

Fall 2009

Dearborn Police & Fire Retirees Association

Greetings Retirees:

Election Results:

President:	Mike Birrell 313-565-5302 e-mail: fanwing@aol.com
Vice President:	Jim Sarb
Secretary:	Ed Sikora
Treasurer:	David Wood
Sgt.at Arms:	Ed Kluesner
Trustees (3):	Sam Petlichkoff Eric Cullum Vic Tudor

President's Corner:

Health Care:

By now, those of you that are on Medicare should have received your new cards and some of you may have used the new plans. Some things to remember are that with the HAP Medicare Advantage there are no co-pays or deductibles and Blue Cross has agreed to waive the deductibles for the period October through December. The only problems we have heard of so far are a few retirees that didn't respond to the letters from the city and were late in applying for the new plans and a few retirees have received cards with minor errors such as misspelled names. If you have not done so, check your cards so you can correct any errors before you need to use it.

Recently, some of you were concerned about a rumor that the city had slipped language into the council resolution that would cause us to lose our health care in 2011. The best we can figure is that this was a misreading of a line in the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) that the city offered the health care committee.

Congress had mandated changes to Medicare Advantage plans effective 2011 and many on the health care committee were reluctant to change without knowing what would happen in 2011. The city offered the MOU which states that if the changes to Medicare Advantage are not as good as we currently have then we can return to the plans we had before the change. The city also put into the MOU language that they would not use this change as a precedent to make other changes. There was also a line that we (retirees) cannot rely on this change to claim that any future coverage must be better or equal to what we now have. This would have been in excess of what the contracts call for.

All of this is subject to change depending on what happens in Washington and or Lansing (see below).

New Threat To Our Benefits:

Speaker of the State House, Democrat, Andy Dillon, is proposing sweeping changes to health care that will affect us. His plan which has gotten some support from both Democrats and Republicans would place all State, County, Municipal and School employees and retirees on one state run health plan. The reason he is proposing this is to save money for the state and cities. The plan would be run by a board appointed by the governor and would supersede the various contracts and would change Act 312 in that Police and Fire Unions could no longer bargain for health care.

The idea bears watching and those of you who still live in Michigan should contact your State Representative and State Senator and tell them to oppose Andy Dillon's plan to take away your earned benefits.

Dues Increase:

An interesting turn of events occurred at the recent association meeting. Prior to the meeting, the officers met to discuss finances and to decide whether to reduce member dues or establish a plan where senior members that have been members for many years could be given lifetime free membership. During the meeting when the membership was offered the above choices, they instead voted unanimously to increase the dues to \$10.00 per year, effective January 2010. Dues may be paid by December 31st at the old rate of \$7.00. If you wish, you may pre-pay multiple years at the \$7.00 rate.

Some of the comments regarding the raising of the dues were; that the couple of bucks wouldn't break anyone and if the association should ever need to take legal action on behalf of the members, the money would be needed. Our expenses related to the recent health care changes were minimal but we need to be prepared to protect our benefits.

City Elections:

As an organization we cannot endorse candidates but you should check with the Police and Fire Unions to see whom they are supporting and if you can get involved. If you do get involved in supporting a candidate, let them know you are a member of the Police and Fire Retirees Association and you need someone to look out for the benefits we have earned.

I would like to thank those who supported my re-election as Association President.

Mike Birrell

From the Treasurer:

I would like to thank the retirees who attended the fall quarterly meeting for their unanimous support in my re-election as Association Treasurer. I look forward to serving everyone over the next two years. If anyone has any questions regarding the treasury or status of their membership, please feel free to contact me at 313-231-2288 or via e-mail at dpfra@att.net.

David Wood, Treasurer (Fire 2006)
2350 Monroe
Dearborn, MI 48124

Treasurer's Report:

Association current membership is:

156	Police
97	Fire
<u>60</u>	<u>Spouse/Honorary</u>
313	Total

Income through	9/30/09	\$1,192.17
Expenses through	9/30/09:	
	March & September Quarterly Meetings	\$120.00
	Office Supplies	192.00
	Postage	482.20
	Corporation Renewal Fee	20.00
	<u>Miscellaneous (Ad for Firefighters 75th)</u>	<u>50.00</u>
	Total:	\$ 864.20
	Total Assets as of September 30 th , 2009	\$29,818.98

Christmas Party:

When: Monday, December 7, 2009
Where: Stephan's (Warren E of Telegraph)
Time: 6 p.m. Cash Bar
7 p.m. Dinner
Cost: \$12.00/person

Make checks payable to: DPFRA
2350 Monroe
Dearborn, MI 48124

Rest in Peace:

Our condolences go out to the families of our police officers who have passed away since our last newsletter.

Police:
Fred Delaney, Aug. 25th (1949-1971)

Spouses of Retirees:
Janet Masterofrancesco, March, 2009
Dorothy Furtak, May, 2009
Barbara Lennon, October, 2009

Police & Fire News:

Retirements:

Police:

Christopher Truel 2001
Bob Brayman 1987
Joe Wieczorek 1984
Karen Wilkes 1983

Fire:

Nazih Hazime 1984

Dearborn Police & Fire Internet Communication Exchange:

Send name and e-mail address to:

Al Ruprecht 1-248-345-6977
allanruprecht@comcast.net

Monthly Breakfasts at Leon's Restaurant:

Police: 2nd Tuesday of month at 9:30 a.m.
Fire: Last Tuesday of month at 10:00 a.m.

Random Thought:

You'll never be cheerful
Sitting there
Sorrowing over the hurts
You bear,
For never a joyous hour
Is known
By the man who thinks
Of himself alone

E.A. Guest

Jim Sarb, ed
313-563-8696
kasjes@comcast.net