

Summary of 50th Biennial Convention of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union

The 50th Biennial Convention of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union was held on May 2-3-4, 2012 at the Lansing Center and the Radisson Hotel in Lansing, Michigan.

Two hundred and four **(204) delegates, fifty-one (51) alternates**, and 75 guests attended the Convention.

David Weisenberg, MPFFU Western Trustee, served as master of ceremonies for the opening session. The **Lansing Fire Fighters Honor Guard** opened the convention with the presentation of colors. The **Grand Ledge High School Madrigals** sang the National Anthem. The bagpiper was **Terry Carol** from the Glen Erin Pipe Band. The Lansing Fire Department Chaplin **Doug Bradshaw** gave the invocation.

Delegates took action on **30 Resolutions**. Additionally, one resolution was withdrawn.

Delegates approved three resolutions that will increase the monthly per capita:

\$1.22 – all-purpose increase due to a decrease in membership

\$0.20 – dedicated funding for Millage Grant Program

\$0.10 – funding to make ad hoc PSO Committee a permanent Standing Committee

A **CPI increase of \$0.36** is also scheduled to take place on July 1, 2012.

On July 1, 2012, the MPFFU monthly per capita will increase to \$13.18. The current MPFFU monthly per capita is \$11.30.

Delegates also approved a resolution for a **\$25 per member special assessment** to help fund the Protect Our Jobs campaign. The IAFF is also contributing \$100,000 to the campaign.

Delegates approved a resolution that will permanently decrease the number of MPFFU District Vice Presidents from six to five. The Third District and the First District will continue to be represented by the same District Vice President on the MPFFU Executive Board.

Delegates rejected a resolution which would have created a Vice President at Large position and as well as a resolution that would have created a Legislative Director position.

Traverse City – Local 646 was awarded the bid to host the 2014 MPFFU Convention. The 51st Biennial Convention will be held at the Park Place Hotel in downtown Traverse City on May 7-8-9, 2014. **Local 366-Grand Rapids** withdrew their bid to host the 2014 convention because the mandated dates in 2014 were not available anywhere in Grand Rapids. A resolution was passed that will eliminate the site rotation of the convention and will permit any local to bid on all conventions after the 2014 convention.

Summary of 50th Biennial Convention of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union

James Amar, former member of Local 355-Highland Park was granted Lifetime Membership Status. Brother Amar also served as a State Employment Relations Commission Mediator for several years after he left the fire department.

A copy of each of the final resolutions will soon be available for viewing on the MPFFU website.

Elections were held for two-year terms for all MPFFU Executive Board and Trustee positions.

The following individuals were elected by acclamation:

President: **Mark Docherty**
Secretary-Treasurer: **Terrence Chesney**
1st/3rd District VP: **Chris Reynolds**
2nd District VP: **Shaun Abbey**
4th District VP: **Steven Heim**
5th District VP: **James Leve**
6th District VP: **Daniel Dawe**
Western Trustee: **David Weisenberg**
Northern Trustee: **Aileen Pettinger**

Delegates in the 4th & 6th Districts voted for the contested position of Eastern Trustee. The result of that election was:

80 – **Edward Hosmer**
44 – **Timothy Manning**

Delegates also heard the remarks and presentations of several guest speakers throughout the course of the convention:

The Honorable **Virgil Bernero** – Mayor of the City of Lansing
Harold Schaitberger, General President - IAFF
Thomas Miller, General Secretary-Treasurer – IAFF
Paul Hufnagel, 8th District Vice President – IAFF
Karla Swift, President of the Michigan State AFL-CIO
The Honorable **Randy Richardville** – Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable **Steve Bieda** – State Senator
The Honorable **Brandon Dillon** – State Representative
The Honorable **Kate Segal** – State Representative
Melissa Yutzey, Kelley-Cawthorne
Chris Lake, President of Local 421 – Lansing Fire Fighters
Randall Talifarro - Fire Chief, City of Lansing & City of East Lansing
Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal & Director-Bureau of Fire Services
Leon LaBrecque, Labrecque, Jackson, Price, & Roehl, LLC

Summary of 50th Biennial Convention of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union

Michael O'Hearon, MPFFU General Counsel

Sarah Grutza - Muscular Dystrophy Association

Henry Yanez – Candidate for State Representative –

Thomas Cochran – Candidate for State Representative – 67 District

Elizabeth Clement, Legal Counsel in the Governor's Office, received the "MPFFU Presidents Award for Outstanding Governmental Service".

Seventy-two (**72**) **MPFFU local union leaders** served on various Convention Committees which played an integral role in making this Convention a great success.

The MPFFU Convention Staff of **Ed Rigley**, **Larry McColl**, **Michelle Chesney**, **Laura Jensen**, and **Darcy O'Such** worked diligently behind the scenes to make sure everything got done in a professional and timely fashion.

A complete verbatim transcript of the entire convention will soon be file at the MPFFU Office and it will be available for review upon request.