



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Bi-Monthly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

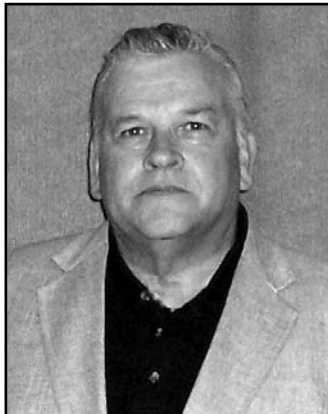
Volume 90, March 2008

EDITORIAL

In the way of providing all our membership with a Health Care Court Case update. I would like to start by thanking the 36 members attending the court hearing on Monday March 3, 2008.

Our attorney and the City attorney gave oral arguments for the Summary Judgment before Judge Torres who indicated that he would render a written opinion one day next week (March 10th – 14th).

Remember to think positive!



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

As has become the practice, I will start with a short update on the status of the lawsuit over the changes in our hospitalization benefits.

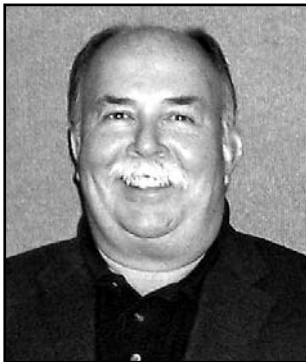
On February 11, Attorney Chris Legghio filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, in front of Judge Torres. As you know, March 3 is the date set to begin the trial. So now, we must wait to see what action Judge Torres is going to take.

Everyone should have received the information regarding signing up for dues deduction from your pension checks. Once again we are asking for your participation, as this is an important part of our efforts to improve service and reduce cost to the association. Those that sign up will have a \$2.00 per month deduction starting on the June pension check. This will be for

your 2009 dues. So as you can see if you normally pay your dues by December and you were setting aside \$2. Per month from June until December you would only have set aside \$14. So by signing up for the dues deduction you will realize a substantial savings the first year. You will also save a little each year there after. We are also issuing new membership cards to those members as they sign up for dues deduction. The new cards are plastic and will display much more information than the old type. We ask that you sign and return the forms as soon as possible. We need time to enter the information into our system and then forward the information on to the Pension System so they have time to enter the information. Regardless of when we enter the information, the deduction will not start until the June check. Those that do not sign up for the dues deduction, your dues will remain the same \$25.00 per year.

It's also time to sign up for the annual convention, once again this year it is being held in Las Vegas, at the South Point Casino. You can go to our web-site www.rdpffa.com and click on Calendar of Events, and you will be able to download a copy of the sign up forms. You may also download a copy of the sign up form for the upcoming RDPFFA golf outing, at the same location.

(continued on page 6)



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

Over the past few years, I have been approached by friends and members asking if there is a chance that the monthly General Membership Meetings could possibly be put on a rotating schedule and some eastside location could be found.

With that, I would personally like to thank board members Gordie Jackson and Al Grant, who took a day and searched the eastside and visited several venues. A group of the Entertainment Committee studied the list and found some locations could not handle the amount of people, some limited our time schedule and some would not allow us to bring in our own food.

One location, which Gordie, Jack Devoy and I visited was the American Polish Century Club located at 33204 Maple Lane in Sterling Heights located just

north of 14 Mile Rd. where Hoover ends and Maple Lane begins. It is only 3 miles north of 1-696, take the Hoover exit and continue north for the 3 miles.

The hall is large and well suited for our group and they were very accommodating. They will meet all our needs, the card players will be allowed to begin at their usual time, the beer, soft drinks and coffee will still be there and as an extra benefit the Club will provide a bartender with a cash bar if members would like something a little stronger. We will be allowed to have pizza or other type of food to be brought in for dinner.

I'm happy to say that we will have a so called "Test Meeting" at that location on June 12, 2008. This will be an additional meeting in the month of June. The regular business meeting will still take place on June 5, 2008 at the West Side location

So, to all the eastside members, it's in your hands to attend and show that this will work. Naturally all members from all areas are also encouraged to attend.

Just a few more short items, I know Don wrote about the payroll deduction and I would just like to add that if you have not received your enrollment form, please call the office and we will get one in the mail right away.

Incidentally, the "Office Open House" went very well, quite a few members stopped by, had lunch and said what a great job was done and the office looked great.

Keep checking the web site for all updates and just another reminder for all the eastside members, mark June 12 on your calendar. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm, but get there early and see some old friends, visit and catch up. This will be your chance to help us in determining if we will alternate the meetings. Everyone is welcome, so stop by and have a good time.

Until next time take care.

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RECORDING FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Charles Master

As I write this article, I wonder where would we be without the Retiree's Association and how valuable is it to each and every retiree and associate?

We have 6,684 dues paying members and I'm sure that each of us has had a question or problem in the past. We may have called the office for an answer or information or we may have felt it was an imposition and did not call. Remember, this Association was originated to help our members and their families and to protect and preserve their benefits.

In the January issue of the Unity magazine, I listed the many benefits our Association had gained over the years for the entire membership. I also believe it is just as important that our Association staff address each and every concern of the individual member, whether we are contacted by U.S. mail, e-mail or telephone.

There is not a day that passes without someone requesting information, advice or guidance. If someone writes a letter stating a problem and it is questionable, we do not hesitate to call the person, by phone, asking for further particulars and make every effort to resolve the problem or at least give direction to the member if it is a personal matter. We have never failed to answer a phone call.

Our renewal program is progressing nicely but our records indicate that we have approximately 1,314 retirees who have, for whatever reason, failed to join our Association.

As issues arise, such as the annual hospitalization enrollment, court case, hospitalization changes, the windfall elimination or even rumors, they are the first to call the office for information and assistance. It is disheartening to turn away a retiree who is not a member but the rule has always been to not serve those who do not belong to our Association. There are no free luncheons.

In closing we are asking for your help to encourage those who do not belong to our Association to join us.

Turn to our web site for a list of non members.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CHARLES MASTER "DUFFERS DERBY" GOLF OUTING

FOR R.D.P.F.F.A. MEMBERS!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008

9:00 A.M. Shot Gun Start

Salt River Golf Course

38633 23 Mile Road

New Baltimore, MI

586-725-0311

COST: \$60.00 PER PERSON

Breakfast, Lunch and Supper

Registration forms are available from the Association Office. Call 1-586-795-1734. Retired members should return them before June 30, 2008. Non-member applications will be processed after that date. Retirees and active members are invited. Foursomes and singles.

Theodore I. Cohen

Certified Public Accountant

30300 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY
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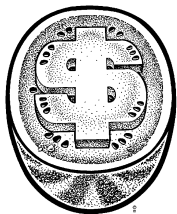


Gold – \$40.00 EA. *

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

Contact Retired Detroit Police Officer George Toy at:
(313) 527-3914

**Add \$5.00 for Shipping & Handling. Allow 6-8 Week for Delivery*



PENSION CHAIRMAN

Gregory Trozak

I would like to begin by attempting to clear up some problems and give a little more information about the H.E.L.P. act that I wrote about in the previous issue.

I have received numerous calls and e-mails as did the office. Several of the questions involved what health care premiums we are allowed to claim. The best information I can find is, only the premiums that are deducted from your pension check, which includes hospitalization, dental and vision. These are the premiums that are deducted from our checks and offered by the City. No other premiums may be used. These would include long term care or any other private or personal policies. We received several calls from members inquiring if it is possible to have the Pension System take these premiums for their personal policies from their checks. The Pension System is not set up to allow these deductions and there is no time in the near future that this will happen. I realize that this may not make some people happy but just enjoy the amount that we are allowed to use.

I understand that many of our members have already filed their taxes and I hope that they used this benefit and will continue tracking the deductions for 2008 because I'm sure these will continue to rise. For those who have not filed for 2007 I hope this clears up some of the questions. Remember, the year to date figures can be found on the December 2007 pension check statement.

Just a few items to update everyone, as most members know, with the circumstances surrounding the Administration over the past few weeks it has been fairly quiet at the meetings, just business as usual. As of this writing the Supreme Court is still reviewing the appeal of the City.

The relocating of the Pension Systems continues to move slowly. The property across from the Credit Union is now on hold. The City Council has put a hold on the sale of the property because it is located on a parcel owned by the Parks and Recreation Department and there is an ordinance with several restrictions in place to

prevent the property to be used for anything other than a city park. The Pension System is in the process of purchasing a privately owned parcel on East Jefferson near Van Dyke which could also be used. They have several architectural firms working on plans for that new building. More to come in the months ahead.

The test run that we had for the payroll deduction for our annual dues went well so hopefully we will not have any problems in June when the deductions for the 2009 dues will begin. We have been working with the Pension Systems technical staff in an attempt to make this transition go off with no problems. We are in the process of updating our computer system to work with the pension systems computers for the payroll deduction and using the two computer system to share information. This will hopefully benefit our Association in keeping our files updated to make life easier for the office.

As I stated above it has been quiet the past month so I will close with my usual and say think hard about using direct deposit for those pension checks and if you have any questions or problems feel free to call the office and if I'm not in, leave a message or send an e-mail to trozdpd@comcast.net.



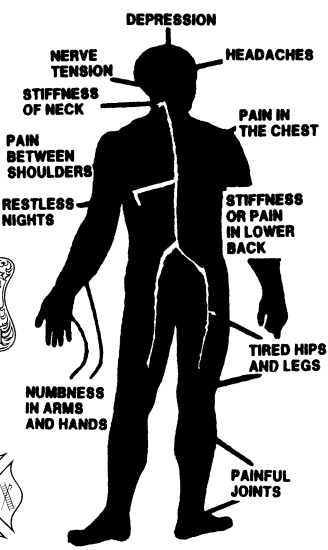
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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

A.P.B. Retirees Luncheon

Third Monday of every month

For Information call: Joe Borri at (586) 791-5552

5th Precinct Oldtimers Luncheon

Second Monday of every month at 11:00 A.M.

Big Boy's at Garfield and Hall Rd. (M-59)

7th Precinct Oldtimers Luncheon

Second Tuesday of every month – 11 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Big Boy's on E. Grand Blvd. and E. Jefferson Ave.

11th Precinct Retirees Luncheon

Second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

Buddy's Pizza - 13 Mile Rd. and Van Dyke

14th Precinct Quarterly Breakfast

Contact Ron Smolka at

734-442-8258 for future schedules

Fire Fighters Breakfasts

First Monday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Voyageur Restaurant – (810) 329-4101

525 Riverside Dr. – St. Clair, MI

First Tuesday of the month at 9:30 A.M.

Step Inn Restaurant

325 N. Main St., Downtown Cheboygan

First Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M.

Lil' Chef Restaurant (I-96 & Grand River) Brighton, MI

Welcome New Members!

December

Steward, Charlotte

January

Fulton, Dennis

Griffis, William

Grimes, Charles

Heit, Douglas

Kennedy, Herbert

Kohls, Scott

MacRae, Francis

Mills, Marlow

Rossi, Gasper

Sanders, Larry

Shepherd, Vander

Skonieski, Darryl

Wells, Marion

Worthy, Herman

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

2008 General Membership Meeting

George P. Monaghan K of C #-2690

19801 Farmington Rd. - Livonia, Michigan

Phone: 1-248-476-8383 – Time: 7:00 P.M.

THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

West Side Silver Ladies*

2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 P.M.

Archie's – 30471 Plymouth Road – Livonia

Between Middlebelt and Merriman Road

East Side Silver Ladies*

1st Tuesday of the month

Meeting at Filippa's – Time: 2:00 P.M.

Mound North of M-59, Utica, MI

Police & Fire Club of Florida*

Meetings held 1st Sunday of the month 12:30 P.M.

“October to May” at Brandon Community Center

502 E. Sadie St. - Brandon, Florida

Snowbirds Of Michigan*

2nd Sunday of the month

at “BJ's” Restaurant in Gaylord, MI

Social Hour 11:00 AM – Meeting at 1:00 PM

Nevada Jackpots*

Refer to column for next meeting's location.

Arizona Roadrunners*

Next Meeting: May 4, 2008 at 12:00 Noon

Wild Horse Casino Restaurant

***Refer to columns for specifics or program changes**

**Articles for the
May, 2008 Issue
should be “submitted” by
April 15, 2008**

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

We continue to make improvements to the office and our web-site, in our ongoing effort to improve our service to the membership. So be sure to visit the web-site on a regular schedule for the latest information. We ask that you continue to send us your Email addresses, so we will be able to update you immediately on important issues. We are closing in on 50% of the membership having listed their E-mail addresses. So if you haven't sent in yours' please do so. One of the changes we have made is that we are now keeping the Office open 5 days a week. We will monitor the reaction to this from the membership, to see if this should become permanent.

Be sure to checkout the Vice-President's article, regarding a new location for General Meeting on the Eastside.

We have made a number of changes in our efforts to provide the best service to you the membership. So let us know what you think. If you have any other ideas or suggestions please pass them along to us.



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Dr. Avery Jackson, III, M.D.
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The Michigan Neurosurgical Institute, P.C. is an institution dedicated to personal, individualized care of patients with spine and brain conditions. We treat all spine disorders, no matter how simple or complex. We always emphasize non-surgical treatment as the first option. We also put emphasis on patient education and participation in a care delivery model.

Dr. Avery M. Jackson, III, Director of the Michigan Neurosurgical Institute, completed a Neurosurgical Complex Spine Fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Jackson has extensive training in complex spinal cases, brain and spine tumors, head and spine trauma, vertebroplasty, kyphoplasty and minimally invasive surgery.

Hospitalization

John Devoy

A new policy has been adopted by Blue Cross. If you have a health problem, or any question relating to your health coverage, you must first call the phone number that is on the back of your Blue Cross card, 1-800-951-2583.

Make sure you get the name of the person you talked with. If, after talking to them you are still confused or not satisfied with their response, please call me and I am sure we will resolve your problem.

When open enrollment for health care coverage comes this spring, if you make any changes, please send them to the City by certified mail with a signature required. This is your proof of any changes made and that the City of Detroit has received these changes! This is for all coverage's. Blue Cross, COPS Trust, H.A.P., U.S. Health etc.

Also make sure you save the book and charts the City sends you. These will show your benefits and various cost. If a question arises you can refer to these for information.

In addition to my regular health column I would like to mention the retired Association's loss of one of its most ardent supporters, Don Whelan, who recently passed away. Don always backed our group with generous donations and active participation in all our events. Don will be greatly missed. God Bless.

Don't forget the Las Vegas Convention in September. The tickets are going fast. Don't get shut out.

See you at the General Membership meeting.



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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(Surviving Spouses)

Fern Garner

Winter came to Michigan early and has given us a colder and snowier one than in the past several years. Runs in cycles just like everything else.

Stormy weather in the form of scandals hit the City of Detroit hard and is still an ongoing issue. The media have provided us with daily updates and revelations, not just local but we even made national news. We had just been replaced as the City with more crimes but went to the top of the list for juicy scandal with almost soap opera drama continued from day to day.

If we could just read or listen to the news as average citizens concerned only with the City's reputation it would be almost comic, but as retirees of the City we are most concerned with the amount of money flowing from the City treasury. This comes when our lawsuit is still pending in the courts over retiree health care contributions. Contracts of some of the unions are also still in negotiation, while the City cries poor and unable to award raises long overdue. So keep tuned for the latest developments, our new form of entertainment.

Speaking of winter, sometimes "Winter Blues" hit us, caused by less sunshine and the harsh weather. The symptoms show up as depression, lethargy, fatigue or food cravings. Guess that could cause weight gain so that when spring and summer near everyone is concerned about dieting. Seems everything runs in cycles. There are many solutions or cures for the blues, get out in sun when it appears, exercise, plan a trip, or better yet, just join the Silver Ladies and enjoy yourself. We will welcome you with open arms, so join us and hopefully we can provide some laughs, hopefully not scandals.



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.

Name	Dept.	Rank	Date of Death
Beasley, James	Police	P.O.	1/8/08
Bridges, Macon	Police	P.O.	1/12/08
Dolkowski, Hillard	Fire	Marine Eng.	9/20/07
Johnson, Cephus	Police	P.O.	1/22/08
Lane, Michael	Police	P.O.	12/28/07
Loomis, Jack	Fire	Chief	1/4/08
Merrick, Rollie	Police	P.O.	12/19/07
Nalepa, John	Fire	F.E.O.	1/27/08
Owen, William	Police	Insp.	1/2/08
Rice, Charles	Police	P.O.	1/25/08
Small, Dell	Fire	Capt.	1/23/08
Snyder, Joel	Police	P.O.	1/7/08
Speights, Laumargaret	Police	P.O.	12/9/07
Taylor, George	Police	Sgt.	1/25/08
Vidosh, Albert	Fire	Capt.	1/17/08

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REMEMBRANCE AND THANK YOU

The following supporters, their names and in the names of their loved ones, have contributed most generously to our Appreciation, Building 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.

Arthurs, James D. *in memory of Bill Fritz*
 Belangie, Nelson E.
 Bloomfield, Julie
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 Borowski, Richard
 Bulger, Sabena
 Cargill, Charles W.
 Carolan, James P.
 Chakan, Sharron A. *in memory of John Chakan*
 DeVolder, James J.
 Dukes, James F.
 Elliott, Walter R.
 Erkard, Samuel H.
 Fassett, Robert C.
 Gambotto, John W.
 Gaynor, Martin E.
 Germaine, Larry *in honor of Peter Moroso*
 Gray, William H.
 Griem, Floyd L.
 Griffiths, Dennis J.
 Heinz, Marvin F.
 Henningsen, Geraldine *in memory of Gerry Henningsen*
 Hess, Victor S.
 Himes, Robert R.
 Howard, Mary T.
 Huizar Sr., Gregory T.
 Jachym, Frank J. *in memory of Jack Loamis*
 Jamieson, Dorothy M. *in memory of Floyd Jamieson*
 Jasinski, Tom
 Kaminski, John S.
 Koby, Jay
 Lashbrook, James T.
 Mack, Linda M. *in memory of Paul Mack and Larry Sidebottom*
 Maisano, Jerome
 McClary, Robert C.
 McPherson, Gerald T.
 Nagy, Dennis L.
 Olsen, William F.

Pawlowski, Thomas
 Petoskey, Melvin J.
 Pfister, Marcella
 Phillips Sr., Charles J. *in memory of Raymond Harrington*
 Pike, Lois
 Plemmons, Larry M.
 Plowman Jr., Leon
 Potts, George H.
 Provencal, Roy L.
 Quirk, Edward J.
 Rabedeau, Harriet A. *in memory of Raymond Littmann*
 Reyst, Cornelius
 Ricci, Robert M.
 Ring, Harold E.
 Rizk, Raymond J.
 Roberts, Rosemary *in memory of Marvin Roberts*
 Roberts Jr., James T.
 Rohn, Edward A.
 Rossi, Frank A.
 Russell, Kenneth A.
 Russell, Jo Ann
 Ryan, John T.
 Sabo, William A.
 Saffold, Albert N.
 Savin, Richard G.
 Schiepkke, Raymond A.
 Schlarman, Eugene T. *in memory of Donald Travis*
 Seacord, Philip J.
 Seger, Joseph R.
 Seneski, Lawrence M.
 Shaw, Kenneth A.
 Sington, Gerald J. *in memory of Gilbert Stocker*
 Skotzke, Eugene C.
 Skowronski, Richard
 Skrobowski, Daniel J. *in memory of Barbara Skrobowski, Laura Owczarzak and James L. Funke*
 Skubik, Chester C.
 Smith, Micah L.
 Smith, Vernon T.

Soncrant, John M.
 Sprankle, Delbert W.
 Spytek, Frances
 Stark, Norbert J.
 Stehlik, Betty L.
 Swistock, Gloria A. *in memory of Kenneth J. Swistock*
 Sydor, John M.
 Szarafinski, Leroy P.
 Tanana, Dolores N.
 Tanderys, James A. *in memory of Audrey Tanderys*
 Thornton, Rolland J.
 Tillman, Richard A. *in memory of Don Tillman*
 Todd, Bozica
 Tower, Phyllis R.
 Trumbull, E. Corry
 Urusta, Roberto C.

Vitoratos, Barbara
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 Wallington, Robert E.
 Walrad, Hope E.
 Weidner, Ronald W.
 Weiler, Richard R.
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Members Letters

Long time supporter:

Haven't the slightest idea what happened. If we had a dog I could blame it for eating the dues notice. Anyway, enclosed is a small token to help the great fight you guys do.

I'll spare the comments I have for the ungrateful non-members.

Again thank you for all you have done and do.

Regards,
Frank W. Staskon

R.D.P.F.F.A.:

I have been a member for ever, supporting the Retired Detroit Police & Fire Association.

I do respect all the good you do for the Police and Fire plus the continued fight with the City of Detroit.

Joe Shearrer

Don Taylor:

Please use this contribution where it is needed.

Keep up the good work protecting us retired, especially old Motor Men!!

Al Saffold

R.D.P.F.F.A.:

Please use the extra check as needed.

Thank you for all that you do for us and your hard work.

Bill Vitoratos

R.D.P.F.F.A.:

I just want to thank all who keep me informed about what the City is doing with my earned benefits.

When your 200 miles away it's hard to keep track.

I'll never forget what Don Morris did for me.

Keep up the good work & thank you again.

Use the extra where it's needed.

Gene Skotzke



Bob Blickensdorf
*Retired Chief of Police
Madison Heights Police Dept.*

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R.D.P.F.F.A.:

Enclosed is my check for 2008 dues, plus a little extra to help with the upcoming hospitalization court costs.

Keep up the good work.

Joseph Seger

R.D.P.F.F.A.:

Please use the extra money for the benefit of the Association that I am so honored and proud to be a member of.

Thank you to our elected officers for the great job you are doing.

Al Wendyker

R.D.P.F.F.A.:

I am enclosing a check to be used where it is most needed. I appreciate your hard work for our causes. Bless everyone in their continued efforts to enhance the lives of the retirees.

Cordially,
Robert R. Himes

R.D.P.F.F.A.:

This is to let you know I have moved from St. Helen, Michigan, after 36 years and am now living in a senior housing apartment in Fenton, Michigan.

I have belonged to the retirement system for years and am sending my check for my 2008 dues.

I really enjoy reading the newsletter, but don't know any of the names in the precinct now.

Excuse the writing, I have just had cataract surgery so don't see too well yet.

Thanking you sincerely,
*Dorthea I. Day, Widow of
John Day, 11th Precinct*

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RETIRED DETROIT POLICE AND FIRE CLUB OF FLORIDA

Rev. Jim Caufield

The club meeting of February 3, 2008, was called to order by President Joe Hutsko, who opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and followed by the opening prayer by Rev. Jim Caufield.

Secretary, Wally Hamer, read the minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2008 and then informed the members of the illness of members Rita Rusch, Moe Gekiere and Joan Wooley who were unable to attend the meeting.

Treasurer, Edith Caufield, informed the members that twenty six tickets had been purchased for the yearly banquet. We now have sold a total of forty eight banquet tickets. Bill Larsen, who is in charge of the yearly banquet, informed the members of the menu being offered by Banquet Masters and the time schedule for the meal. The price was the same as last year.

Vice President, Bill Schmidt, discussed an article from the Unity publication on health. He also stated he had talked to member, Jim Thomas, formerly of New Port Richey, Florida, who had moved back to Houghton Lake, Michigan. Jim misses our meetings and Bill gave him an update on current events.

Ray Kosmack, who was present, gave an update on this year's trip (Detroit to Las Vegas) for the yearly convention at the South Point Casino for the dates of September 22nd to 26th. He stated they were having two flights going and stated the banquet would be an improvement over last year's arrangements.

President Joe Hutsko introduced, Al Balogh and his wife Agnes, who were celebrating their 62nd Wedding Anniversary today. Happy Anniversary was sung by all.

The fifty – fifty drawing was held and prizes of \$23.00 were won by Dan Zemaitis and Al Balogh.

The meeting was adjourned by President Joe Hutsko, followed by Rev. Jim Caufield asking a blessing on the pizza party which followed the meeting.

Preserving the Past, Preparing for the Future:



This rig, a 1937 Seagrave, was originally purchased by the Detroit Fire Department back in 1937 and was in service until 1967 as Engine 13. Now, 40 years later, this vehicle is being replicated to honor firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty and to preserve a tradition in danger of disappearing. A fitting tribute for fallen firefighters is being restored and re-commissioned to honor fallen firefighters with a ceremonial “Last Ride”. A fitting tribute!



Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis



Greetings: Since arriving in Florida, Jey and I have attended two of the Florida retirees meetings in Brandon, of which we are both members.

We were able to meet some of our Snowbirds who also attended. They are Jerry and Evelyn Brehm, Ken and Sylvia Wells and George and Irene Fedorka. Moe and Georgette Gekiere couldn't make the last one because Moe just got over having pneumonia then had to have 3 stents put in. You have to get better Moe, you and Bill Henahan are almost rebuilt.

I am sorry to announce that our friend and Snowbird member Paulette Groh passed away the end of December. Our sincere condolences to her family. We still send get well wishes to Roy Mantay who is still having heart problems. Also to Barbe Whiting who is doing great now after her knee surgery.

Just a reminder, our first meeting of 2008 will be April 13th at 1:00 P.M. at B.J.'s restaurant in Gaylord. Don't forget our Mackinac Island trip June 6th and 7th with two nights at the Best Western Lakeview in St. Ignace with meals for \$184.00 a person. Plus many other perks.

On September 17th we have the "Rocking Oldies" dinner show and overnight in Frankenmuth for \$219.00 a couple. Call Jey for more information and myself for any up north news at (727)397-6226. Till next month.

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ARIZONA ROADRUNNERS

Al Helquist

At our January Meeting we had two new couples in attendance, Ed & Marsha Dreslinski and ole TMU and K-9 Partner Ray Ricken and his wife Adele. That was great and we hope to see more of y'all.

Also at the January Meeting we were honored by the attendance of Bob and Darlene Geenwald and crew. Thanks guys.

The May 2008 meeting of the ROADRUNNERS shall be held at the Wild Horse Pass Casino on May 4th (that is one week prior to Mothers Day) beginning at 12:00 noon. Let's make it a real ARIZONA turn out.

We would like to take this opportunity to give a great big THANK YOU to the Food and Beverage Manager, Karen, and her crew for all of their assistance. They are a real big help.

Till later, take care and have fun.

In the words of Fr. Larry Lorenzoni: The average person thinks he isn't.

2008 Retired Firefighters Mid-Michigan Annual Picnic

**June 10, 2008 – 12:00
Noon until ??**

at the
Houghton – Higgins Lake Elks Club

4932 W. Houghton Lake Dr. (M-55)

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(South shore of Houghton Lake)

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Includes Food and Drink

Grill your own steak

Make your own reservations!

Best Western, next to the Elks Club, has special rates, indoor pool and continental breakfast.

Call (989) 366-9126 for reseervations.

PLEASE RSVP to:

John H. Beyer (989) 366-7876 or send check to
Detroit Retired Fire Fighters of Houghton Lake
3627 S. Gladwin Rd. • Prudenville, MI 48651

Westside Silver Ladies

Geri Henningsen

Has anyone seen the first robin yet? What a great feeling when we do!!

WELCOME to our newest member, Doris Keizer. Despite the winter weather, 20 members attended January's luncheon and 15 were in attendance at February's. Our 50/50 winners were Pat Tomasaitis and Dolores Smith.

We have had a few members suffering illnesses during these winter months, Gayne Zell, Martina Burke and Sally Emerick that I am aware of. I'm hoping everyone is back to good health by the time this article goes to print.

Because our treasury had some extra money, our group donated \$100 to each of the following - Marycrest Manor, the Salvation Army and the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy where we purchased a brick that will be placed along the riverwalk in downtown Detroit. The Inscription will read DP&FF Westside Silver Ladies.

Treasurer, Meta Bateson brought new name pins to the February's luncheon. They had police & fire logos and were beautifully made by Meta's daughter, Claudia Kinman. Thank you so much, Claudia.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Jo Moranty-3/19, Lessie Johnson-4/19, Marilyn Noseworthy-4/24 and Betty Cavin-4/27.

March is "dues month". If you haven't paid, please mail \$12 to Meta Bateson, 1291 Shoemaker Dr. Westland, MI 48185 or pay at our next luncheon.

Remember to keep smiling - there are no language barriers when you smile! Lets meet at Archie's!

Geri Henningsen,
734 335-6778.

Here We Go Again

Winter is fading fast,

Spring is in the offing.

Maybe then my bones won't ache,
And I can stop that lousy coughing.

Maybe then the Sun will shine,
And winds will turn to breezes.
Smelling freshly mowed cut grass,
Won't cause those endless sneezes.

Snow may return but just in flurries,
Chased away be the warming sun.
Never remaining more than a day or so,
Winter surely must be done.

March gets windy and the days are cold,
But they get fewer day by day.
And March will pass, it always does.
Warming days are on the way.

Trees will sprout with budding leaves,
Spring flowers will soon appear.
Birds will chirp and squirrels will chatter.
These are the sounds of spring you'll hear.

by Roy H. Moerschell

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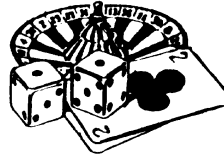
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Silver Ladies

Carol Curley



NEVADA JACKPOTS

Tom Hulkkonen

Think Spring!

As I write this, our temperature has been below 0 degrees Fahrenheit for a few days again! It is not pleasant! The snow accumulation reminds me of when I was a child. There was deep snow everywhere. I thought it was a beautiful challenge, but of course my parents did all the work, the worrying, and keeping me warm. This global warming trend seems to be nowhere when we need it! So, let's think spring and look forward for a Happy Easter for everyone.

Our newly elected officers for 2008 are: Irene Brooks, President and Wilma Fulton, Treasurer. It's timely to thank our past officers June Tullock, President, Fern Garner Vice President and Barb Talley, Treasurer.

We need prayers and loving friendship for members who are trying hard to recover from health setbacks including our regular Unity writer Helen Malkowski. Thank you Helen!

Minutes from our February meeting included the following: Our regular meeting, scheduled for March 4th has been changed to 11:30 AM at a different location. Please call if you need more information. By the way, Marie won the 50/50.

Happy March birthdays go to Bernice Hall and Jennie Matusz followed in April by Emilie Salatowski.

Our July summer picnic is reserved at Dodge Park! Further details will follow.

More currently, our Anniversary Dinner will be waiting for us at Di Fratelli's on Van Dyke March 18th! Incidentally, a few of our members attended the Open House of the RDPFFA on Fourteen Mile Rd., in January. We missed you!

My first writing is in the past. Unfortunately I made a great error! The phone number for information was wrong and I apologize! The correct number for President Irene Brooks is 1-586-749-8894

Don't be disenchanted, we have the celebrations ready! We want you to come and have fun with us.

In closing, we offer a thought teaser: we have a "midwife" in our midst!

Greetings Members,

The January 12th meeting started at 9:40 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our past members. A silent prayer was said for our troops. President Breed thanked Ray & Marge Downing for their Christmas Party and, with no new exciting news, we discussed the next meeting date. It was set for March 29, 2008, at 9:30 AM. He then turned the meeting over to me.

I passed around the RDPFFA December meeting minutes for those attending to read.

There was discussion that Roma Oatey was going to have the April card party but, due to circumstances beyond her control, that idea had to be delayed. Tony Pakula suggested a train ride trip and get together at his house for April was discussed. Final decision will be made at the March meeting.

I passed around Jim Hudson's Christmas card to the Jackpots and the Thank You letter from the Las Vegas Humane Society for our contribution on behalf of member Ralph Palmer.

I reminded the members that it was dues renewal time again. It's still \$5.00, a bargain at that price. We have \$335.00 in our treasury. For 2007 we had 26 dues paying members.

I went on a trip to California, hence the late newsletter, and was able to meet with Jim Hudson. He sends his best wishes and acknowledges that he can't make the trip to Las Vegas anymore to attend the meetings. Age is catching up and it's a long drive. We had a nice lunch and conversation.

Before I finished the newsletter I received a call from member Terry Hilden telling me his father had passed away. He was in Detroit helping his mother with the services and final arrangements. His father died on February 8th. Our prayers and sympathy go out to the Hilden family.

Remember yours dues and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Hulkkonen



Local Insurance Professional Receives Honors from

John Hancock Financial Network

Detroit , Michigan, March 5, 2008 Karen A. Rivest, daughter of Donald B. Whelan- of the Detroit John Hancock Office, recently qualified as the agent of the year for Kreiner Financial Network, an insurance and investment marketing organization of John Hancock Financial Network (JHFN).

Karen was honored by John Hancock Financial Network because of her dedication and commitment to meeting the financial protection needs and goals of her clients. "We are proud to have Karen Rivest recognized as JHFN's leading annuity producer nationwide," commented Brad Kreiner, managing partner of John Hancock Financial Network; which is located in Detroit, Troy and Livonia.

Karen Rivest is a graduate of Purdue University. Mrs. Rivest also holds a Masters Degree from Pepperdine University. Mrs. Rivest is a member of NAIFA and the Million Dollar Round Table- Top of The Table. Mrs. Rivest is also active in her community, devoting time and financial support to a number of organizations, including Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association, Lieutenants and Sergeants Association, and Detroit Police Officers Association.

John Hancock, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States and its local offices specialize in meeting the financial needs of businesses and high net-worth clients. John Hancock offers a broad range of financial products and services, including whole life, term life, variable life, and universal life insurance, as well as college savings products, fixed and variable annuities, long-term care insurance, mutual funds and various forms of business insurance. Mrs. Rivest can be contacted by calling the phone number below.

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EYE CARE UPDATE 2008

Metropolitan Eye Center will always provide the latest and safest treatments available for our patients. As a full-service eye center with an on-site optical studio, you can be assured we will do whatever we can to make your vision the best it can possibly be. Here are some services we provide.

VITAMINS

According to the Seddon Harvard University study, Lutein and Zeaxanthin have been correlated to a 43% lower prevalence of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD). Lutein protects the retina by functioning as an antioxidant and by blocking harmful ultraviolet radiation that can damage the delicate macular tissue.

Antioxidants from Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Zinc, and Selenium have been shown to stabilize and prevent further progression of AMD. Patients who have already developed the disease are encouraged to take a vitamin with high doses of Lutein and antioxidants to minimize further loss of vision. Vitamin supplements designed specifically for the eye (MaxiVision) are available in our Optical Studio. Specific dietary components, particularly the carotenoids found in dark green leafy vegetables have shown great promise in reducing the incidence of AMD. Vitamin supplements are readily absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract resulting in increased blood serum levels and macular pigment density.



LASER VISION CORRECTION

We are delighted to be using the Bausch & Lomb Zyoptix™ Personalized Laser Vision Correction System for the treatment of nearsightedness and astigmatism. This revolutionary technology is enhanced by the use of an additional space-age laser, INTRALASE® that creates the LASIK flap without the use of a blade. We call this 'High Definition Vision'! The advanced diagnostic system used analyzes thousands of data points across the entire eye - to produce a personalized vision treatment plan.

Whether it's using the B&L Zyoptix System for traditional LASIK or PRK, our doctors are able to treat most patients who desire to eliminate or reduce their need for glasses.

The good news is that the LASIK procedure *may be* covered by U.S. Health and Life for current and retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters.

NEARVISION CK

Are you at least 45 years old? Have you had good vision all of your life without glasses? Would you like to eliminate your reading glasses most of the time? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then you may be a candidate for NearVision CK. CK is an exciting advancement in vision correction because it is a simple, painless procedure that uses radiofrequency (RF) energy instead of a laser. To find out more about NearVision CK, contact our office at 800/774-7565.

CATARACTS

If you believe you may have a cataract, don't worry. Every year, some 2.5 million Americans have cataract surgery. Modern cataract surgery has developed into one of the safest, most successful and most patient 'friendly' surgical procedures available. In some cases, bifocal intraocular lens implants can reduce the need for reading glasses after surgery. It is quick and painless and almost always results in a dramatic improvement in vision for the patient. That's good news since cataracts are a normal part of the aging process!

MULTIFOCAL LENS IMPLANTS

When our patients have cataract surgery, the improvement to their vision can be life changing. With the latest advancements in multifocal lens implant technology, we are able to offer even more dramatic vision changes to improve not only your distance vision, but also your intermediate and near vision, as well. The first step is to have a complete eye examination and determine if this type of implant is right for you!

GLAUCOMA TREATMENT

It is estimated that almost 50% of people who have glaucoma don't even know they have it because they have not had a comprehensive eye exam. The pressure in the eye is usually elevated in patients with glaucoma, but there is no pain or visual loss until it is too late. Left untreated, vision gradually declines and eventual blindness will result.

Fortunately, glaucoma can be detected by your doctor during your comprehensive eye exam. Early treatment can prevent visual loss. Advances in treatment include new eye drops called prostaglandins and a revolutionary new laser treatment called SLT. Using SLT to treat glaucoma, doctors can eliminate the need for eye drops in some cases! You have a higher than normal risk for glaucoma if you are African American, have a family history of glaucoma, or had an eye trauma. For more information, go to our website, or call for an appointment.

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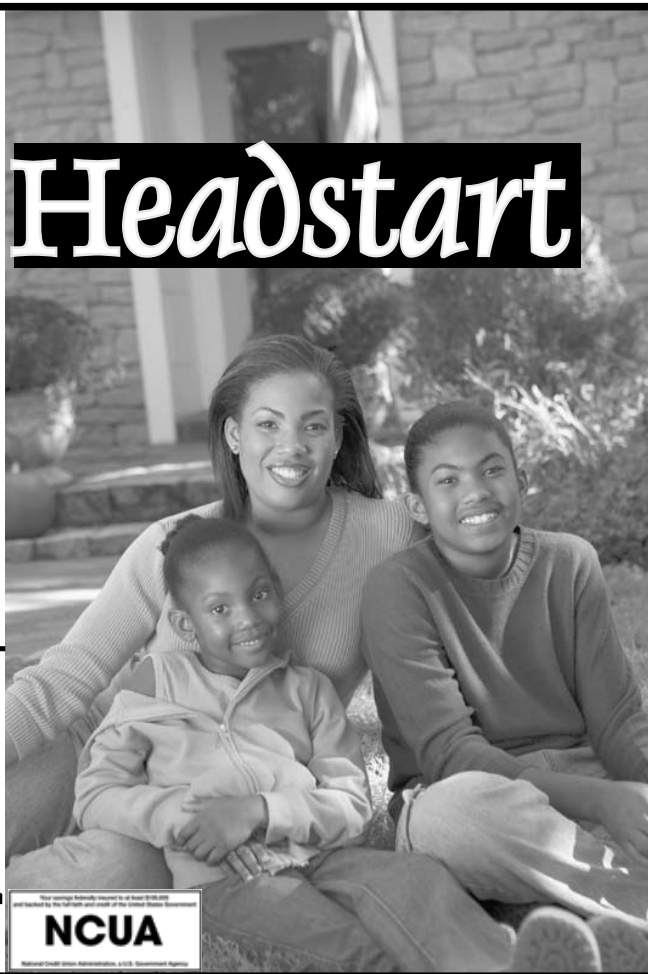
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Several stylized daisy flowers are scattered around the "HURRY SPRING" text, with some appearing to be part of the letters.