



# UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



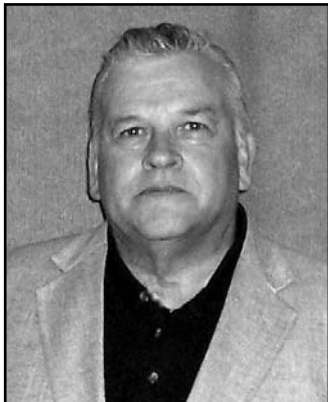
*Bi-Monthly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters*

*Volume 96, March 2009*

## ACTIVE UNIONS TURN AGAINST US?

The title of this publication reflects the views and goals set by previous Detroit Police and Fire retirees with the expectation that future retirees will realize the benefits won by their predecessors and continue the support of that policy.

It appears that the active unions are not following that policy. Please refer to Page 10 (Member Letters) and page 9 for a copy of a letter sent to the Mayor and Council of the City of Detroit by the active unions.



### PRESIDENT

*Don Taylor*

I am aware that everyone has been patiently waiting for an announcement on the implementation of the proposed agreement on the hospitalization lawsuit. Unfortunately, I must inform you that there has been a setback. We were informed that a couple of weeks ago, the active unions sent letters to the Mayor and the City Council requesting that the settlement be blocked. I could go on about how disappointed and outraged that I am from the actions taken by the active unions, however, I will defer to the letter included "In My Opinion, by John Storm". Anyone that had doubts to whether some of the union officers were out to destroy the benefits of retirees, these most recent actions should answer that question.

Located within this issue of the Unity is the letter "In My Opinion", by John Storm. I fully support the opinions that are expressed within this letter. Also within this issue of Unity is a copy of the letter sub-

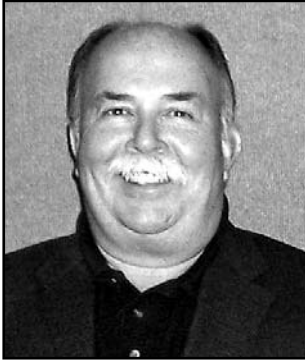
mitted by the DFFA, which is identical to the letter sent by the other three active unions-DPOA, LSA, and COA. As of this date, we have only received copies of the DFFA and DPOA letters; however, we were informed by the City of Detroit that they had received identical letters from all four unions.

John Storm, whom we all know as the most dedicated and qualified President the LSA or any of the Unions has ever had, has been actively involved in this Hospitalization case since the beginning. He has spent countless hours working on behalf of, and with our association in an attempt to protect your benefits. While the Presidents of the active unions have taken the opposite position, in their attempt to block the settlement.

On March 3, we were notified that the Detroit City Council sent the settlement agreement back to the committee for an actuary study, and that the settlement will remain tabled until the study is complete. However, after we received conflicting reports from other City units, we again contacted Councilman Kwame Kenyatta's office, and was informed that the information we were originally given was in error. Our case has not been heard.

As we all know, the settlement agreement was reached in November and signed by the Mayor. Months later, we are still waiting for the City Council to take action. I have met with Councilwoman, Shelia Cockrel, who appears to be concerned and supportive

*(continued on page 6)*



## VICE PRESIDENT

*Gregory Trozak*

I will attempt to keep this short due to the fact that a lot of the important information has already been printed. You should have read the letter from John Storm voicing his opinion, not much more needs to be said. We are in for a fight and I think we are prepared for what will come.

With that being said I will continue with an attempt to update everyone on the Associations upcoming events. First, the alternating of the General Meetings between the two locations is going very well, attendance seems to be growing. This may have a lot to do with all the information that is coming in and all the members want to be informed. This alternating of locations will continue. Remember the General Meetings are the first Thursday of every month except July and August. We will also be having a 2nd picnic which will take place on June 27, 2009 at Kolping Park located at

47440 Sugarbush Rd. in Chesterfield Township. The park is located on Sugarbush Rd. just north of 21 Mile Rd. and just east of 194 at the 21 Mile Rd exit. Much more information will be available as the months go on. As of now it is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am with lunch being served beginning at 11:00 am and a little snack later on in the day. As usual the cost is the best part, FREE to all our members. There will also be the August picnic on the 8th at the German Park located in Northfield Township near Ann Arbor. This again is free of charge to all our members. These will be great events for everyone to get together with old friends and meet some new ones along the way.

Also in August is the Association's Annual Golf Outing, this is scheduled for Friday the 21st at Salt River Golf Course located in New Baltimore on 23 Mile Rd. Sign up forms will be out shortly and with the cost will only be \$65.00 per golfer which includes golf with cart continental breakfast, light lunch and buffet dinner along with beverages on the course. I know the local weather has not been suitable for golf right now but start thinking about getting your foursome together and secure your spot.

Finally the Annual Convention held in La Vegas is scheduled for September 21st through the 25th. This year we will be staying back on the strip at the Planet Hollywood Hotel and Casino. This is a great location which will allow everyone the opportunity to get out on their own when they want, without the having to wait for shuttles or taxis. The price again this year is \$550.00 per person based on double occupancy and includes all transfers, the information seminar on Tuesday morning and the dinner later that evening. There will also be a hospitality room available in the evenings to kick back, relax and meet with some old friends. The response has been going very well and the seats are filling fast so if you are interested give the office a call and reserve your

*(continued on page 12)*

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Gregory Trozak  
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Kenneth Gidner

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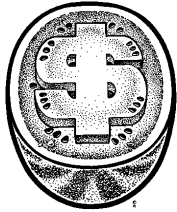
www.rdpffa.com

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Paul Mitchell  
Dominic Catanzaro

### POET LAUREATE

Roy Moerschell



## PENSION CHAIRMAN

*Gregory Trozak*

As troubling as times are these days I would like to assure everyone that your pensions are safe and secure. Even with all the dire and pessimistic news on the forefront, the pension systems has the funds to pay benefits for present and future retirees for the next 30 years. These numbers are derived from the actuarial evaluation of the pension system which is performed annually. Hopefully the worst is behind us and the markets will begin to rebound.

There has been a lot of local press lately concerning past investments that have been made by the Pension Board. They include the deep well project in Romulus, which has been ongoing for several years and the most recent from a few months ago which is a start up cargo airline. The local newspapers have written several articles concerning both. It seems there is some tension growing between Trustees concerning the deep well project. The newspapers have used so called "confidential documents" concerning this project and it appears that a Trustee or Trustees may be supplying these documents. There is possibly an arrangement that would allow the Pension System to recoup some of the money that was invested. The arrangement was with a "Greek Town" investor. By reading the newspapers, one can see he is not happy with the leaking of the documents and

has written letters to the newspapers showing his displeasure. The site needs the proper permit to begin operations, and, there are conflicting reports concerning the permit that would allow the well to reopen and begin accepting the waste. Some say the permit will be granted soon, but the anger from the local residents near the plant continues to develop. Concerning the cargo airlines there is litigation between both parties. There is also a Federal Grand Jury investigation involving this investment. Employees of the Pension System have been subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury so I'm sure we will hear more concerning this.

On a different note, our Association annually submits a request to the Pension System for an updated list of all Police and Fire retirees including widows and widowers of active retirees. The request includes the names, pension numbers, addresses and retirement options of all Police and Fire retirees. The process includes submitting our request to the Executive Secretary of the Pension System who in turns presents the request to the Board of Trustees through the Assistant Executive Secretary. This procedure has been ongoing for many years and has always been approved. On February 19, 2009 the request was again made, a motion was presented and seconded and during discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the request be tabled. This motion passed unanimously and as of this date there still has been no action. I can understand that the elected Trustees who are also union officials, are not pleased with our Association and our recent court actions. This dislike lies with the active unions and our elected officials, I can accept this and while not speaking for our other elected Officers, I am sure they would agree. This request, when granted, assists the office staff and allows us to better serve the over 6800 retired Police Officers and Fire Fighters of our Association, who have dedicated so many years to the City and depend on our pensions and benefits. We the elected officials and the Board of Directors can handle the snub from the unions, it is just sad that these actions impinge on so many of our members who cannot understand how, after being strong loyal union members for all their active years of service, seem to be forgotten after they retire. All we are asking for is updated information from the Pension System.

I will close for now but will make every attempt to keep everyone updated should anything change.



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# Hospitalization

*John Devoy*

Another month and more disappointments in regards to our court case on our Health Care coverages. While we wait for the final shoe to drop, more delays, more interference. These delays and criticisms come from active Police and Fire Organizations. Suddenly when the Retiree's seem to be making headway in protecting our Health Benefits, up jumps a road block.

It is amazing how we go it alone protecting our Benefits and Pensions and suddenly, when it appears that we may have been able to protect one of our Benefits, the negative opinions about our Association come out. These people continue to criticize and berate this Association.

Your Association has, in the past, protected us and will continue to do so. We are not going away! So I plead with our membership to continue to support us both physically and financially.

Fill up the Halls when we have our meetings. See you there, the 1st Thursday of every month except July and August.

## RDPFFA PICNIC Saturday, June 27, 2009

KOPLING PARK  
47440 Sugarbush Road  
Chesterfield Township, MI  
(586) 598-0174

Take I-94 to 21 Mile Rd East to  
Sugarbush North, 1/2 mile on right side.

Admission is by a valid R.D.P.F.F.A. Membership Card

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# Welcome New Members!

## January

Arambula, Ronald	Merriman, Anthony
Benson, Shirley	Miller, Robert J. Jr.
Brewer, Cheryl	Monti, Timothy
Dixon, Bernard	Ramlow, Leslie
Dotson, Spurgeon	Rasschaert, Steven
Fleming, Tallen Sr.	Soviak, Gregory
Fordham, James	Thomas, Willie
Hughes-Grubbs, Alma	Travis, Maria
Maddox, Shirley	Urbanczyk, Mary
MaGuire, Carol	Zagar, Mark
Martin, Marlon	Zellous, Victoria
McBurrows, Eleanor	Zmija, Walter

## February

Alexander, James, Jr.	Lemaux, Jeffrey
Beckwith, Eldon	McLeod, John
Bohlinger, Eleanor	Motley, Joyce
Brown, Margaret	Nealy, William Jr.
Evans, Audrey	Nyutu, Chaka
Fortier, Larry	Paige, Clarence
Goree-Johnson, Carolyn	Pranskaitis, Paul
Herron, Laura	Rubin, Stephen,
Johnson, Jan	Segan, Richard

## EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL "DUFFERS DERBY" GOLF OUTING

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2009

9:00 A.M. Shot Gun Start

### Salt River Golf Course

38633 23 Mile Road  
Chesterfield, MI  
586-725-0311

**COST: \$65.00 PER PERSON**

Breakfast, Lunch and Supper

Registration forms are available from the Association  
Office. Call 1-586-795-1734.

# 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)

## **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

734-422-8258 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, MI

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 I-96

# ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

**NEW!**

## **General Membership**

## **Meeting Schedule**

SEPTEMBER 2008 - JUNE 2009

THURSDAY AT 7 PM

## **EAST SIDE/AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB**

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, Michigan

Nov. 6 • Jan. 8 • Mar. 5 • May 7

## **WEST SIDE/MONAGHAN K of C HALL**

19801 Farmington Rd. - Livonia, Michigan

Oct. 2 • Dec. 4 • Feb. 5 • Apr. 2 • June 4

## **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\***

Next meeting is 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\***

Members will be notified of

time and place by mail

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

**Articles for the May, 2009 Issue  
should be “submitted” by  
April 15, 2009**

## PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

of the Hospitalization settlement along with a number of other issues I discussed with her. She advised me that she would check on the progress of the case, and notify me of where the case stands, as far as City Council is concerned.

Next item of concern is the status of our lawsuit against the Pension Board, Active Unions, and the City of Detroit. The lawsuit is over the unjust and illegal use of the 75 million in pension funds to benefit the City of Detroit and active unions. This case was filed, on behalf of the members of the RDPFFA.

This case was scheduled to be heard in front of Judge Murphy on March 6, at 2 PM. On March 5 at approximately 2 PM, we were notified that the DPOA and the DFFA planned to fill the courtroom with their members in uniform. If this were true, I am not sure what they believed they would accomplish. Did they think that the judge or our members would be intimidated by their presence? The presidents of the active unions are underestimating the dedication, determination, and will of our members. Their statements referring to an allegiance among the active unions to break

the RDPFFA, shows that they are ill informed, and have not yet fully comprehended what they are up against when they attack your benefits. As active members of their unions retire, the overwhelming majority voluntarily join our association to ensure that their rights and benefits are protected.

Referring back to the status of this case, on March 6 at 6 PM, our attorney, Mike Stefani, received a fax that our case has been reassigned. The case has been returned to the Chief Judge, Virgil Smith, who will hear the argument regarding the superintending control portion of the lawsuit. Currently, we do not have a date as to when this hearing will occur, but we will be sure to keep you informed.

Next item of discussion is our legislation in Lansing. We have introduced a bill into Lansing, which once passed will give us an equal voice on elections of pension board trustees. The bill will allow us to vote for all elected positions, based on the same procedure that the active members work under. The candidates for the positions would come from rolls of active members, but once we have voting rights, they will be accountable for their actions to our members. I am not quite sure why the active union's leaders would be opposed to us having voting rights, for if they vote intelligently, responsibly, and in the best interest of all members of the pension system, they should not be concerned.

We are encouraging all members to call their family, friends, and everyone they know and ask them to meet, send a letter, call, or send an e-mail, to their Representatives in Lansing, urging them to pass this legislation. If you are unaware of whom your Representative is, or your districts, call the office and we will provide you with that information. If we are to be successful, it will require everyone to participate in the process.

Reference to House Bill number will follow.

Last item of discussion is our response to the attack of our benefits by the active unions. I believe that we must respond to this most recent attack by the active unions. We were not the ones that initiated, what now appears to be almost all out war waged by a few elected union officers in their attempt to derail our efforts to preserve and protect your benefits. I do not believe that all of the elected officers of the active unions are in agreement with the actions of some, nor do I believe that the rank and file members agree. Nonetheless, they are the ones that elect these union officers, so we need

*(continued on next page)*

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**Dr. Ray Kaminski**

**Dr. Tom Moses**

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## PRESIDENT *(continued from previous page)*

to ensure that the rank and file members become informed in regards to these matters.

I have discussed all the most recent activities against our well-being with our attorneys. Currently, we are looking into taking further legal action against the DPOA, LSA, and possibly the others. Our attorney has expressed concerns regarding these unions that are collecting dues from our members and then using that money to actively work against our interest. We are asking that everyone who pays dues or recently paid dues to the active unions, to please send us your name, which union you pay dues to, any letters, e-mails, or other items you have received from the unions advising you of the purpose of the associate membership and what you would receive as an associate member. We need all this information as soon as possible, for after we have the information we can move forward, to determine if the active unions have violated their fiduciary duty to their associate members.

With all that is going on, it is imperative that we all stick together to repel the attacks coming from those few, so called, union leaders. In addition, we are sending a copy of this issue of the Unity to non-members. It is important that we inform members and non-members alike of these recent despicable actions of a few elected union officers, after being informed, I believe everyone will fully realize the importance of joining and remaining a member of the only organization that is dedicated to protecting the rights and benefits of all Retirees.

Therefore, to those that are currently not a member of the RDPFFA, we are asking that you reconsider, given that we must all do our part to achieve the goal in protecting your rights and benefits. Do not neglect your responsibility, "do your part".

For updates and further information, regarding all activities and events, refer to our web site. [rdpffa.com](http://rdpffa.com). Also be sure to notify the association of your E-Mail address. Please consider signing up for payroll deduction. This saves you and the association time and money.

In closing, I want to acknowledge all of those members that continue to send donations to support our efforts. I understand that in these uncertain times it can be very difficult to come up with any additional funds. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.



## 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
Adams, Mervyn	P.O.	Police	12-10-08
Barba, Gerald	P.O.	Police	2-1-09
Bourassa, Gwendolyn	Sgt.	Police	11-5-08
Byrge, Daniel	Chief	Fire	1-9-09
Chennault, Curtis	P.O.	Police	1-5-09
Cole, Christopher	P.O.	Police	1-15-09
Corso, Aldo	Lt.	Police	2-18-09
Dickerson, Joseph	Capt.	Fire	2-5-09
Doss, Willie	P.O.	Police	2-7-09
Dostert, John	FEO	Fire	2-20-09
Einheuser, Anthony	Lt.	Fire	11-6-08
Flores, Juan	P.O.	Police	2-18-09
Gerrow, Edward	Sgt.	Police	1-15-09
Hammons, Charles	Sgt.	Police	1-11-09
Harvey, Thomas	P.O.	Police	1-8-09
Henning, Earl	Lt.	Fire	11-21-08
Kania, Raymond	P.O.	Police	2-12-09
Kerr, Walter	Sgt.	Police	2-23-09
Kinzel, Robert	Lt.	Police	12-27-08
Kuk, Emil	P.O.	Police	1-5-09
Law, Frederick	Lt.	Fire	2-2-09
Lawrence, Wellington	FEO	Fire	1-30-09
McKinney, Donald	Lt.	Police	12-31-08
McLellan, Dalton	FF	Fire	12-16-08
Moreland, Leroy	Sgt.	Fire	1-7-09
Nastwold, Richard	Sgt.	Police	2-6-09
Nicol, James	P.O.	Police	3-29-08
Pospiech, Frank	Bt Chief	Fire	2-17-09
Reaume, Norman	Sgt.	Police	2-10-09
Russell, Stanley	Sgt.	Police	12-20-08
Soulliere, Harold	Sgt.	Police	2-18-09
Thibodeau, Oscar	Sgt.	Police	2-12-09
Tinning, James	Lt.	Fire	1-13-09
Waurzyniak, George	Lt.	Fire	2-26-09

# 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.

Archibald, Joyce/Charles	Cook, Robert	LeClaire, Theorore J.	Rhodes, Charles <i>In memory of James Meeks and Bill Harkness</i>
Armstrong, William/ Dollie <i>member Jack Armstrong</i>	Cretu, Nicholas	Lesure, Luther J.	Rickard, Cyril
Arthurs, James	Downs, Colleen M	Lewis, Stephen R.	Romolino, Harry <i>In memory of Victor Chiazese</i>
Badynee, Dorothy	Fairbairn, John	Light House Club, Martin	Sabolovich, Samuel
Barber, Gary	Farris, James W. <i>In memory of Sgt. George Pollack</i>	Polarowski <i>In memory of William Sind</i>	Skowronski, Richard
Barber, Gary	Fierimonte, Anthony	Maisano, Jerome	Socha, Eleanor
Barber, Gary/Evelyn	Frahm, George J.	Maisano, Jerome <i>In memory of Joseph Hutsko / William Sind</i>	Spankle, Delbert
Barnes, Michael/Margaret	Garcia, Rudy	Malott, Michael A. <i>In memory of Loris (Mike) Goss</i>	Staskon, Frank W.
Bateman, Leon	Goniwicha, Calvin	Manzel, C. Patricia / Lorel	Sustrich, Bernard
Beebe, Robert L./Helen <i>In memory of Henry Rogalski &amp; Charles Quinn</i>	Gray William	A. Wensink <i>In memory of Robert R. Manzel</i>	Swistock, Gloria <i>In memory of Ken Swistock</i>
Belanger, Nelson	Gryniewicz, Lawrence	McKinney, Darleen <i>In memory of Lt. Donald McKinney</i>	Tomaszewski, Anna <i>In memory of Vitold Tomaszewski</i>
Bernock, Frank	Habedank, Doris <i>In memory of Husband, Augie Habedank</i>	McPherson, Gerald T.	Troyanek, Gordon
Bitten, Louis M. <i>In memory of John Bitten</i>	Hartner, Ione <i>In memory of Bernard Hartner</i>	Mistele, Donna J.	Truax, Gilbert
Boruniewicz, Richard/Karen <i>In memory of Marion McAuliffe</i>	Heidtman, Grace	Monahan, James	Trupiano, Anthony
Bove, Anna Mae <i>In memory of Armand Bove</i>	Heit, Douglas J.	Moore, John R.	Tutak, Pat
Brandt, Shirley <i>In memory of Howard F. Brandt</i>	Henzi, Leonard	Mortenson, Richard	Wallington, Robert E.
Broniman, Jeanne	Hrubiak, Frank	Mullaney, Gerald <i>In memory of Theresia</i>	Wilmont, Betty & Family <i>In memory of William Wilmot (Husband)</i>
Brown, Margaret <i>in memory of James G. Brown</i>	Jaques, Billy	O'Brien William	Winkler, Frank
Carlen, David	Kammer, Marvin	O'Brien, William	Wooley, Joe <i>support &amp; appreciation to John Storm</i>
Chakan, Sharon <i>In memory of John Chakan</i>	Keaton, William	Pakuski, Ronald	Wrobel, John
Chase, Rita <i>In memory of Leo J. Chase</i>	Keech, Claire and Bud <i>In memory of Paul and Carol Chambers</i>	Paul, Douglas	Zazula-Moranty, Betty <i>In memory of Lt. Andrew Zazula</i>
Cochran, Edward L.	Klimek, Dennis <i>In memory of Adam Scott Klimek (Son)</i>	Pettier, Ernest <i>In memory of Paul Begin</i>	Zdankiewicz, Francis
	Knobelsdorf, Don	Reghi, Nicholas / Lynn <i>In memory of Zigmund Orzech</i>	
	Koenig, Hans		
	Korsman, Neelo		
	Lancaster, Rick		

## THE FOLLOWING REQUEST IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE RDPFFA

When you left the Department (Police) you had a voluntarily option to become an Associate member of the LSA or DPOA... We need your assistance. If you are a dues paying associate member of the Detroit Police Lieutenant and Sergeants Association or Detroit Police Officer Association please provide us with the following information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member (Check One) LSA \_\_\_\_\_ DPOA \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this information to the RDPFFA office at 2525 E. Fourteen Mile Sterling Heights, MI 48310 - or - call us at the office with the requested information at (586) 795-1734.





Donald R. McNamara  
President

Vernon P. Pierce  
Vice President

Jeffrey M. Pegg  
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# DETROIT FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

IAFF Local 344 - Organized May 1933  
248 West Congress, Suite 644 • Detroit, MI 48226-3217  
(313) 962-7546 • (313) 962-7899 fax • www.dffa344.org

February 5, 2009

RECEIVED  
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CITY OF DETROIT  
LABOR RELATIONS DIVISION

Honorable Kenneth V. Cookrel, Jr.  
MAYOR, CITY OF DETROIT  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1126  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Detroit City Council  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mayor Cookrel and City Council:

The Detroit Fire Fighters Association (DFFA) understands that there is a proposed settlement in *Weiler et al. v. City of Detroit*, WCCC Case No. 06-619737 CK. While the DFFA is currently a party to the aforementioned litigation, the DFFA does not believe that the proposed settlement is in the best interest of the city and its fire fighters.

The proposed settlement, which was apparently negotiated between individual retirees and the Retired Police and Fire Fighters Association, Inc. and the city, will establish a process for delivery of retiree medical care. In order to obtain the retiree medical as contained in the proposed settlement, retired Detroit fire fighters or police officers would fall in the following categories:

- Retired city police officers and fire personnel who retired at a rank having parity with that of police officers who were receiving health benefits from the city as a result of their status as retirees as of March 7, 2007;
- Retired city police lieutenants, sergeants, investigators and fire personnel who retired at ranks having parity with those of lieutenants, sergeants, and investigators who were receiving health benefits from the city as a result of their status as retirees as of August 1, 2008;
- Retired city police command officers and city fire personnel who retired at ranks having parity with police command officers who were receiving health benefits from the city as a result of their status as retirees as of August 1, 2008.

In the past, Detroit fire retirees received medical based upon what the city and DFFA negotiated. Here the city is entering into an agreement outside of the bargaining process which establishes retiree medical benefits. To go forward with the proposed

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AFL-CIO

Michigan Professional  
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Metropolitan Detroit  
AFL-CIO

K. Cookrel, Jr.  
City Council  
January 5, 2009  
Page 2

settlement will cost the city millions of dollars and will create a retiree medical plan different from what DFFA members will receive who retire in the future. Entering into the agreement will result in the city having to negotiate with the DFFA over future retiree medical benefits. The agreement does not achieve a global settlement with those fire fighters who have retired consistent with the dates above with what future fire fighters will receive. A piecemealing of retiree medical is not the most cost effective way to deliver this benefit. Retiree medical benefits should not be generated by agreements which the city reaches with individual retirees or their associations that are in conflict with the terms of the collective bargaining agreements under which they retired.

Any agreement regarding retiree medical should be comprehensive and deal with future retirees in the same manner as proposed for those retirees who retired on the dates previously set forth.

As the designated bargaining representative of all fire ranks, it remains the city's duty to negotiate retiree medical benefits with the DFFA and not with individual retirees or their associations. An analysis of the settlement by council will reveal the unequal treatment of active DFFA members from retirees and will ensure that the retiree medical issue will not be resolved without DFFA and city agreement.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

DETROIT FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION  
*Daniel F. McNamara*  
DANIEL F. McNAMARA  
President - Local 344

DFM/gc

# Unions' letter to the Mayor and City Council

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# Members Letters

Don Taylor, President  
Retired Detroit Police &  
Fire Fighters Association

Dear Don,

Please consider this as an "In my opinion" letter. You may publish it in the Unity magazine if you desire.

As a Retired Union Officer and Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association President, (RDPFFA) with the following credentials, DPOA Executive Board member 3 years, Vice President 3½ years and President 18½ years of the DPLSA, Pension Board elected Trustee 6 years, Vice-President 2 years and President 2 years of the RDPFFA. It is with much consternation I write this letter however, I cannot remain silent while, for the first time, retirees and their benefits are being attacked and threatened by their former Unions more than by the administration of the City of Detroit.

I have observed the recent incredibly and unbelievable actions of the leadership of the Unions in the following matters and have discussed these issues with those Union leaders who would listen to no avail.

First, the Unions have interfered with and attempted to halt and/or change the terms of the Healthcare Settlement agreement that is so important to over 8,000 Retirees and their dependents.

On February 5, 2009, the DPOA, DPLSA, DFFA and COA met, co-authored and sent a letter to the Mayor of the City of Detroit and the Detroit City Council advising and urging them not to approve the settlement agreement for Retirees because it is too costly, too rich in benefits and could affect future negotiations for active employees.

Their rationale is that Retiree health care benefits should be in line with the active members lesser benefits which have recently been reduced as a result of Unions loss to the City through an act 312 arbitration.

Of course, these Union leaders are being two faced and do not want current retirees to have the upside, which is, the improved retirement benefits that have been negotiated or awarded by arbitration panels throughout the years to active union members.

It should be noted that the Unions would not take or pay for any legal action to protect the contract health

care benefits their members retired with. Retirees had to fund the litigation that lead to this health care settlement agreement themselves through a contingency agreement with the lawyers that represented them. To these supposed labor leaders, I say keep partying instead of paying attention to business, eventually the party will end for you greedy, self serving, bastards.

Second, these same Union leaders in conjunction with the City of Detroit and the Retirement Systems Board of Trustees, many who are union officers, allowed the City of Detroit, in exchange for a benefit for only active members, to reduce its retirement system funding obligation by 75 million dollars.

In these hard times this money is now sorely needed by the Retirement system.

These so called union leaders do not care that all funds of the Retirement system belong to the Retirees, both current and future, not to active members.

Shame on them! They have blatantly broken faith with the Retirees and future Retirees of their Unions and have completely abandoned the current Retirees.

Finally, to keep Retirees ignorant of their activities and silence their voice these Union leaders, not the City of Detroit, have steadfastly refused to allow and/or negotiate a Retirees elected Trustee position on the Board of Trustees of the Police and Fire Retirement System. One of these Union Presidents even had the nerve to tell me that as far as he's concerned it's never going to happen. Well, never is a long time and he can take it from me he won't be President forever.

A Retiree position on the Board of Trustees of the Police and Fire Retirement System is more important and vital than ever because of the above activities of the Unions and particularly in view of the extremely poor performance of the investment decisions by the current Board of Trustees resulting in billions of dollars of assets of the retirement system being lost.

It should also be noted that the General City Retirement system has a retiree position on its Board of Trustees and that the citizens of the City of Detroit after intensive lobbying by the RDPFFA and in fairness, through a charter amendment, voted to put a Retiree Position on the Police and Fire Retirement System Board of Trustees only to have this change blocked and stopped by the Unions not the City of Detroit.

What can Retirees do to counter-act this absurd anti-Retiree hostility by the current leadership of the Unions?

The most effective way is to join, support and

remain a member of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association.

Next, Retirees should individually send a message to the labor unions which we had supported throughout our young working years and built the foundation for the power and benefits they enjoy today by not paying their associate membership dues of \$25.00. Instead direct these monies to pay the \$25.00 annual dues to the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association which, unlike the current Union leadership, is committed to protecting Retirement Benefits.

It makes absolutely no sense and would be stupid to continue to send money to the Unions to finance their efforts to, putting it candidly, screw you. That would be just plain insane.

In closing, I repeat, it is with dismay that I have observed, by their action, that the current Union leadership has forgotten the hard years of struggles, work, financial support and solidarity of their Retired Union members.

Therefore, since the Unions have clearly demonstrated by their actions that Retirees must protect their Retirement benefits not only from the City of Detroit but also from the Unions.

It is more important than ever that Retirees have their voices heard and Retirement benefits protected. The best way to do this is through solidarity and complete Unity, by joining and being an active member of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association.

Yours in Solidarity and Unity,

John Storm

Dear RDPFFA,

Thank you for your efforts on my and all of our members behalf. I'm proud to be a returned member, should never have left. Not even prok chops at the old Polish Club could make me continue any 'LSA' involvement. "Enough is Enough"!

I own a rental hall in White Lake and would like to make it available free for any 'Benefit' the furthers our Associations goals. I would also make it available free for any 'Benefit' for retired (and active) members in need. Please let me know how I can help. Thanks again for your efforts. Who would have thought it would end up like this!

Doug Hohman  
Retiree DPD

Dear RDPFFA,

Thanks for your continuing concerns and hard work that you have done and continue to do on behalf of all the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters (both Members and Non Members), of our Association. The title of our Bi-Monthly Newsletter "UNITY", is perfect because that is what the Association is trying to maintain both fraternally and in an economic sense - Protecting the hard earned pensions and benefits that we worked for and some died for during our careers.

Sincerely;  
Dennis R. Morawa

Dear RDPFFA,

Thanks for all you have done for us retiree's. A member for 34 years this month.

William Allen

2009  
Dues  
**\$25.00**

## Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association

Please Complete This Form & Return With Payment

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Make Checks Payable To: Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association  
Mail To: 2525 E. 14 Mile Rd. Sterling Heights, MI 48310-5969

For Additional Assistance  
Contact Association Office

Retired Detroit Police &  
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(586) 795-1734

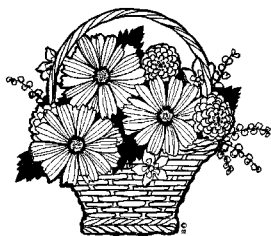
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## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

*(Surviving Spouses)*

*Fern Garner*

Winter came early to Michigan this year and looks like it might keep hanging on for some time yet. The final settlement on our health care packages is yet to be completed, so enrollment will be delayed. The attorney for the RDPFFA is supposed to notify the members once everything is signed on the dotted line.

Be sure to read every piece of information that is sent to you and if it is not clear enough for you to make a choice do not hesitate to call the RDPFFA office for help.

In the January issue of the Unity there was a Box on page 12, next to the In Memoriam column. It contained valuable information about procedures to follow upon the death of a member. Some of the information would pertain only to the person who had been a member of either the Police or Fire Department.

Some of the information however would pertain to the surviving spouse who was receiving either a pension or, health care benefits, or both. Save these numbers and put with other information that should be readily available to whoever will be handling these matters upon the passing of the surviving spouse. After having gone through this upon the death of a spouse you might realize how important it is to have important contacts readily available.

No one wants to consider their own death but having gone through the process this would be a way to make it easier for whoever will be handling your demise. If you have children this might be considered a final gift to them in their time of grief.

Not a happy upbeat column this time, maybe due to the winter blues, but it is easier to do things before they are needed than wishing they might have been done but weren't.

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## VICE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

spot. There are two flights available one at 8:30am and the other at 12:00 noon.

I realize these above mentioned events are based here locally but if any of our outstate members are planning a visit to the area for any reason keep in mind to schedule your stay within these dates and join us. Also, if any members from outstate wish to join us in Las Vegas in September, arrangements can be made with Planet Hollywood and get a pretty good rate. Give us a call at the office and Jack Devoy will give you all the information. We try and plan as many events as possible and we hope everyone will participate if available. Until the next time hope to see some of our members at the sponsored events.

### SANILAC COUNTY'S ANNUAL POLICE/FIREFIGHTER RETIREE DINNER

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6 PM (Social hour) • 7 PM (Dinner)

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## CORRECTION

In the January 2009 issue Under Pension article, Pension Chairman Greg Trozak refers to excluding from income the smaller of the premiums up to \$3,000.00. In the column the exact wording from the I.R.S. which can be found on page 24 of the 1040 instruction booklet. You enter "PSO" next to line 16b. Although, you should be aware that if you are not itemizing and use IRS form 1040A, the deduction can be taken and placed on lines 12a & 12b.



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## RETIRED DETROIT POLICE AND FIRE CLUB OF FLORIDA

*Nancy Schmidt*

The February Pizza Party was enjoyable and we will be having a repeat at the April, 5th meeting. By the time that this shows up in print we will have already had our Annual Dinner, March 1st. I'm sure that was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Birthdays this month are Lorraine Bateson and Tom Burke. Tom turned 80 and donated his dues back to the club. Happy Birthday to you both and thanks Tom. Congratulations to Jo and Al Balogh who celebrated their 63rd Anniversary. Guests this month were Bernard Witaszak and Shirley Newman.

Our well wishes go out to Jim and Charlotte Apel. Jim has had surgery and Charlotte is suffering from a painful health problem. Our thoughts are with you and hope too see you back at the meetings.

The 50/50 was won by Shirley Newman and Tom Burke. Shirley donated her winnings back to the club.

Thanks Shirley. Nominations for new officers will be at the April meeting with the elections taking place at the May meeting.

The LSA contract and proposed health plans were discussed by Bill Schmidt, Marvin Kammer, George Stanbury and Bev Kuhn. A lot of good information was gleaned. A big thanks to Jim Bateson for the donation of miscellaneous supplies. You mean that it didn't just miraculously appear? Jerry Maisano a Life Member donated his dues to the club. Thanks Jerry.

Jim Thomas and his wife Mary from Houghton Lake, Mi. are unable to attend the Annual Dinner, but they graciously donated \$30 for the purchase of two tickets that will be added to the 50/50 drawing. So I'm sure there will be someone very happy to enjoy a free meal. Thanks much Jim and Mary and stay dry and warm.

Let me know if you have any note worthy news, or just want to chat. We are always glad to hear from you. As always, my number is 1 (352) 683-7924 or [njschmidt@gate.net](mailto:njschmidt@gate.net) on the web.

Stay safe

Remember happiness doesn't  
depend upon who you are  
or what you have;  
it depends solely on what you think.

- Dale Carnegie

**Doug Hohman**  
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**Snowbirds**

*Dan Zemaitis*



It's nice to be in Florida but so far its been the coldest winter we ever spent here. However, its still a whole lot warmer than northern Michigan. In the meantime Jey and I went to Busch Gardens and sat down at a table to eat and sat across from Larry Foshey who retired from the D.F.D. squad 3 in 1989. He also knows our friend Don Willaert who also retired from the Detroit Fire Department. I also met Al Dwyer at the Florida Fairgrounds. I worked with Al at old #16.

Sometimes its a small world. Its nice to run into people you used to work with.

In April, Jey will be doing some finalizing on the Mackinac Island trip in June. We have to wait till spring because the Best Western in St. Ignace is closed for the winter.

We still need get well wishes and prayers for Harry Rudeen and Don Andrizzi. Harry and Lorraine Rudeen have celebrated their anniversary in February. Happy Anniversary you two! Do you remember when Cars had bubble skirts and dual exhausts with glass pac mufflers?

Til next month stay healthy.

## **HELP WANTED!**

Awrey Bakeries, LLC. Livonia, MI, has an opening for one retired P.O. for an armed security officer position for straight afternoons, 3:00 PM to 11 PM, Monday thru Friday with week-ends and holidays off. Includes benefits and 401k plans. Located on Farmington Road, between I-96 and Plymouth Road.

Contact Jim, (retired DPD) at 734-522-1100, ext 679, Monday thru Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM for more information.

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# Westside Silver Ladies

*Geri Henningsen*

Hello, Spring! It seems like ages since we last saw you. Word on the street is that we will soon receive our open enrollment packet. The Silver Ladies extend a most sincere thank you to the RDPFFA for their perseverance with the city on filing and settling the class action law suit regarding our medical insurance.

I've learned that during December-February, some of our members were ill and/or had surgery. We wish a speedy recovery to Meta Bateson, Lessie Johnson, Marilyn Noseworthy, Eleanor Popiela and Dolores Smith.

March was dues month. If you haven't paid for 2009, you may still do so at the April luncheon or mail them to our treasurer, Meta Bateson, 1291 Shoemaker Drive, Westland, MI 48185. They are still only \$12. If you are a widow and a member of the RDPFFA, please consider joining the Eastside or Westside Silver Ladies. These organizations give us support and there are life-long friendships to be had.

I would like to thank the nine brave souls who defied Old Man Winter and attended our January meeting. Gayne Zell was our 50/50 winner. At least we made up for it in February with 22 in attendance and Elmira Affelt won the 50/50. Thank you, also to Dolores Linn for all the phone calls you make on behalf of the Silver Ladies and to Jo Moranty for taking care of our 50/50 raffle each month.

Happy birthday to Jo Moranty - 3/19, Lessie Johnson - 4/19, Marilyn Noseworthy - 4/24 and Betty Cavin - 4/27.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT ... "True religion is the life we lead, not the creed we profess"!

Let's meet at Archie's

Geri Henningsen, (734) 335-6778

## Eerie it was what was it?

I had stopped at the graveyard to visit Bill My  
brother and very best friend  
Who always was a helping hand  
Until the very tragic end.

While parked along the roadside  
Near the thawing sodden grass  
Leaving room along the side  
So some would have room enough to pass.

I looked across the gravesites  
To the road several hundred yards away A  
subject was walking at an easy pace  
Walking along the road, my way.

It was dressed in a white coat and hood  
It was too much for a warm and sunny day I  
looked real hard to see a face or hair  
As the subject continued moving my way.

I rolled the window down to say Hello  
And I tried to look beneath the hood Hoping to  
speak to, I thought a lonely soul Still searching to  
see, the best I could.

The subject passed alongside my car With  
no recognition of my presence there I saw no  
hands inside the sleeves  
I saw no face or sign of hair.

When it had passed I sat awhile  
Then left my car to look and see Where  
it had gone down the road And I saw no  
place where it could be.

I don't believe in spirits or ghosts  
I've passed that stage many years ago But what it  
was or where it had gone  
I certainly would like to know.

*By Roy H. Moerschell*

## Theodore I. Cohen

Certified Public Accountant

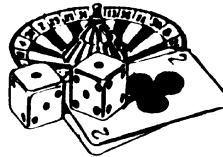
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## *Silver Ladies*

Carol Curley



## NEVADA JACKPOTS

Ray Downing

Here it is April, Spring, Easter! I am so glad to have warm weather. It happens every year; so why do we humans doubt nature and the Spirit that guides us? I guess we can talk ourselves into a "downer" at any-time. Our Silver Ladies group is one of the "uppers".

Membership News: Bernice Hall, chairing our Seventeenth Anniversary Luncheon, has made reservations at DiFratelli's Restaurant on Van Dyke Avenue to be held Wednesday March 18, 2009.

If you watched Super bowl XLIII (43), Bernice's daughter had one of her beautiful Clydesdale horses prancing in the Budweiser commercials!

Millie Stone has already reserved our favorite pavilion at Dodge Park for our July picnic!

Barb Talley has prepared us with our updated address pages. New membership and any current member changes are corrected so that we have communication with each other. Barb has been doing this understated job for many years! Just in time to welcome our new member, Marcie Wolf.

Irene Brooks has even booked our Christmas 2009 reservations at Filippa's! Boy are we good! Thank you ladies!

Happy Birthdays: February - Annette Emkee; March - Pauline Kulek, Bernice Hall, Jennie Matusz; April - Emile Salatowski

The February 50/50 was won by Barb Talley.

Get well wishes to Pauline Kulek and Marie Johnson.

Our membership meeting lunches held every first Tuesday of the month are always buzzing, delicious, and interesting with smiles and laughter of a summer day.

To join us call President Irene Brooks (586) 749-8894.

The Nevada Jackpots meeting of Saturday, January 10, 2009, was held at our usual haunts, Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens resort.

President Breed started the meeting at 9:50 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, and remembered the recent passing of member Merv Adams. We had a silent prayer for him and for those who have passed along before him.

He also announced a change in the structure of our Board of Officers.

The function of Secretary-Treasurer, held for so many years by Tom Hulkkonen, is being split into two offices. Tom will continue to be the Treasurer, and Ray Downing has volunteered (?) to be Secretary. John Breed will continue to be President and Bruce Watt continues to be Vice-President.

In appreciation for his services, Tom was presented with two boxes of golf balls, one to go to his better Half, Diane, for her work as "entertainment director". Fifteen golf balls for Tom should last for at least one round of golf.

Discussion was held over two items. The first, the court award on the RDPFFA suit over hospitalization benefits, appears to be a real winner for the retirees. The attorneys handling the suit will be mailing out explanations to all members in the very near future with details. The second, the arbitration award to the LSA, should result in some retro pay for those who retired as a lieutenant or sergeant under the old plan. As always, don't spend it until you have it in your hand.

It was noted that Jan Nobliski was doing just fine following her recent surgery, and the prognosis is excellent. Good news, indeed.

Our annual Christmas party was a huge success, with a super turnout and an evening full of fun and laughs. Thanks again to Tom and Di Hulkkonen for offering their home for the gathering this year.

The next Jackpots meeting will be on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you all there!

### **Detroit Police Department Retired Badges**

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

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**(313) 527-3914**

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



## ARIZONA ROADRUNNERS

*Pat Engle*

Kudos to Al Helquist for manning the AZ Roadrunners long before my husband John and I had the pleasure of meeting fellow retirees who reside in the Valley of the Sun. Al and his lovely wife Jan are happily involved with golf, traveling and many other activities filling their days, so Al has stepped down. Thank you, Al, for your years of service.

If there is any interest in continuing the AZ Roadrunners, please email [PatEngle~Gmail.com](mailto:PatEngle~Gmail.com) with any information that might be of relevance to publish in UNITY, such as any notable dates, i.e., birthdays, etc.

If there is interest in having the AZ Roadrunners get together 4-6 times per year, please email or drop a note with any suggestions. Some potential ideas are: attending a Spring Training or Regular Season Game together, free viewing at Sky Dive AZ, the free Showstoppers Live show at Casino Arizona, the free Scottsdale Art Walk on Thursday nights which could be followed or preceded by dinner at Bada Boom Pasta Room located in the middle of the Art Walk, free Tuesdays 3pm-9pm Phoenix Art Museum which also could be followed or preceded by a meal together, as well as varying locations to meet and break bread together.

While we hope to continue to see the smiling faces of the existing members, it would be great to also welcome new faces.

Take care. Pat and John Engle 4238 E. Mountain Sage Drive, Phoenix AZ 85044



**Bob Blickensdorf**  
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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.

# EYE CARE UPDATE 2009

**M**etropolitan Eye Center, also home of Lakeshore Eye Surgery Center, will always provide the latest and safest treatments available for our patients. As a full-service Eye Center, and State licensed Surgery 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 just *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. Omega3 supplements available in purified fish oil enhance the beneficial effects of these vitamins. High concentration pharmaceutical-grade supplements are recommended for optimum effect. These supplements are also available in our optical studio.



## CATARACTS AND MULTIFOCAL LENS IMPLANTS

If you believe you may have a cataract, don't worry. Every year, 3 million Americans have cataract surgery. Modern cataract surgery has developed into one of the safest, most successful and most patient 'friendly' surgical procedures available. The improvement to your 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. 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!

The first step is to have a complete eye examination and determine what 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.

## 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 thousand of data points across the entire eye - to produce a personalized vision treatment plan.

By 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.

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Our doctors are experts in all conditions of the eye and look forward to helping you protect your most precious gift of sight!



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