

# Warwick Firefighters Retirees Association



**April Meeting**  
Monday, April 5th

**May Meeting**  
Monday, May 3rd

**June Meeting**  
Monday, 7th

**CHECK OUR WEB  
SITE @ WARCIKFIRE-  
MENSASSOCIATION.C  
OM for up to date events.**

## **Pension I - Save from Union Concessions**

Inquiries by brother retirees concerning pension reductions in Pension I, due to recent union concessions, are unfounded. Recently, Local 2748, IAFF agreed to mid contract changes brought about by the deteriorating state and local budget projections. Local 2748, IAFF President Marcel Fontenault reports that changes made to the contract were verbal and affect only active members of the fire department.

Pensioners in Pension II, would not be affected in any way since their benefits are based on a straight 3% annual cost of living formula and not tied to wage increases negotiated for active fire fighters.

With the State of Rhode Island 2009-2010 current budget still in flux and projected annual state deficits to grow from the current \$253 to \$535.7 million by 2015, Rhode Island municipalities will be under enormous strain to provide services while keeping property

## **Disability Medical Payments**

As reported in the November newsletter, discussions were held between our Association and President Marcel Fontenault of Local 2748, IAFF regarding the failure of the City to pay medical expenses for fire fighters on disability pensions. Since that time, Local 2748, IAFF has been in negotiations with the City due to cuts in state aid.

However, this issue is still very much alive and is being addressed by the union. Many members returned questionnaires sent to them by our Association giving detailed information as to the extent of this problem. We will continue to keep you informed as talks continue between the Local 2748 and the City.

## **Rare Video of 1954 Hurricane Carol Available**

For you history buffs a rare home made movie of the Hurricane Carol has been reduced to video by Bill Trudell. This colored film is 10 minutes in length and shows in graphic detail the destruction caused to the City of Warwick when Hurricane Carol, a category 3 hurricane, hit Rhode Island on August 30, 1954. If you are interest in getting a copy of this video please contact Fred Slaiger. A price for this video will be determined and posted on our website shortly. This video has yet to be made available to the general public.

## **Pondering**

In a recent conversation with other brother retirees, there as a general consensus that we are definitely fortunate to have spent our careers as fire fighters in the City of Warwick rather than any other Rhode Island community. If you are one of the many retired fire fighters who live out-of-state and haven't been back in a few years, you would truly be surprised at the changes that have taken place.

Warwick, which once was a bedroom suburban community, is long gone. The villages that once made up Warwick and were the foundation for today's fire department are history. Today, Warwick has a very robust commercial and industrial sector that continues to grow around our state airport. Neighborhoods continue to be lost as the airport expands to Eastern Avenue in the north to almost West Shore Road to the South.

What this means to the financial condition of the City is evident. Fewer neighborhoods mean fewer schools and other municipal services. Unlike many Rhode Island communities, residential property taxes must make up any difference in the loss of state aid to school districts and general revenue. In addition, Mayor Scott Avedisian has proved to be a sound fiscal manager, while at the same time has not used labor as the whipping boy for the the present financial problems facing the City

The bottom line is that we should be thankful that the City of Warwick is doing better than most other Rhode Island communities. I cannot think of one community in Rhode Island that I would trade places with as a retired fire fighter. Fred Slaiger

## **Saint Patrick's Day Celebration a Success**

Both active and retired fire fighters celebrated at our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Corn Beef and cabbage were featured with a healthy partaking of beverages. Business was kept to a minimum. With all the bad news to report, this was a good reprieve and truly in the spirit of a Saint Patty's Day celebration.

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### **Your Generosity is Overwhelming**

Nearly every edition of our newsletter we recognize those members who make donations above and beyond the yearly dues. This month, the donations were truly exceptional.

We received over \$635.00 in donations alone. Here are the names of the donors:

David M. Ahlquist  
Paul H. Brookes  
Robert W. Carlson  
Robert L. Cassity  
Elmer T. Cobb  
Keven M. Dorgan, Sr.  
Donald Eliason  
Stuart A. Kelly  
William R. Kenyon  
Frederick W. McGarrahan  
Norman A. Noble  
Edward White  
Robert Pollitt

On behalf of the executive board and the many other members who volunteer their time and energy to make this association a success, thank you. Fred Slaiger

### **Governor Carcieri Asks to Due Away With Widow Benefits:**

Governor Carcieri submitted his supplemental 2009-10 budget recommendation to the General Assembly with proposed cuts to due away with widows benefits to fire fighters and the elimination of tuition benefits to the children of police and fire fighters killed in the line of duty. Both of these benefits are presently spelled out, in detail, in our Benefits Book

At present, there are a number of widows of Warwick fire fighters who receive state widows' benefits in addition to their husband's pensions. While this proposal will not affect those presently receiving benefits, it does do away with the benefits going forward should this legislation be enacted. The IAFF along with the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Association and volunteer fire association have voiced their objections to these changes. At this time, the General Assembly has yet to move on this legislation.

### **Notes:**

We are once again out of window decals. Another order has been placed. Expect 3 to 4 weeks delay.

Fishing Trip: Another fishing trip with Charlie Donilen is being planned for later this coming summer. Please check our website for details.

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Email: [fredslaiger@aol.com](mailto:fredslaiger@aol.com)

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WARWICKFIREMENSASSOCIATION.COM

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### **3rd Annual Baseball Outing**

Arrangements are now being made for our 3rd annual baseball outing sponsored by the Rhode Island State Police. The date is set for July 2nd at McCoy Stadium. This outing is all inclusive and features a barbecue lunch, tickets to the game and fire works.

Details will be posted on our website and in our next newsletter.

**Reminder: Please send in your 2010 dues if you have not already done so.**

### **Important Phone Numbers**

Warwick City Hall	(401)738-2000
Mayor's Office	ext. 6200
Tax Assessor	ext. 6271
Tax Collector	ext. 6255
Human Services	468-4101
Warwick Fire Dept.	468-4000
Warwick Firemen's Assoc.	467-7888

### **WARWICK FIREFIGHTERS RETIRESS BOARD OF OFFICERS**

Fred Slaiger, President  
Joe Evangelista, V. President  
Ed Duckworth, Secretary  
Fred Taute, Treasurer

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