

Don't Rush Me



TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION



www.tamparetiree.com

I'm Retired

President:
Tommy DePolis

Secretary:
Barbara Jones

Treasurer:
Bobby Moody

Fire Vice Presidents:
Jim Bates
Billy Lynn
Aubrey Grant

Police Vice Presidents:
Don Gage
Grady Snyder
John Oliva

Webmaster:
Jerry Wotherspoon

Chaplain:
Frank Gray

Editor:
Scott Heims
trfpanewsletter@yahoo.com

President's Message:

We've been following the pension fund's investment return since the beginning of this fiscal year, which began October 1st, 2018. As you know, the market took a dive in the last quarter of 2018 and by the end of December 2018 the return on the fund was more than negative 10 percent. During the following months, January and February, the return started to improve, but was still in the negative column. According to the investment manager's latest reports, it seems to be hovering around negative 2 percent. With only six months left in this fiscal year it would have to have a meteoric rise to reach the positive 10 - 11 percent needed to fund a 13th check for next year. Not impossible, but not hopeful. We'll continue to monitor the progress and report on its position by our July meeting. Fortunately the sluggish market does not effect the 13th check for this year. We met the required goal of more than positive 11 percent last fiscal year. We still have to wait for the actuary's report to be sure there was not an actuarial loss. Remember that report will be made to the pension board at the May meeting next month. So, I encourage you to attend. By the way, this months pension board meeting is April 24th at 1:30 pm. The actuary will be presenting a COLA workshop for the board members. If you want to know how your cost of living allocation is calculated, attend this meeting. It's open to the public. At the March meeting the pension board approved the 2019 Poverty Guidelines as published by the US Department of Health and Human Service to apply to poverty level pension benefits. The changes are: family of 1 = \$1,040.83 per month, and family of 2 = \$1,409.17 per month.

TRF & PA
Po Box 891269
Tampa, FL 33689



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TREASURER'S REPORT



Treasurer's Message:

April pushes our association into the second quarter of 2019. We have received approx. 64% of the total dues for the year. Most of the delinquent dues are from our members outside of the Tampa Bay area. These are the members who need our newsletter the most. We will have a check in table set up at our quarterly meeting on April 25th or you can mail your Dues to: TRF&PA, PO BOX 891269, TAMPA FL 33689. Thank you and we hope to see you at our Quarterly meeting.

Bobby Moody, Treasurer
bmoody01@me.com
813-493-0307

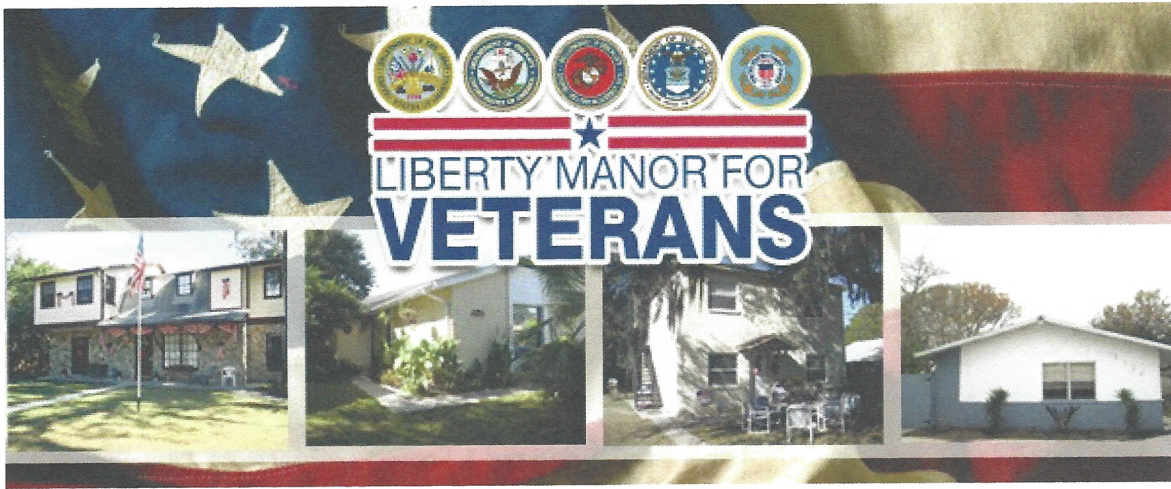
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For those who don't remember, several years ago it was our association that was instrumental in getting pension benefits raised to at least the poverty line level. Our association quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th. The April meeting is the first opportunity to nominate someone for a position on the executive board. Then at the July meeting there will be a final opportunity to nominate someone for this year, followed by a vote. I encourage you to get involved and serve on your board. Many of the board members have served several terms, so it would be healthy for our association to have some new board members with new ideas. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting, sharing food and fellowship.

Tommy DePolis



Liberty Manor for Veterans



Holds a warm spot in my heart. As a U.S. Navy veteran and a retired City of Tampa Police Officer, I've had ample opportunity to see the hardships people suffer. My deployments overseas took me to many wonderful and often many sad locations. I've seen life under Dictators like Spain's (Francisco Franco), Democratic Socialist Rule and the Italian Communist Party (Pietro Nenni) in Italy and Haiti under Dictator "President for Life" (Papa Doc Duvalier). The people of those countries suffered and my heart went out to them. I had little money, so I donated blood, where needed.

The men and women veterans in Liberty Manor have seen those atrocities in foreign countries. Often the end of their enlistment meant coming home with little or no guidance. Or even opportunity for adjustment. Liberty Manor has filled that slot. These veterans don't want free, they want a hand up, they've cleaned up their life but have been left at the bottom of the barrel, with many VA benefits available to them, but without the wherewithal to apply for them.

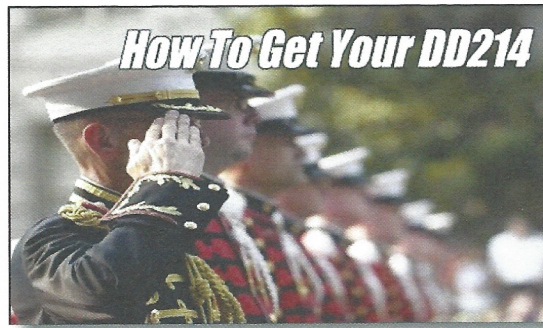
The process for receiving VA benefits takes months and ability. These veterans have little knowledge of the bureaucracy to work through the maze of paperwork and meetings. Liberty Manor gives them time, helps with the bureaucracy. The money and items we donate go directly to the needy veterans, Connie Lindsay and her staff are not getting rich in fact they don't even break even. They do this from their heart.

I am very glad the Tampa Fire and Police Retirees Association have stepped up to help. Our retirees have donated clothes, household items and money. Thank you "TFPRA" keep up the good work.

Jerry Wotherspoon



This Plaque is at the base of their flag.



Attention Military Veterans: Grab your DD-214 and head to the VA hospital for your VA ID card. Can't find your DD-214? Here's how to order a new "free" DD-214. On the computer go to the National Archives at:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. Some of the things you'll need while filling out the online form: What Branch of Service, approximate dates you were Active, your service number (if you remember) and all the other routine stuff, DOB, address phone etc. Be prepared to print out a receipt at the end. Even though it's free, you will have to sign the receipt and mail it off. It will take a few weeks, but you'll get your records.

In 1973 there was a major fire at the Overland, MO records storage facility, destroying nearly 80% of the Army records from 1912 to 1964. National Archives will notify you if your records were burnt in that fire and they will advise you how to help re-cover the information. The damaged records are primarily US Army, the other branches appear to be intact.

If you have your DD-214 and not your VA ID card, you can go online at:

https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=10EZ and fill out the 1010EZ form, print it out and take it to the VA clinic located on Fletcher Ave. and I-75, turn it in and get your ID card, used for Medical Benefits and other things you might need. If you live in another jurisdiction (city or state) just take the form to your local VA.

There are numerous VA benefits you may be eligible for, but like most Government Agencies you must apply first, sometimes rejected, that's when you may want to visit an attorney specializing in VA benefits. Keep in mind, the attorney shouldn't charge for consultation, plus their recovery fees come a percentage of the back log of unpaid benefits you should be receiving. The date you apply for benefits, will start the clock, even if you're turned down. Don't get discouraged. Remember it's a bureaucratic maze that you need to go through and the attorney will help.

**One of the Attorneys I have talked with is Michelangelo "Mike" Mortellaro, his number is: 813-367-1500 and he's located at:
13528 Prestige Pl, Suite 06, Tampa, FL 33635.**

Best of luck,
Jerry Wotherspoon



Your newsletter editor received the below email.

If you ever get the chance to visit the memorial, and now the museum, it is highly recommended.



Good Afternoon,

I am writing to let you know that DC's newest and most interactive museum is OPEN!

Over a decade of planning and persistence in the making, the National Law Enforcement Museum has opened its doors to the public. Finally, citizens and law enforcement professionals from diverse perspectives and backgrounds have a place to share in the vibrant story of American law enforcement.

The Museum's befitting location at Judiciary Square and close to Capital One Arena, in our nation's capital marks the first time a national museum dedicated to telling the story of American law enforcement have a permanent home.

Within the walls of the Museum's strikingly contemporary exterior, artifacts from our collection of more than 20,000 objects tell the story of American law enforcement – past, present, and future – and engage visitors of all ages in memorable, immersive and experiential exhibits. More importantly, we're proud that the Museum serves as a platform for constructive dialog to help strengthen relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

We would love to welcome a group of TRFPA members to the Museum, if you would like to book a date to come down to the Museum please feel free to respond to this email. You can also learn more about the Museum at www.lawenforcementmuseum.org.

Have a wonderful day!

Best,
Paige Yepko

pyepko@nleomf.org



SICK COMMITTEE



As of today's date we have no new news on any retirees with any major injuries or concerning health issues. However, we have had a few recent deaths in the last couple of months. Firefighter Stan Fidler's daughter Kimber passed away on the 24th of March, but no services were held per the family's wishes.

Driver Engineer Robert Rodriguez passed away on March 4, 2019. A Memorial Service was held on March 16, 2019 in Safety Harbor, Florida.

Driver Engineer John Branch passed away on March 17, 2019. Services were held on April 10, 2019 in Seminole, Florida.

Firefighter Donald C. McKean passed away on March 29, 2019. Services were held on April 5, 2019 at Hopewell Funeral Home in Plant City, Florida.

Any updates will be discussed at our April Association meeting.

Billy Lynn
Fire Vice President

**You know you're ready to retire
when you think "getting lucky"
means finding your car
in the parking lot.**

Retirement:



When you stop
lying
about your age

and start
lying
around the house.

- unknown

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, April 24th, 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, April 29th, 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....

Joseph G Rossiter - 12/29/18 - Fire
Stanley R Diokas - 1/19/19 - Police
Robert W Bettinger - 1/22/19 - Fire
Robert R Rodriguez - 3/4/19 - Fire
Edward G Laino - 3/16/19 - Police

John D Branch - 3/17/19 - Fire
Jeffrey T Mauser - 3/27/19 - Fire
Donald McKean - 3/26/19 - Fire
David Stead - 4/7/19 - Police



TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 25th, 2019

Cubans & Crabs Dinner for 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!!!)