



Palm Beach County Firefighters

Monthly Legislative

Action Report

Chief Ron Beesley, Legislative Director
Fred Angelo, 1st Legislative Vice President
AJ O'Laughlin, 2nd Legislative Vice President
Moses Abdelnour, Legislative Assistant
Bob Eastberg, Legislative Assistant
Drew Hacker, Legislative Assistant

08/01/2009-09/01/2009

North County:

NPB: Signed off on quickest contract yet. This one is waiting on Village attorney to sign off. The highlights are; no layoffs, workweek maintained, step plan remains in place and the members gave conceded some annual leave. Great Job Anthony and Mayo.

Palm Beach Gardens:

With the NEW PBC chief taking his time in appointing his team for merger negotiations things have been moving slow to say the least. We are working to expedite things in the coming weeks. Even with the slow down... we still have continued to keep communications open with meetings with the Mayor and city leaders.

Riviera: After over a year of negotiation.... Threats of layoffs of up to 22 firefighters and salary reductions, we have finally got it right in Riviera Beach. On Sept 2nd (Union meeting night) the Council voted 5-0 in favor of the firefighter's contract. This contract avoided any layoffs, and maintained the step plan at 5%. One month prior we were successful in adding the DROP to the retirement and look forward to helping our brothers and sisters add the much needed 175 share accounts.

Central County:

WPB: News has not been good for the WPB brothers. We continue to watch this very close as it could have serious implications on future staffing and work week benefits. The city is proposing a 56 hour work week, shutting down several units and increases from employees to the pension and retiree health coverage. We have made ourselves available for any help needed.

Lake Worth: The merger is complete. Welcome aboard to our brothers and sisters from Lake Worth. 3rd time will be a charm. This is the only city that has elections in Nov. We have endorsed JoAnne Golden, Scott Maxwell, and Renee Varella for City Council.

Palm Springs: We would also like to extend a warm welcome aboard to our new brothers and sisters from PS. Previously they were represented by the PBA. Although they have been running in our system since Oct. we should see a lot more of our new brothers since they are first due to the Union office. We will begin to make new relations with the council and look forward to a great working relationship.

Greenacres: Spoke with city manager about Fire Rescue Safety Act (Surtax) and will be following up in the coming weeks with council.

Palm Beach: Just making first rounds in the pinky out Palm Beach. The Fire Chief is extremely supportive of the Fire Safety Act and we have set meetings with the city manager and finance director. Council will follow.

South Palm Beach: Read PB Ceranbino articles they are too funny. Mayor was thrown out of Rachel's for being too aggressive. He had a Mayor's badge (didn't know they issued these) and police flashlight. Just read the articles for good humor.

West County:

Wellington: HELP! HELP! HELP! At Council request September 19th from 9am till 12 noon we have committed to helping the Village paint the White Pine Project. We are asking for 30 members and family to help. Kids will get letters for volunteering towards their school volunteer hours. If we have a few guys or girls with paint sprayers we could be done even faster. The Village is supplying the paint, rollers and other equipment. We are only doing first floor stuff. Lunch will be provided by an area restaurant. If you can help...Contact Fred Angelo at alfredjangelo@aol.com or 561.436.4722

Belle Glade/Pahokee/South Bay: County Commission recently gave the Glades a loan to keep them under the 10mil cap on taxation. The Cities were saying that the millage increase from PBCFR is why they went over the cap. Commission approved the loan 5-2. We need to remain aware that the County Commission did raise our millage (taxes) to avoid cuts of the fire department from 2.95 to 3.458. This increase represents approximately 40 million dollars.

South County:

City of Delray Beach: DVP Jim Tabeek has been working his tail off to get the city politicians back on our side. Almost everyday of the week Jimmy has been meeting with someone. Fred has been assisting with the council and political allies. At this point we have identified 2 supporters and need at least one more but would like 2 for safety. This change is going to take time. They City manager has not been our friend and has a tight grasp on the Council.

City Boca Raton: The City of Boca Raton is the host of this years 9/11 memorial. AJ (561.436.4709) has been making the rounds on this. We would like to see 300+ members at the event. Dress Uniforms are suggested. Lunch for 500 after the event at the Dublinder and then the PBC Fools are hosting a party at Slainte in Boynton. More to come... check the web site on this.

West Boynton Beach: Bob Eastberg has been assigned to the HOA details for the politics. He has hit several of the large civic and HOA groups. COBRA being one of the more influential of the bunch. We will be getting Bob some support soon as there are so many HOA's we will need on duty crews to do demo's and quick fire safety talks. Great community outreach stuff.

STATE: The Legislative Session is currently in recess. They are looking at doing a special session for gambling and oil drilling in the coming weeks. Nothing is set as of now. We have supported several of our steadfast friends for their 2010 elections and doing weekly meeting with candidates who are asking for our support. We remain focused on the Fire Rescue Safety Act (Surtax).

Chambers: We have joined the Chamber of the Palm Beaches, Chamber of Northern Palm Beach, Delray Beach Chamber, and the Palms West Chamber.

Currently, we are sponsoring events at:

The DB Chamber Annual GALA. ... at this event we are the premier sponsor and have our Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums band opening the GALA. Over 500 business leaders will be attending the event along with many politicians.

The Athena Awards at the Chamber of the Palm Beaches... We have sponsored a table of 6. This is the annual women in business awards.

Mayors Breakfast at the Chamber of the Northern Beaches... Every Mayor in the NPB are is giving a 5 min presentation at this breakfast. We have sponsored one table.

League of Cities: Fred Angelo recently attended the Annual League Conference in Orlando. Every city sends at least two representatives to this event. Most of the PBC Cities sent the entire council. We have been trying to work with the League on the Firefighter Safety Act.

We are scheduled to do a Firefighter Safety Act presentation for the Board of Directors on Sept 23.

Charity: We have attended and given donations to a host of events.

Riviera Beach Maritime Academy Fishing Tournament

Riviera Beach Youth Rec Association

Riviera Beach Jazz after Dark

Delray Beach Library fundraisers (Several)

Dot's Success Academy for early readers

Twisty Pines Play Ground in Jupiter

Abacoa Beacon Cove Intermediate PTO (Sponsored end of school backpack)

American Cancer Relay for Lox Groves

American Red Cross Hero Award Luncheon (Ed O'Berry Award Lunch)