

•Don't Rush Me•



TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION



www.tamparetiree.com

I'm Retired

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Editor

Scott Heims

trfpanewsletter@yahoo.com

TRF&PA

P.O. BOX 280222

TAMPA, FL 33682-0222

President's Message



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our organization for your vote of confidence and support for being nominated and elected to President of our professional and prestigious association. I will do my best to serve and hopefully will fulfill my duties to the office as well as our past Presidents have performed with a true sense of hard work and dedication to the organization.

I have some big shoes to fill. In my opinion, all of the past Presidents, starting with Bud Maxey, Larry Vincent and Tommy Depolis, have demonstrated leadership qualities above and beyond what would normally be required by the office. I commend them for their hard work and dedication to the organization and their continued support which will keep our organization active and strong. By no means am I forgetting the support and hard work of our Board of Directors for all the time and effort they put into the organization. I look forward to their continued support and thank them for all of their hard work which keeps our organization sound and active. With their help and guidance, we will continue to keep our members informed on all issues that relate to retirees and spouses to the best of our collective ability. Additionally, we hope to increase member participation at the pension meetings as well as our association meeting and monthly social fellowship lunch at the Golden Corral.

Again, thank you for your vote of confidence.

Respectfully,

Billy Lynn

F.Y.I. About Our Pension

By now all of you probably have heard our pension administrator, Jennifer Campbell, retired suddenly. But, there is still much speculation as to why it was so sudden, and without any notice. At the special meeting following her retirement the board discussed that it was obvious she wanted immediate separation from pension business. And, at her request, routine steps had been taken to change necessary passwords and locks so that there could be no appearance of impropriety. An interim administrators position has been filled from within the office staff, and a committee has been appointed to conduct a search for a replacement. The committee's first step was to request, from attorney Klausner, financial options for hiring a professional service to conduct the search. Committee reports will be presented at regular board meetings. In the mean time, our pension business is in good hands.

The end of this fiscal year is on September 30, 2013 and most of us are watching to see what the year-end investment return percentage will be. Since this newsletter will already be at print by then I can only inform you of what the return has been doing recently as reported by the investment manager.

- **6/30/13 = + 9.2 %**
- **7/24/13 = +14.2 %**
- **7/31/13 = +13.8 %**
- **8/28/13 = +11.4 %**

By the time you read this, year-end final numbers will be in and you should be able to view it on the association's web site. Hopefully, it is above +10 % and we will have a chance of receiving another 13th check.

The next important number we will be interested in is the COLA (cost of living allocation) amount for 2014. The COLA percentage is usually announced by letter from the pension office around Thanksgiving, following the fiscal year end. Remember, it is awarded by class number, which is established by the year you retired. So, the percentage is not always the same for everyone. Come to the general membership meeting for a more detailed explanation of the COLA by someone on your executive board.

In the matter of the Parker Lawsuit interest money, attorney Gonyea has filed for a 30-day extension to respond to attorney Thomas' motion. The court has granted this last extension and oral arguments should be heard by December or January. On all other lawsuits the board voted to relieve attorney Gonyea from his involvement and attorneys Klausner and Kauffman will continue with his duties.

The October meeting date for the pension board was changed from the 23rd to the 30th due to scheduling conflicts, in case you planned to attend. Our general membership meeting date for October has not been changed. It is still the first Thursday of the month, on October 3rd at 6:30 pm. It's Cubans, crabs and stuffed potatoes again. Bring a friend, we can all revel, or commiserate with each other, over the result of the investment return.

Tommy DePolis



**I'm Retired,
You're Not,
nah-nah-nah-nah...**

www.cafepress.com/geezershop



50/50 DRAWING

Will be held at the Membership Meeting
so bring a couple of extra bucks.

Pension Board Meeting

The Pension Board will be holding their
monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct 30th
at 1:30pm.

Location 3001 North Boulevard.
Come on by, the pension board loves company.

REMINDER

The Retirees monthly luncheon will be held on Monday, Oct 28th, at
11:00am. Location is the Golden Corral at 11801 N 56th St, Temple Terrace.

All are invited. Hope to see you there.

IN MEMORIAM

Some of those we recently lost....

Richard Robinson, 7/2/13, Police

William Trowell, 7/8/12, Police

Arthur Llerandi, 7/13/13, Fire

Timothy Grams, 7/16/13, Police

Clint Newman, 7/19/13, Fire

Doshie M Wladyka, 8/4/13, Fire Spouse

I'm glad you are receiving this Newsletter via U.S. mail. That means you are a member of the Tampa Fire & Police Retirees Association, thank you for your membership. If you are reading this on the website, consider joining the association.

The reason I am writing this is to comment on the diversity of the Tampa Fire & Police Pension members. Not, race, religion, creed or any of those "politically correct" identifiers, but the diversity of attitudes! To my knowledge there are four or five "groups" all with Fire and Police Pension Members. Some of the groups have members that belong to several other groups, some of the groups, will not allow you to belong to other groups. Friendship and camaraderie are powerful bonds and should always be sought out for constructive mental health, and the more memberships one has the better rounded they become. The problems arise when one group tries to discredit or destroy another group. As a now infamous Rodney King once said, "Can't we just get along?"

Petty bickering and complaints, only weakens the limited voice we have when communicating with our Pension board. If you don't believe this, just listen to the Board when they get knit-picky and start bickering among themselves, their credibility is diminished and a fire-wall of communication is put up. Decent can be good, constructive criticism can be helpful. But distortions of the truth and slanderous remarks not only hinder the process of decision making it can cause those decision to go against you.

Our "retiree pension ranks" include, a very large diversity of people, from "Still Working - in Drop" to "Pre-present day pensioners" to "Surviving Spouses" to "Recent Retirees" we each have our own agenda, but the common thread is our Fire and Police pension.

For those pensioners that have decided to not belong to any post-retirement group or association, that's OK, (at times I just wanted to be left alone to manage my pension account in my own way, because as I have been told in the past, once you are retired you have no say.).

But wait, there's more. As much as the Pension Board doesn't like it, pensioners do have a say. When a pensioner standup at a pension board meeting to respectfully challenge a legitimate error being made by the board and nothing is done. That doesn't mean it's the end of that challenge. The 2004 thirteenth check would never had been paid. Thanks to a retiree. The unsuccessful actions challenging the transfer of monies was a correct challenge, with a misguided outcome. As a result of the misguided actions of the pension board that prompted that challenge, active members are now facing the consequences. Often minor comments by a pensioner helps direct pension board members to make correct decisions before it comes a disaster.

My point in this commentary is to let all pensioners know, we are more than a social group and we value your input and comments, I am asking you to be thoughtful and accountable and take time to visit our meetings, both at the end of the month luncheon and our quarterly meetings. There is strength in our numbers, with respect and tenacity comes credibility.

Jerry Wotherspoon

Webmaster



TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, Oct 3rd, 2013

Cubans & Crabs Dinner At 6:30 PM

Meeting To Follow.

FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LARRICK HALL
709 W. Linebaugh Ave

Parking Will Be On The East & West Side of the Building
(Bring a new retiree, they'll thank you for it!!!)

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