



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



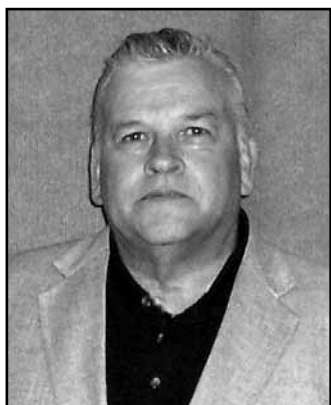
Bi-Monthly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 91, May 2008

EDITORIAL

Now for the good news! During our May General Membership meeting, we learned that we currently have 6,466 "Active Members" in our Association, which includes 1,272 Associate Members. Currently 4,234 have elected to take advantage of the Payroll Deduction Program.

The bad news unfortunately, is that we have 1,363 Non Members, who have failed to contribute or to assist our Association in achieving our common goal.



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

Spring has finally arrived, the snow is gone, the Snow Birds have returned and we all survived a long brutal winter. For those of us that stuck it out in Michigan, winter seemed like our Hospitalization Court case, never ending.

Speaking of our court case, for over a year now, we have been attending hearings in Judge Torres court room. As we move into the second year, we have little progress to report. On March 15th, Judge Torres issued his opinion, in the form of a summary judgment. The summary judgment is confusing and hard to summarize but a brief description is; for those that retired after 1995 the actions of the City were proper. Except during the period between July 15, 2006, and March 8, 2007. This was the period of time from the date the City implemented the changes, until the time the D.P.O.A. settled their contract. For that period, damages may be due. For those that retired prior to 1995,

in Judge Torres opinion, the contract language was not clear. To clarify the language, Judge Torres had scheduled a trial, which started on March 18th.

On March 18th, just as the trial was getting under way, all sides agreed to enter into facilitation. George Roumell was selected as the facilitator, and Judge Torres gave them until June 17th to reach an out of court settlement, or the trial would resume. We will keep you updated as the case moves forward. We still expect that the final decision in this case will be issued by a higher court.

The entire Summary Judgment is posted on our web site rdpffa.com.

Moving on to the court case heard by Judge MacDonald, both sides have agreed to a settlement. This case involved members with U.S. Health. They were overcharged on the premiums they paid for Delta Dental and U.S. Health insurance. The period of time involved was from July 2005 until February 2006. The amounts members will receive vary from a few dollars up, with the average around 100 dollars. The amount being refunded is 2/3 of the amount that the City overcharged. There were a number of members that under paid their premiums during this period. My understanding is that the City is not going to make any effort to recover any money from the members they under charged.

Time is running out for those wishing to attend the Educational Convention in Las Vegas, and haven't

(continued on page 10)



VICE PRESIDENT

Gregory Trozak

I would like to begin by updating everyone on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The bills are still in committee and as of this writing there are 342 House members and 36 Senators signed on as co-sponsors. In our home state of Michigan both of our Senators have signed on but there are still seven (7) House members who have not agreed to sign on as co-sponsors.

Our members in other states can check the status of their Senators and House members who have or have not signed on by going to the website <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Once at this site go to the "Search Bill Text", check "Bill Number" and enter H.R. 82 or S. 206. This will take you to the bill as it was presented. From there you can click the "Bill Summary &

Status" and see if your Representatives are co-sponsors. If they have not signed on as a co-sponsor a letter or e-mail may help them make a firm decision and offer a response for or against the bills. Members of Congress can be swayed if enough of people in their districts voice their opinions.

Our Legislators have their web sites set up so that you have to reside in their district to be able to communicate electronically with their office. A letter sent through the U. S. Postal Service has a big impact with these politicians and if they receive enough correspondence it may get their attention. We may also have our friends and family get involved and let these Legislatures know how this present law is unfair and needs to be changed. Remember these two (2) pieces of Legislation must be passed by the end of this present session of Congress or it will have to be reintroduced next year and the process started from the beginning.

Presently the Senate Bill, S. 206, is in the Senate Finance Committee and the House Bill, H.R. 82, is in the House Subcommittee on Social Security which is part of the House Ways and Means Committee. If any of your Representatives are members of these committees please advise them of your feelings regarding this legislation.

Here in Michigan, Congressman Sander Levin (D) from the 12th District and is a high ranking member of the House Ways & Means Committee and also who serves on the Subcommittee on Social Security and who has still not signed on as a co-sponsor. Our members from the 12th District are encouraged to get in contact with his office. Along with any e-mails or letters, remember a simple phone call will also help. The following Members of Congress from Michigan have not

(continued on page 9)

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Charles Master
Treasurer
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Charles Master

The merry-go-around continues and the City of course, continues its attempt to snare the brass ring.

Regardless of the circumstances, the City still insists on covering its financial shortage by increasing retiree's premium co-payments, reduction in the benefit plan and improperly implementing certain retiree healthcare coverage changes.

This is not a new tactic, but the continuation of a plan that was outlined and detailed in the Boyle Report. A report which was commissioned by the City and is a five (5) year projection that would gradually lower the costs to the City.

It has been a constant struggle to maintain a status quo and we have engaged the services of legal counsel to protect our member's interests. We have offered documentation that indicates that our benefits are clearly defined in contractual agreements. Naturally the City challenges these agreements and asks that the Courts recognize the financial situation of the City and make allowances for its short comings.

I have stated before that it is a dilemma that was created by poor fiscal planning and mismanagement by the City and its officials.

It should be understood the problem did not originate with this Administration and can be traced to prior administrations. It is difficult to believe that a City that consisted of two (2) million people a few years ago is now less than one (1) million.

Theodore I. Cohen

Certified Public Accountant

30300 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY
SUITE 323
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334
PHONE 1-248-539-7428
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TICCPA@aol.com

PROVIDING THE RETIRED
DETROIT POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS
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SERVICES

The arrogance and self important attitudes of Administrations and its administrators failed to address the needs and wants of the people, and therefore, lost the confidence of the very persons they were elected to serve.

It is understandable why the residents felt disheartened and disillusioned and moved to other areas that offered a safe haven and a stable community with a strategic plan for the future.

If the City is to succeed, it must look forward to implementing programs to address the personal needs of its citizens. Schools, housing and personal protection must be major considerations.

Until someone steps forward to answer the concerns of the people, this Administration will continue to flounder and stumble along.

They cannot expect to ride on the backs of those who contributed greatly to make this once a great city.

Incidentally, the Annual "Duffers Derby" golf tournament is scheduled for August 22, 2008, at the Salt River Golf Course, located at 33633 23 Mile Road, Chesterfield, Michigan. Please register as soon as possible. Forms are available at the Association office.

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

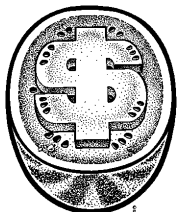
Chesterfield, MI

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.



PENSION CHAIRMAN

Gregory Trozak

Needless to say, all is quiet on the 9th floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Building. We will see how long this will last. Who knows what will have transpired by the time this article reaches our members? I'm sure everyone has been keeping up with the news coverage and watching our once great City become the laughing stock of the Nation. Every day, new and additional information becomes available and the large hole the Administration placed itself in continues to deepen and become wider.

In trying to keep everyone updated it seems every week there is something new on the proposal to move the Pension System to a new location. I mentioned in the past that the Pension System was looking at two locations. Both locations are located on E. Jefferson, one across the street from the Detroit Municipal Credit Union, which is owned by the City and currently being used as a park. The second is river front property located near Van Dyke, this parcel was purchased by the Police and Fire Pension System as an alternate location and as an investment. The original proposed plan was to purchase from the City, the property across from the credit union. Throughout this process the red tape seem to become stickier and it appears that this proposal is going to be eliminated. As of this date it looks like the new location will evolve around the river front property. More information will follow as it becomes available.

June 30, 2008 is fast approaching and this is the date the City is scheduled to make their annual contribution to our pension fund. The amount is in the \$57,000,000.00 range. The City and the Pension System Trustees have agreed to allow the City until this date to make their payment. The City has said that the payment will be made on time. Rest assured, the Pension System is quite solvent and there is nothing to be concerned about. Total assets continue to hover at the \$4,000,000,000.00 mark. So those monthly checks will continue to arrive.

With not much new to report on other than the above information I will get into my normal request for our members and associates to consider having those monthly pension checks direct deposited into your accounts. This can be either your checking or savings

account. It is a easy process, on your next trip to the bank take the form with you have it filled out and return it to the office and I will hand deliver it to the Pension System. The forms can be requested by calling the office or going to our web site, www.rdpffa.com or the Pension Systems web site, www.rscd.org and downloading the form. It is the safest and fastest method and with the price of gasoline today, the most economical. Depending on the date the form is turned in, it should take effect within two months.

As always, if you have any questions or problems, I try to be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday each week or you can send an e-mail to trozdpd@com-cast.net anytime. Until the next time take care.

Detroit Police Department Retired Badges

Silver - \$30.00 EA.*



Gold - \$40.00 EA.*

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(313) 527-3914

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



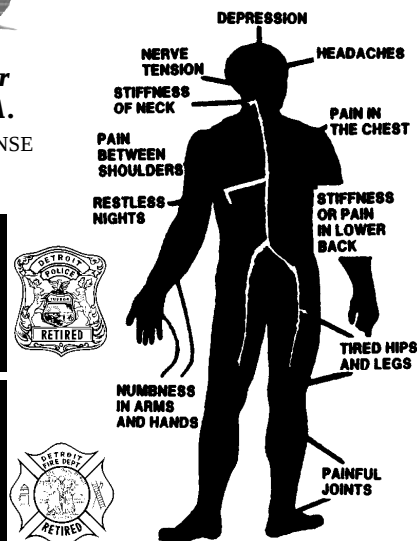
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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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 Retirees Luncheon

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

Big Boy's at 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

734-422-8258 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.

New Location: Big Boy Restaurant

325 N. Main St., Downtown Cheboygan

Third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Motor City Casino Lower Level Buffet

2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, MI

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

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

Welcome New Members!

February

Babinski, Leonard
Brackens, Stacy
Garcia, Rodolfo
Lovelace, Jonathan
Miner, Franklin
Mucker, William
Reich, Philip
Rice, Charles
Simmons, Herbert
Zablocki, David

March

Bensett, Gregory
Brown, Ricky
Castone, Paul
Chaney, Michael
Dornan, Carol
Fritz, Leonard
Gigger, Esther
Grysko, Walter
Hearn, Henry
Hughes, Pamela Boggues
Olariu, Alex
Schilling, Sharon
Tremonti, Edith

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*

Next meetings 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 May 4th

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

**Articles for the
July, 2008 Issue
should be “submitted” by
June 16, 2008**

Hospitalization

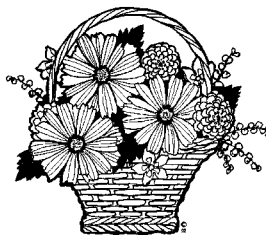
John Devoy

Once again the open enrollment for health coverage is upon us. I am sure that the information we receive from the City of Detroit will in some way be confusing. So please read very carefully all the material that is sent to you. Go over all the different coverage's you may be eligible for. If you are making any changes in your coverage's make sure when you send these to the City of Detroit be certain it is sent by registered mail with a return receipt request, which requires a signature of the receiving party. In doing this, the City cannot claim they did not receive these changes.

It is very important to save all the printed material and charts provided to you. In this manner you will know your benefits and cost of your coverage in any change you consider. Always take your time, and double check what your new coverage's are.

Please, if you are going to Las Vegas for our convention, get your reservation in as soon as possible.

Please attend your Association general membership meetings. They are always on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. except July and August.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(Surviving Spouses)

Fern Garner

Recently a dear and longtime friend (70 years) passed away and one of her sons posted her obituary on the web site. She was never an organized person and I was surprised to find that she had written a brief bio of her life for her obituary. This was to have the information readily available for her sons in the time immediately following her death when they were experiencing grief and yet responsible for handling funeral arrangements. She explained her action saying she remembered the state she was in when her husband passed away and wanted to make it easier for her family.

Many people in later life plan and even pre-pay for their funerals, perhaps even planning the gathering following a service. With rising cost of even funerals these days, not a bad idea. It is an individual decision how far each one of us wants to go to face the fact that the day will come eventually.

There are other things that can be done that are not as emotional. Keeping financial records in order and readily available can be an ongoing process. Legal papers, deeds or titles, insurance information, bank accounts, retirement accounts, safety deposit and bank records, should be listed and readily available. If there is a will and Power of Attorney document these should be with all the other pertinent information and at the top of the list.

Having survived the death of your spouse you know how difficult it was to consider so many things, almost overwhelming. Your family will still have much to do and this would include disposing of your personal possessions. Some people earmark certain items for individual family members or friends.

Another common practice these days at funeral homes is a board with pictures of the departed covering many periods in their lives. If you really want to have those sorted and available it would at least afford you the opportunity of picking the pictures where you look your very best. Nothing like having the last say.

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IN MEMORIAM

Once again we call the roll and acknowledge those friends and associates who have left us since our last publication. It is hard to let go of good friends but it is easy to remember the good times we shared and realize that now they rest in peace.

Name	Dept.	Rank	Date of Death	Name	Dept.	Rank	Date of Death
Bischoff, James E.	Police	P.O.	2/12/08	Quinn, Charles	Police	P.O.	12/25/07
Bolgar, Joseph J.	Police	Sgt.	2/6/08	Richards, William D.	Fire	Lieut.	3/4/08
Ciagala, Rolland	Police	Sgt.	2/11/08	Roberts, Warna M.	Police	Insp.	3/22/08
Dorsey, Bernard	Police	P.O.	2/14/08	Rogell, Edward T.	Police	Insp.	2/12/08
Edge, Donald T.	Fire	Chief	3/19/08	Rosser, Erwin K.	Police	P.O.	2/10/08
Edwards, Glen	Police	Sgt.	1/27/08	Salvaterra, Leo	Fire	Chief	12/27/07
Elpers, Francis W.	Police	P.O.	3/29/08	Smith, Fred F.	Fire	F.F.D.	2/4/08
Emke, Fred K.	Fire	Sgt.	3/25/08	Strahn, William M.	Police	Sgt.	2/3/08
Fecko, Jerry N.	Police	P.O.	3/5/08	Tews, Ronald L.	Police	Sgt.	3/12/08
Galuszka Jr., Joseph J.	Police	Sgt.	3/24/08	Tischbein, Irvin	Police	P.O.	3/2/08
Hershock, Stanley	Police	Sgt.	2/8/08	Tomaszewski, Vitold	Police	Lieut.	2/10/08
Hudson, Richard	Police	Lieut.	2/11/08	Treadwell, James E.	Police	P.O.	2/18/08
Hupert, David R.	Police	P.O.	3/30/08	Williams, Kenneth A.	Police	P.O.	2/12/08
Kajder, Thaddeus J.	Fire	Chief	3/2/08	Wood Sr., Frederick N.	Fire	F.F.	2/10/08
Kalinowski, Stanley	Fire	Capt.	2/29/08	Wortman, Edward	Police	P.O.	4/13/07
Kemp, Danny S.	Fire	Insp.	3/22/08				
Kolenda, Ronald	Fire	Lieut.	3/22/08				
Kuhn, Raymond A.	Police	Sgt.	3/4/08				
Larkins, Scott J.	Police	P.O.	3/9/08				
Liebler, Glenn E.	Police	Sgt.	2/17/08				
Lingeman, Sylvester A.	Police	Cmdr.	3/7/08				
Logan, John D.	Police	Lieut.	2/16/08				
Lovier, Arlie	Police	Sgt.	2/12/08				
Matthews Jr., John	Police	P.O.	2/13/08				
Mc Brien, Ralph M.	Police	P.O.	2/15/08				
Mc Dowell, David M.	Fire	Capt.	2/11/08				
Mechanco, William	Police	P.O.	2/9/08				
Meixsell, Monta E.	Fire	Capt.	2/12/08				
Miller, James Anthony	Police	P.O.	2/20/08				
Pollock, George R.	Police	Sgt.	2/22/08				



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Dr. Avery Jackson, III, M.D.

Grandfather and Father retired DPD.



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.

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.

Abdelnour, Samuel D.	Rivers, Arthur H.
Barton, Dennis P. <i>in memory of James "Ram" McDonagh</i>	Roberts, Rosemary
Bielaczyc, Casimir R.	Rumpa, Paul
Cook Mathes, Yvonne M.	Saier, Elizabeth <i>in memory of William J. Saier</i>
Draper, Patricia Meixsell <i>in memory of Monta Meixsell</i>	Severs, Gary R.
Easton, Sharon <i>in memory of Daniel Easton</i>	Simmons, Lucy M.
English, Michael R.	Spicher, Theodore <i>in memory of Robert Thuma and Jack Bowron</i>
Fells, Gloria	Staskon, Frank W.
Gotelaere, Phyllis <i>in memory of Robert Gotelaere</i>	Stewart, Arline E. <i>in memory of James Stewart</i>
Heinrich, Jenny <i>in memory of Charlotte and Walter Heinrich</i>	Tanderys, Jim <i>in memory of Lt. Andrew Zazula</i>
Huffman, Ernest R. <i>in memory of Rollie B. Merrick</i>	Teipel, Robert M. <i>in memory of William J. Tiepel</i>
Ivey, Lloyd	Thom, Roger W.
Jachym, Frank J. <i>in memory of Archibald Roberts</i>	Thompson, Henry <i>in memory of R. Walker, D. Fraser, C. Woolworth and G. Pattison</i>
Jakubowski, Leonard	Torey, Anthony N.
Kawa, Michael A.	Van Wormer, Anna
Keech, Claire E.	Weil, Glenn G.
Kennedy, Catherine A.	Wells, Margaret L.
Knobelsdorf, Donald G.	Winkler, Frank P.
Lamphier, Daniel	Wooley, Joe <i>in memory of George Wooley</i>
Lloyd, Freda	Wuchte, Bettie E.
Loeffler, Robert F.	Zadorozny, Patricia J. <i>in memory of John Teter</i>
McCue, William B. <i>in memory of Glennie Liebler</i>	
Momcilovic, Barney	



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

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Members Letters

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

Thanks for all the good work that you do for us Sunbirds. Please apply this contribution to the legal fund unless you have a better place for it.

Thanks,
Roger W. Thom

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

Would you please send me the forms I need to fill out so that my dues to the Association will be taken out of my account?

Thank you,
William J. Chubb

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

I received a phone call from our Association asking me if I had too much money. I asked "what do you mean"? I was told that I had sent a second check for my 2008 dues. I told the caller to just consider that second check as a donation.

I received my Unity and I noticed there was no mention that I had made a donation.

So I'm going to send a third check to be used in the law suit for our hospital benefits.

I'm going to the Karmonas Cancer Center for tests. I'm not sure how much longer I will be able to contribute to our Association. But as long as I am able I'll continue to do all I can to support our needs.

Claire E. "Bud" Keech

TMU-TSS Reunion Party

Friday, June 27, 2008

St. Pius X Knights of Columbus Hall

6177 Chicago Road at 13 Mile (just east of Mound Road)
Warren, MI 48092

\$10 per person, payable at door • Cash Bar

Buffet includes bread, salad, pasta,
Breaded Italian Chicken, Italian Sausage/Peppers,
Oven Roasted Redskins, Green Beans Almondine

Please RSVP:

Terry Laurencelle

586.909.6901

or email

vito@tacticalmobileunit.com

www.TacticalMobileUnit.com

VICE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 2)*

signed on as a co-sponsor so we need to get in contact with them:

Peter Hoekstra (R) 2nd District • Timothy Walberg (R) 7th District
Mike Rogers (R) 8th District • Joe Knollenberg (R) 9th District
Vernon Ehlers (R) 3rd District • Sander Levin (D) 12th District
Fred Upton (R) 6th District

Moving on to the next subject, I would like to remind everyone that on June 12th we will be having a second general meeting at the new eastside location:

American Polish Century Club
33204 Maple Lane • Sterling Heights, MI 48310

The business meeting will start at 7:00 PM, but be sure and get there early and see some old friends and enjoy some pizza and refreshments. Beginning in September the general meetings will alternate between the east and west side locations allowing more of our members to take advantage of this benefit. Remember all our members are welcome at either location if you would like to make the trip. I'm looking forward to seeing some old and new faces.

Finally I would like to update everyone on the payroll deduction status of our 2009 dues. I spoke to the Pension Board and was advised that because of the large demand from our members signing up for the benefit, as of this date over 4200 members have enrolled, they may not be able to enter everyone into the system prior to the mailings of the June 2008 pension checks. Therefore, some members may not see the \$2.00 deduction until the July 2008 pension checks. I was told that every

effort will be made to include everyone but it just may not be feasible. So if you do not see the deduction on the June check it should be in place by July. Along those lines we would like to thank everyone who did take advantage of this benefit saving the Association substantial funds as well as yourselves. This was a huge undertaking for the Association and there may be some small problems as it takes effect, we ask that you bear with us and everything should work out fine.

In closing I hope everyone enjoys the summer months and hope to see you soon whether it be at the meetings, picnic or the golf outing. Take care.

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RETIRED DETROIT POLICE AND FIRE CLUB OF FLORIDA

Rev. Jim Caufield

On Sunday, April 6, 2008, the club called to order at 12:30 P.M. by President Joe Hutsko, who led in the salute to the pledge to the American flag. This was followed by an opening prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Jim Caufield.

The Secretary, Wally Hamer, read the minutes to the meeting of March 2, 2008, which took place at the yearly banquet at Banquet Masters in Pinellas Park, Florida. This was followed by the treasurer's report by Treasurer, Edith Caufield. Mrs. Caufield gave the Board Members her letter of resignation as Treasurer to be effective on May 4, 2008.

President, Joe Hutsko informed the membership that he would not be returning for office for the following year.

Vice President, Bill Schmidt introduced Bill Larsen, the chairman, for the annual banquet who stated that we would have next year's banquet at the same location but the price would increase for each meal. He also suggested that we give Brandon Recreation Center a donation of \$400.00 for the use of the hall, which is \$100.00 more than donated last year. Fran Maione made the motion to donate \$400.00 to the Center which was seconded by a vote of the membership.

Jim Bateson, who sold the 50-50 tickets informed the membership of the shirt and hat donated by Jo Ann Sind in memory of her husband, would be chosen through the raffle tickets. The hat and shirt had Detroit Police on it and Frank DeMercy was the winner. The winners of the 50-50 drawing won \$10.00 each. The winners were Beverly Kuhn and Rita Rusch.

This will be my last article that I will be writing for our retired group. I, along with my wife, Edith, are becoming less involved in volunteer work due to my health. As I did at our meetings, I pray that God be with all of you, my friends and officers.

PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

submitted their request yet. Only a few seats remain available on the flights. So if you plan on participating in this year's event, let us know. If you are attending from out of town, call for information regarding the hotel booking code. This year we are having a more formal type served dinner. We also added an Elvis impersonator that is also a Justice of the Peace. He will entertain guest at the cocktail party and if you wish, you will be able to renew your vows, or if you haven't made the big move, you could get Married.

To keep you up to date and informed on all the activities and events of the Association, we attempt to update our web site regularly. While you are checking the site, be sure to visit the list of non-members. If you notice anyone listed as a non-member that you know, give them a call. I am sure they have just overlooked joining the Association. To protect our benefits, we must stick together, and everyone needs to do their part.

Don't forget that we are having two meetings in June. As always the first Thursday of the month June 5th, will be on the West side on Farmington Road at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and the Second Thursday, June 12th, on the East side at the American Polish Century Club which is North of 14 Mile Road where Hoover turns into Maple Lane.

2008 Retired Firefighters Mid-Michigan Annual Picnic

June 10, 2008

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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**



Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings: I don't have any news from Michigan, however, Jey and I attended the Florida Club's annual banquet as did some of our Snowbird members. They were Steve and Phyliss Wagner, John Pietrangelo and his friend Elaine Mosso, Harry Ramsey, George and Irene Fedorka, Moe and Georgette Gekiere and Jerry and Evelyn Brehm. Mow Gekiere is on the mend and it was good to see him out and about and drawing pictures again. Jerry and Evelyn Brehm just returned from a great trip to Australia and now they're wearing those funny hats.

Just an update on Snowbird dates of upcoming events. May 18th next meeting because of Mothers Day. Don't forget our Mackinac Island trip on June 6th and 7th at \$184.00 a person. Call us in Michigan at (989) 735-3450 after May 5th. It's a great fun filled 3 days and 2 nights. Following that is the August 10th annual picnic at 12 noon at Alcona Park. September 17th Rocking Olkies dinner show in Frankenmuth with optional overnight at Bavarian Lodge. Possibly the 1st Precinct retirees may join us there. The October Au Sable River paddle boat follows with picnic afterwards.

Just a reminder that we welcome all Police and Fire retirees to join us on any of the outings. You can call Jey or myself in Florida at 727-397-6226 and after May 5th at 989-735-3450. Until next month take care.

Surprise, Surprise: No I did not defect. Jey and I

should be back in Michigan by the time you read this article and hopefully the ice on the lake will have melted and the snow is gone.

I know the price of gas is hurting us all but meetings are only once a month and we really need everyone's support to keep our association going. By the way, our dues are still only \$3.00 a year so if you would be nice enough to send in your dues to Harry Rudeen at 11534 Bradford Drive, Frederic, Michigan 49733 and attend our meetings when you can, we will be happy to have you.

I know some of our widows have had a difficult time not knowing what to do and who to call after their spouses have passed away. I spoke with Charlie Master regarding this problem and he said this information was originally published in the Vice President's column of the November 2003 issue of Unity. Fear not, excerpts of that article can be found below.

April Birthdays: John Rogers, Mike Kniaz, Marlene Ambrose, Mary Ann Ponik and Karen Haderer. I have no knowledge of anyone that is ill at this time but if you are we pray for you and wish you well.

Excerpted from Vice President's column 11/03

You can thank Ray Downing of Las Vegas, who requested that we update you and your survivors on who to notify in case of your demise: it will vary on whether you were Police or Fire or Sergeant or above. If you are Police make your first call to the Benefit and Protective Association, at 313-870-2300, followed by either a call to the D.P.O.A. at 313-567-8770 or the L&S at 313-961-5699, which ever applies. Although the Benefit and Protective will normally notify the City of your death it is still a good idea to follow up with a call to the Pension Bureau at 313-224-3362 and make sure that indeed they were notified. Lastly, notify your Retired Association at 586-795-1734.

If you're Fire, start by notifying the Fire Fighter Association at 313-962-7546, the Firemen's Fund Association at 313-961-2988, Firemen's Mutual Benefit Fund at 313-962-4595 and Detroit Pension Bureau at 313-224-3362, all these agencies will assist you with the notification process. It would be a good idea to put this info with your Will or some other obvious place that your survivors can locate it.

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TO see if you are a candidate.

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Westside Silver Ladies

Geri Henningsen

SPRING! What a beautiful word... unless you pay taxes! Did you know April showers are tax payer's tears?

We had a good two months with 21 members attending the March luncheon and 19 at April's. Believe it or not, this writer won the 50/50 in March. A first ever since joining in April, 2002!! April's winner was Dolores Linn.

I'd like to thank the West Side Silver Ladies for the Penny's gift card plus so many get well cards that I received following surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff. At this Writing, I've had two weeks of PT and I'm doing great. Thank you, Dolores Weaver for making the phone calls. We have had several members sick and/or hospitalized so far this year, Gayne Zell, Hilma Clifford, Dolores Linn and sister Elaine Prince that I know of. I'm hoping by the time they read this, they're back to good health.

Happy birthday to Ginny Kaltenback = 5/1, Theresa Zalewski = 5/7, Marie McCarthy and Dorothy O'Leary = 5/12, Fran Murphy = 5/17, Elaine Wallace = 5/18 and Dolores Smith = 6/20.

Erica Hope, granddaughter of Jo Moranty and a graduate of Livonia Churchill was featured in the Detroit Free Press on February 29th. Erica is an 800 meter runner who was pursued by Albion College and is completing her first year there. Kristen Ball, my granddaughter and soon to be a graduate of Taylor Kennedy has been offered a \$40,000 academic scholarship to U. of M. Ann Arbor and will start there in the fall. Erica Kristen your grandmas are proud of you.

PLEASE come join us if you are widows of Detroit police officers or fire fighters, a member of RDPFFA and living in the Metro-Detroit westside. We would love to meet you.

Question of the day: "Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money"???

Let's meet at Archies... Geri Henningsen.

What Choice Do We Have

The time is drawing very near,
To vote for the candidate of your Choice?
Someone, placed on the ballot for us,
By others, for whom I've had no voice

The "parties" chose them, by a very few
How and why they were chosen, is still not clear.
I read the news, the pros and cons
By others from far away and near.

Others were in the race, that's very true,
But fell by the wayside, as time sped by
From lack of funds or no heart for the fight
Or for some, whatever reason why.

But the candidates that were chosen,
From a field of the lucky or unlucky few
Who cast aspersions on one and all
Giving each one their likely due.

Parties be damned, those chosen
were simply not my choice
They don't mirror my thoughts for sure.
They don't speak many people's thoughts,
Sad but true, there really is no legal cure.

By Roy H. Moerschell

(This is a political statement)

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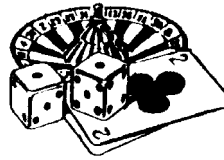
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Silver Ladies

Carol Curley



NEVADA JACKPOTS

Tom Hulkkonen

Ah Spring!

From where I am sitting things are good. The snow that covered the ground Sunday, April 13th, melted in a few hours. The sun shines more. No one can convince me the "Snowbirds" or "Sun-dwellers" appreciate sun shine more than we who live up north!

From our meeting: Our membership dues are coming up quickly! Good news is that those recovering from set backs are doing much better.

Our 50/50 was won by Wilma Fulton!

Happy Birthdays in May to: Barb Talley and Corrine Evans and Happy June Birthdays to: Louise Zygmuntowicz and Delphine Marciniak!

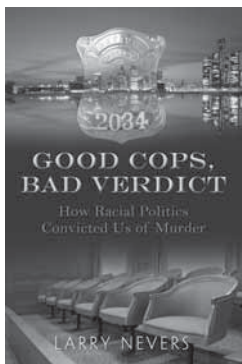
Barb has reserved our July 8th summer picnic at Dodge Park. Remember we always have shade, picnic benches, the best food and the company of smiling faces!

Call Irene Brooks to join us at: 1-586-749-8894.

There are three stages in life: Youth, middle age and "you're looking good"!

GOOD COPS, BAD VERDICT

AN ACCOUNT OF THAT FATEFUL NOVEMBER NIGHT,
THE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS AND TRIAL
AS TOLD BY LARRY NEVERS



GOOD COPS, BAD VERDICT is Detroit police officer Larry Nevers's own account of how a good arrest turned into a nightmare that left a stubbornly resisting cocaine user dead and two respected veteran policemen on trial for murder. Nevers explains in compelling detail the reasons he believes it was the criminal justice system, not he and his partner, that ran amok in the matter of Malice Green's death.

This is a must read for anyone who believes justice always prevails.

TO ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY VISIT:
www.goodcopsbadverdict.com

Greetings Members.

President Breed opened the meeting at 9:40 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a silent prayer for our fallen members and troops who are fighting for our country. He passed around the March/April Newsletter from the VFW Detroit Police and Fire Post #1278 for the members to peruse. He reminded the members of the upcoming RDPFFA trip in September and the need to make the dinner reservation. After some discussion the next meeting date was set for May 10th, 9:30 A.M. The meeting was opened to the floor.

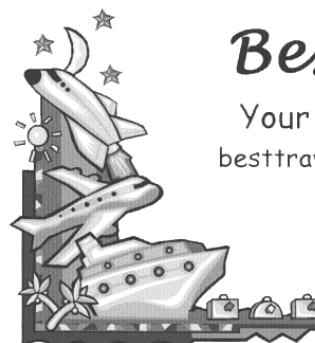
Medical news: Helen Swendis has injured her shoulder from a fall and Delores Kotowicz is having knee problems. Get-well wishes to both for a quick recovery were offered by those attending.

The Boulder City train ride set for April 26th was to take the 1:00 P.M. train. It's a 45 minute ride on the old rail line used to build Hoover Dam. Afterwards, rendezvous at Bradley's Restaurant located at Boulder Hwy. and Fifth Street in Boulder City for lunch. Then head over to Tony Pakula's home for fun and games.

I passed around the minutes from the RDPFFA March 6th meeting for those attending to read. I collected dues from several attending members, bringing our dues paying members to 13 for this year. Our treasury has \$360. If you haven't already, please renew your membership to this august body by sending in five dollars.

Tony Pakula called our resident patriarch, Jim Hudson, in Oceanside, Ca. He passed the phone around for the members to give Jim our well wishes and tell him we missed his presence at the meetings. Long time associate member, Jim Wilder, attended the meeting after a lengthy absence. It was good to see him back in town.

Hope you attend our meetings.



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We had a new catering manager at the Wild Horse Pass Casino and when I called to make the reservation for our meeting I was informed that "We would have to stand in line like everyone else".

The day prior to our meeting Darlene Greenwald called me and I related the happening to her. Darlene said she will call the Director of the Casino and will get back to me. In about five minutes Darlene returned the call and said, "We have the room and our meeting shall be as it always has been". Thank you Darlene.

We held our meeting, in our private room, on Sunday March 9th and it was great to see Tony Ringwald looking chipper after the addition of some metallic hardware in the form of "Stints" that he acquired.

Also present were first time new members, Terry and Karen Major and Joe and Helene Twardzik. Glad to have y'all aboard and we hope to see more of you.

After the usual business and great meal we settled down to the "Good Ole B.S. Session" as always.

Larry Brown was in attendance by himself as Aurea stayed home, but remember, she shall remain in our prayers.

The 2008 Las Vegas Convention is scheduled for September 22nd to the 26th at the South Point Casino. Get your reservations for this event in A.S.A.P.

Please sign up for the Deduction of your yearly RDPFFA dues from your monthly paycheck as it will not only save you money, but also the Association.

The next meeting of the Arizona Roadrunners will be held on Sunday September 14th at the Wild Horse Pass Casino beginning at Noon, which is just one week prior to the 2008 Las Vegas Convention.

Till later, take care.

In the words of Euripides: There is in the worst of fortune, the best chances for a happy change.

ASSOCIATION OFFICE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!

Our medical equipment has been depleted and there is a need for wheelchairs and walkers with wheels.

We ask that if you have borrowed any of our medical equipment and have no further need for the items, please return them to the office.

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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.



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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.

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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!

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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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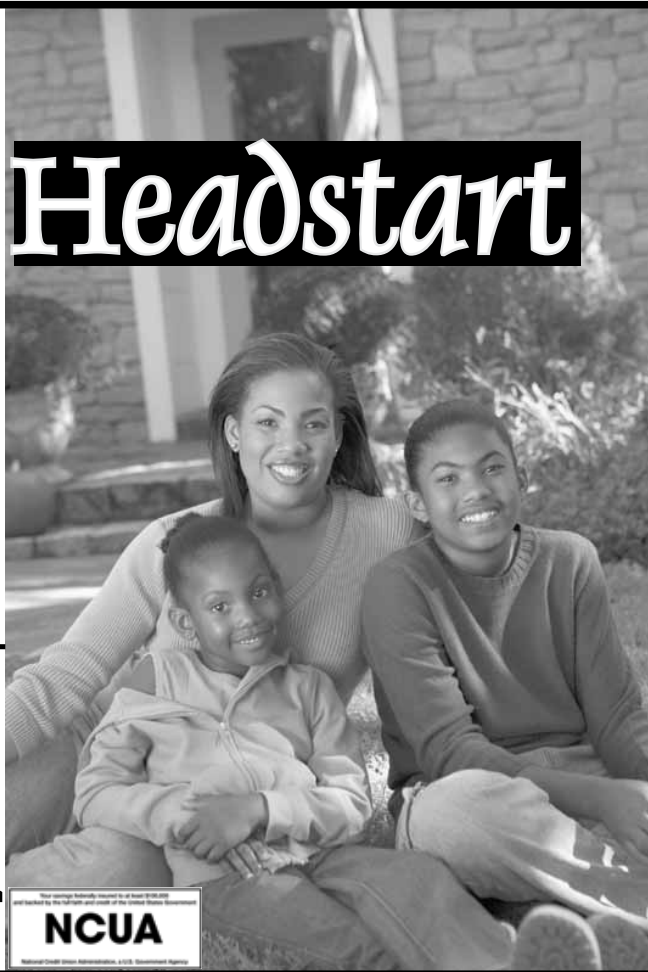
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