this is a whole different world we live in. Spring is on the way.

Welcome New Members!

November 2024
Acofe, Harold - Fire

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.

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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,

(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

May 1, 2025

AMERICAN LEGION

23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

March 6, 2025

RDPFFA November Event

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort - Mt. Pleasant, MI

Sunday, Nov 9 - Monday Nov 10, 2025

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 2025
Issue should be “submitted” by
March 21, 2025**



Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from Florida

Haven't been able to set up a get together down here since there's so much cleanup and rebuilding going on. Will work on January 2025 – All will be welcome.

In the meantime we need get well thoughts and prayers go out to Cindy Rem and Barbara Watkins.

September money winners: Karen Haderer, Carolyn Wood and Zig Boqumil.

Jan. Birthdays: Jerry Ciesinski and Dan Zemaitis

Feb. Birthdays: Gene Karvonen and Diane Kapagian

Mar. Birthdays: Jerry Rozanski, Evelyn Brehm, Violet Prather and George Perry

Apr. Birthdays: Georgette Gekiere, MaryAnn Ponik, Mike Kniaz, Karen Haderer and Cindy Rem

Happy and healthy Birthday to all and any I missed.

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.

Another of my sayings – "Treasure the time you have with your loved ones because it is precious"

Take care and God Bless.

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RETIRED DETROIT POLICE & FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

THE 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

1 (586) 749-5151

- (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.

Make checks payable to: RDPFFA (GOLF)

Send to: RDPFFA

2525 East Fourteen Mile

Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310

Phone: (586) 795-1734

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

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Members Letters

RDPFFA, thanks for doing what you do, without the participation of all retired people that could help the Association.

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

Memorial Gift,

Please accept the enclosed check in memory of David Damm. Dave entered his eternal home October 15, 2024. Dave was appointed to the Police Department on November 3, 1963 and upon completion of the Academy was assigned to the First Precinct. He remained at the old First Precinct in the old Headquarters building his entire career. He was known for his quietness and patience and a willingness to train officers just out of the Academy. He is another old timer we will miss and let us remember his family as they go through this difficult time.

Victor & Nancy Hess
Livonia, MI

Please find enclosed a donation in memory of Retired Detroit Police Officer David T. Damm, who died Oct 15, 2024. Thank You.

Mr. & Mrs. David Easterwood
Chelsea, MI

Please accept this contribution with heartfelt thanks for all that you do for all of us, and use it wherever it will do the most good.

Charlie & Cindy Eggers
Eagle River, WI

In memory of Carl F. Parsell, Thank you for all you do. Please use this wherever needed.

Stephen N. Parsell
South Lyon, MI

Use this donation wherever it is needed and thanks for all your work. In memory of my wife Manon (Tina).

Joseph Marentette
Georgetown, TX

Enclosed is a check to the appreciation Fund in memory of Crime fighter Shirley Wagner. Back each other.

Loren (Crime fighter) Wagner
Las Cruces, NM

Thank you for all the big and little things you do for all of us. Use the check wherever it is needed. Thank you again.

Shewood Anderson
Alpena, MI

Please accept this check for; I am giving this check because I did not pay my dues for this year. I spoke with your office on several occasions and you were supposed to have my dues paid out of my pension check. Guess what it never happened. I would appreciate it if you could please fix the problem. Please contact me if there are any problems.

Keith Miner
South Lyon, MI

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Please use the enclosed check as needed in memory of my husband P.O. Thomas Holody.

Sylvia Holody
Chesterfield, MI

Happy New Year, you guys are doing great work! Enclosed please find a donation check to be used wherever you think best.

Edward Veda (Ret. Sr. Chief DFD)
Macomb, MI

In memory of Lenny Riina, use where needed. Happy & Healthy New Year to you all.

Mary Riina
Saint Clair, MI

Use this donation where it is needed most. Thanks for all you do to help promote causes important to retirees.

Roger Clapp
Milford, MI

Remembrance and Thank You



Max E. Lemaux

10/16/35 - 11/22/24

Sergeant - Detroit Police Department

Appointed 7/8/57 • Retired 7/9/91

RDPFFA Director • 4/2008 - 3/2009

In remembrance of Max Lemaux
Thank you for your service!

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Trustee Election Results!

Andrea Zinser and Eugene Zuzga
were elected to serve as RDPFFA
trustees for a term ending
December 31, 2027!

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!

13th Precinct

Quarterly Retirees' Luncheon

11:00 A.M. - 2nd Tuesday of

March • June • September • December

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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.

Correction *(Date of Death)*

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Jackson, Benjamin	Insp.	Police	9-24-56	6-7-92	5-22-24	91

October 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Bridgewater, William	Lt.	Police	3-31-75	4-1-05	10-27-24	76
Damm, David	P.O.	Police	11-18-63	1-24-98	10-15-24	89
Jenkins, Donald	Sgt.	Police	10-12-81	7-23-10	10-16-24	74
Maple, Gary	P.O.	Police	12-3-73	7-3-99	10-2-24	73
Mezzone, James	Lt.	Police	9-28-59	7-5-94	10-19-24	89
Morton, Gregory	P.O.	Police	5-7-73	2-17-77	10-8-24	74
Moss, Jacob	Sgt.	Police	9-23-11	Died Active	10-14-24	45
Richards, Ronald	Lt.	Police	11-14-74	10-22-95	10-7-24	76
Robbins, Harry	P.O.	Police	1-6-69	3-29-86	10-5-24	77
Kolodge, Lawrence	Bt. Chief	Fire	10-31-66	6-13-01	10-12-24	83
Marchetti, Bryan	Lt.	Fire	9-22-86	3-6-12	10-18-24	68
McCain, Luther	Bt. Chief	Fire	7-5-77	2-1-12	10-11-24	72
Nichols, Carlton	FF	Fire	4-23-73	8-9-86	10-31-24	79
O'Grady, James	FEO	Fire	7-1-57	9-10-77	10-18-24	88
Pierce, Dean	Capt.	Fire	1-2-62	8-2-91	10-25-24	83
Young, Larry	FEO	Fire	9-12-77	5-28-09	10-21-24	75

November 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Crawford, William	Sgt.	Police	8-1-66	11-11-81	11-2-24	82
Cusmano, Frank	Sgt.	Police	10-2-72	7-10-04	11-2-24	74
Davies, Richard	Sgt.	Police	7-10-56	1-22-82	11-14-24	90
Dawson, Keith	P.O.	Police	11-21-81	1-3-06	11-20-24	71
Elliott, Walter	Sgt.	Police	2-25-57	10-15-88	11-15-24	88
Ericksen, Sharon	Sgt.	Police	1-9-75	1-23-92	11-28-24	73
Grabowski, Leo Jr.	P.O.	Police	5-26-69	12-28-73	11-28-24	78
Groth, Gregory	P.O.	Police	11-7-69	5-10-85	11-27-24	78
Kopp, Steven	P.O.	Police	8-12-02	5-4-13	11-27-24	70
Laube, Paul	Sgt.	Police	9-22-69	12-13-99	11-18-24	76
Lemaux, Max	Sgt.	Police	7-8-57	7-9-91	11-22-24	89
Linton, Dollie Jr.	P.O.	Police	3-23-70	1-6-04	11-27-24	77
McMahan, William	P.O.	Police	11-24-52	8-18-78	11-6-24	94
Palazzolo, Salvatore	Insp.	Police	7-18-55	5-6-82	11-10-24	92
Reed, William	Sgt.	Police	9-7-54	9-6-79	11-17-24	93
Rhodes, Charles	Sgt.	Police	7-5-49	1-14-75	11-21-24	97

(continued on next page)

IN MEMORIAM *(continued from page 12)*

November 2024 *(continued)*

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Taylor, Ward	Sgt.	Police	4-17-67	1-3-94	11-4-24	78
Troup, Roderick	Lt.	Police	10-11-71	10-11-96	11-11-24	78
Turney, John	Sgt.	Police	4-25-60	7-5-96	11-2-24	90
Amoe, Robert	Lt.	Fire	9-24-62	12-3-89	11-17-24	87
McCree, Jonathan	FEO	Fire	11-3-14	Died Active	11-20-24	48
Sanders, Earl	Capt.	Fire	5-5-70	7-8-05	11-9-24	74
Willaert, Donald	FEO	Fire	11-18-57	12-1-89	11-19-24	93

December 2024

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Byars, Kerry	Lt.	Police	9-30-96	Died Active	12-31-24	57
Brawner, Terry	P.O.	Police	7-22-85	7-6-17	12-28-24	69
Freeman, Douglas	Sgt.	Police	2-17-69	2-17-94	12-26-24	83
Harrell, Kenneth	Sgt.	Police	1-3-72	1-27-06	12-17-24	78
Krajewski, Edward	P.O.	Police	6-6-55	8-19-81	12-6-24	93
Lee, Richard	P.O.	Police	8-2-65	8-23-86	12-14-24	83
McMillian, Olie	P.O.	Police	2-27-84	4-1-12	12-13-24	61
Sylvestter, David	Lt.	Police	3-6-72	7-8-03	12-29-24	77
Watkins, Willie	P.O.	Police	5-26-77	11-1-17	12-28-24	75
Williams, Robert Jr.	P.O.	Police	11-10-78	7-29-02	12-26-24	74
Youngblood, Thomas	P.O.	Police	3-10-69	3-10-94	12-17-24	76
Armstrong, William	Bt. Chief	Fire	12-4-50	12-28-86	12-18-24	97
Mitchell, Diallo	Lt.	Fire	7-19-99	8-15-24	12-5-24	53
Wisniewski, John	Bt. Chief	Fire	8-3-53	6-30-89	12-25-24	94



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