

Summary of 53rd Biennial Convention of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union

The 53rd Biennial Convention of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union was held on May 8-9, 2018, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City, Michigan.

One hundred and ninety-two (**192**) delegates, thirty-seven (**37**) alternates, and eighty-two (**82**) guests, vendors, and speakers attended the Convention. The delegates represented seventy-one (**71**) locals. In addition, one (1) local (Farmington Hills) was represented by proxy.

Christopher Reynolds, MPFFU 1st/3rd District Vice President, served as master of ceremonies for the opening session. The **Honor Guard** consisting of **Bill Case-Bay City, Chris Lince-Midland, and Gary McDonald-Saginaw** opened the convention with the presentation of colors. **Jessica Goik** from Cramer Middle School sang the National Anthem. The bagpiper was **Ian Kushnir**. The invocation was delivered by Chaplin **Rick Donahue**.

Delegates adopted thirteen (**13**) **Resolutions**. Two of the resolutions that were adopted had cost factors totaling **twelve cents (\$0.12)**.

***\$0.02 – Appointment of an Ad-hoc Committee to review MPFFU organization and structure.**

***\$0.10 – Appointment of an Affiliation Committee to develop and implement strategies to increase MPFFU membership.**

A **CPI** increase of **\$0.30** is scheduled to take place on July 1, 2018.

On June 30, 2018, eighteen cents (\$0.18) of per capita is scheduled to sunset, therefore effective **July 1, 2018, the MPFFU monthly per capita will be \$14.42.**

Additional Resolutions were passed that will:

- Lower the maximum number of members local pays per capita on from 401 to 300.
- Remove or update obsolete our out of date language in the MPFFU Constitution and By-laws.
- Increase the daily compensation rate for MPFFU Committee Members, MPFFU District Vice Presidents, MPFFU Trustees, and MPFFU Instructors.
- Increase the salaries of the MPFFU President and Secretary-Treasurer
- Make the MPFFU Trustee's non-voting members of the MPFFU Executive Board
- Mandate a Biennial review of MPFFU Compensation rates.

- Create a Committee to Increase the Involvement of Retired MPFFU Members
- Urge Locals to adopt provisions for Active-Retirees in their locals and to create an active-Retiree provision in the MPFFU.

Nominations were taken, and 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: **Christopher Reynolds**
- 2nd District VP: **Shaun Abbey**
- 4th District VP: **Steven Heim**
- 5th District VP: **Monty Nye**
- 6th District VP: **Matthew Sahr**
- Western Trustee: **Richard Clark**
- Northern Trustee: **Aileen Pettinger**
- Eastern Trustee: **Mickey Wiewiura**

The only qualifying bid to host the 2020 MPFFU Convention came from the Amyway Grand Hotel by Hilton in Grand Rapids.

The 54th Biennial Convention will be held in Grand Rapids on April 27-28-29, 2020.

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

- **Mark Docherty**, President Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
- **Harold Schaitberger**, General President - IAFF
- **Edward Kelly**, General Secretary-Treasurer – IAFF
- **Mark Sanders**, 8th District Vice President – IAFF
- **Michael O’Hearon**, MPFFU General Counsel
- **Melissa Yutzey**, Kelley-Cawthorne Consulting
- **Paul MacBride**, President of Local 116 – Bay City Fire Fighters
- **Edward Clements**, Bay City Commissioner
- **Kevin Sehlmeier**, State Fire Marshal
- **Leon LaBrecque**, LaBrecque, Jackson, Price, & Roehl, LLC
- **Carrie Tucker**, IAFF Financial Corporation
- **Joseph Fender**, IAFF Executive Assistant to the Chief of Operations
- **Gretchen Whitmer**, Candidate for Governor
- **Bart Perry**, Backing the Badge
- **Myranda Jones**, IAFF Center for Excellence
- **Heide Schmitt**, CTA- Experience Grand Rapids

Legislative Recognition Awards were presented to:

- **Representative Steve Marino**
- **Representative Jason Sheppard**
- **Representative Sam Singh**
- **Representative Jeff Yaroch**
- **Representative Henry Yanez**
- **Senator Rick Jones**
- **Senator Tonya Schuitmaker**
- **Senator Tory Rocca**
- **Senator David Knezek**
- **Senator Mike Nofs**
- **Senator Margaret O'Brien**
- **Senator Ken Horn**
- **Senator Curtis Hertel**
- **Representative Terry Sabo**

These legislators were recognized for their pivotal role in stopping hostile legislation that was written to attack pension benefits and retiree healthcare

Phil Hall, Chris Kenny, Gary Purdom, and Jared Nisch of the **MPFFU Political Education Committee** signed up over 60 new members to the monthly MPFFU FIRE PAC program. Several gift incentives were raffled off for those participating in this program.

In addition, members contributed more than \$3000 to the MPFFU FIRE PAC fund by purchasing tickets for the **50-50** raffles conducted by **Edward Rigley** and by purchasing MPFFU apparel at the MPFFU store.

Monty Nye, MPFFU Liaison to MDA introduced MDA Representatives **Amanda Wentzloff, Roger Lopez, Traci Gianelli, and Jennie King**. They presented MPFFU Melissa McKinley an award to recognize her legislative efforts to get a bill passed into law that permits "Fill the Boot" in the streets. **MDA Michigan State Goodwill Ambassador Matt Greiner** thanked everyone for their support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Fifty-six **(56) MPFFU local union leaders** served on six Convention Committees that played an integral role in making this Convention a great success.

Delegates recognized the attendance and contributions of MPFFU President Emeriti **Daniel Delegato, Gary Thomas, Larry McColl, and Paul Hufnagel**. Lifetime members **Jack Swaitkowski, Gary Wiens, Ed Rigley, James Amar, Joseph Grutza, David Weisentberg, Jim Leve, and Ed Hosmer** were also present and recognized.

Delegates adopted a resolution recognizing **Local 116-Bay City** for hosting the convention and thanked them for their hard work and hospitality.

The MPFFU Convention Staff of **Michelle Chesney, Christopher Lake, and Ed Rigley** worked diligently behind the scenes to make sure everything got done in a professional and timely fashion.

The entire staff at **DoubleTree Hotel** was extremely friendly and helpful and they all worked very hard to make our stay a great experience.

A complete verbatim transcript of the entire convention as well as several photos and videos will be available for review on the MPFFU website in the near future.