

•Don't Rush Me•



TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION



www.tamparetiree.com

I'm Retired

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President's Message

There is not much information since the last newsletter. I, as well as Tommy DePolis and J.J. Oliva have been attending all of the pension board meetings to keep abreast of any possible changes that may have any impact on retirees and our fund. At this time, no major items of concern have been identified.

The National Republican Convention overtime payment owed to the fund by the city was paid in full plus interest in August 2013. The employees' part has not been paid. As of this date, the payment schedule is being worked out by the city and will commence next calendar year, 1 January 2014.

The cumulation cola factor for fiscal year 2014 was sent out on schedule by Buck Consultants. Rates vary a little by each class depending on date of retirement. We should appreciate any increase, as many funds do not have this benefit.

A hearing on the Parker law suit is still scheduled before the Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee, Florida on the 5th of February 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Each side will be given thirty minutes to present their cases.

Some of our board members represented our association at the annual Gold Shield business meeting and banquet at Egypt Temple Shrine. It was well attended by local fire and police agencies as well as prominent business officials. As most of you know, they provide educational scholarships for family members of fire and police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Joe Voskerichian is the executive director of this organization which was founded by the late George Steinbrenner.

Joe has attended our monthly lunches in the past and will attend some lunches in the future. Be sure to congratulate him for the outstanding job he has done for local fire and police officers. He is a true asset to the community.

The 13th check still looks good. The fund closed at 15.2% for fiscal year ending 30 September 2013. The second step in the process was completed by Mark Lenker. The pension CPA presented the annual financial statement to the pension trustees for the fiscal year ending 30 September 2013. There are other factors to be determined.

(cont on pg 4)





Treasurer Report

Brothers and Sisters, as we approach the end of another year we realize that 2013 was a rather quiet year, in terms of issues faced and arising problems. Our association continues on firm financial footing and should remain so for the foreseeable future. We started 2013 with an account balance of \$29,662.62 and we are showing a balance as of December 1, 2013 of \$32,469.80 after all expenses are paid and any outstanding debts are satisfied. Our expenses for the year, as of December 1, 2013, are just under \$5,000.00 with another \$400-500.00 expected for the newsletter and mailing.

We continue to support the, "Gold Shield Foundation", and we will be discussing an increase in the amount of the gift with board members and the membership for approval.

The board will also be seeking other activities (charities), to become involved in to support those less fortunate.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone that our membership runs per calendar year, 1 January- 31 December, and it is time to send in your dues of \$60.00 for 2014. The dues can be mailed to our P.O. Box or hand delivered at the monthly luncheon or quarterly meetings. I would also like to remind members that the association does not collect dues that are in arrears. So if you have forgotten or missed a year or two of dues you do not have to make them up. However, upon reaching a third year of not keeping up with your dues you may stop receiving the quarterly newsletter. It would not be fair to the current members to carry the load for everyone.

In closing I hope that we all take the time to reflect on this past year and all the good things that have occurred and give a special thanks for all your good fortunes. It is also a time to remember those who are no longer with us and send our prayers and best wishes to their families and loved ones. I want to take this opportunity to wish Everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. I hope the coming year will be prosperous for all.

Vickie and I extend our personal best wishes to everyone and wish all a Joyous and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!!

JJ



A couple of years ago I was asked by someone who was not familiar with our association to give a written summary of who we are and what we do. The following is the summary I provided, and perhaps will help you if you are ever asked the same question.

Tommy DePolis

CITY OF TAMPA RETIRED FIRE AND POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Founded August 15, 1988 as a not for profit Florida corporation. All City of Tampa retired firefighters and police officers, and their surviving spouses, are eligible to join.

The first goal of the association is to promote and encourage social post retirement interaction between retired firefighters and police officers from the City of Tampa. This group of retirees belongs to a unique pension plan known as the *City of Tampa Fire and Police Pension*. It is a contract between the retiree and the City of Tampa. So, our second goal is to monitor and interact with the Fire and Police Pension Board of Trustees, local and state governments, and the unions of the Fire and Police Departments on issues of collective concern to our members. Finally, our third goal is to keep members of our association informed on matters of mutual interest through newsletters, a web site, quarterly meetings, and monthly luncheons.

Although our first goal is fellowship, and is the original reason our association was formed, the second goal has evolved into being a watchdog over the administration of pension benefits for the retirees. The Fire and Police Pension Board of Trustees are the managers of the administration of our pension. Their duty, as well as the professionals who assist them, is to act in the best interest of all plan members, including both future and current retirees. Some of the pension board's actions and decisions in the past did not appear equitable to all and left some retirees feeling their benefits were in jeopardy. As individuals, retiree concerns at times were not given the attention they deserved, and consequently have resulted in our association's role as watchdog. e.g. Our association brought a Declaratory Action against the Pension Board on a question regarding moving money from one account to cover the loss in another. The court ruling was not in our favor but it brought to the forefront the retirees resolve in addressing perceived inequities.

A past ruling by PERC (the Public Employees Relations Commission) states the unions have the right to bargain for pension benefits. The unions correctly claim they represent the active employees, not the retirees. But, sometimes the benefits pursued for the active employees can impact the funds available to pay the current retirees. Since the pension fund depends primarily on investment returns to keep the active employee's and the City of Tampa's contribution levels low, in difficult economic times their contributions may increase. So, the agenda of the unions at times could conflict with the best interests of the retirees. However, to their credit, in the past the unions have proposed and gained benefits that only pertained to retirees. And, for the most part, our relationship with the Unions, the City, and the Pension Board remains highly professional and mutually cooperative. Our association, and its members, recognize that the pension fund includes all plan members, both active and retired, and welcomes all newly retired members, both fire and police, to be included by joining our association. In fact, our by-laws allow for any active fire or police plan member with 20 or more years in the plan, to be eligible for membership in our association.

We feel the obligation of local and state government, along with the Fire and Police Board of Trustees, with the assistance of their professionals, is for the proper administration of pension benefits, to all plan members both active and retired, in an equitable manner within the law. We expect that those who administer the plan will continue to be receptive, fair and open minded to our concerns.

Hopefully everything will go well and we get another 13th check in 2014.

Tiffany Ernst, the acting plan administrator, as well as the staff at the pension office, are doing outstanding jobs. Let's hope things keep going smoothly and our fund remains actuarially sound for all retirees and future retirees.

Just a reminder we have the same people attending the monthly pension board meetings. We would like more retirees to attend to get familiar with the pension board's work and responsibilities.

Respectfully,

Billy Lynn



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, January 22nd 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, Dec 30th, 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....

Donald McDugald, 8/19/13, Police

Paula Bevan, 8/24/13, Police Spouse

Frances Giles, 9/9/13, Fire Spouse





TAMPA RETIRED FIRE & POLICE ASSOCIATION



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 2, 2014

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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