Page I February 2020

Retired Firefighters of Washington

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Email: info@rffow.org • www.rffow.org

Richard C. Warbrouck

Jim Adsley

President

Vice President

February 2020

For, About, and in Support of all Retired Washington State Firefighters



Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11th-11 AM; Calvary Christian Assembly 6801 Roosevelt Way NE Seattle, WA

President's Message - By Richard C. Warbrouck



I want to thank those of you who have forwarded a check for your 2020 dues and the payment slips. I also want to thank those who pay their

dues by payroll deduction and forwarded the dues payment slip and acknowledge and extend out appreciation to those who included a donation. We receive about 550 payment checks in January & February. This involves a little more than checking a box for the dues payment and making a bank deposit. Years ago, we didn't have a dues payment slip. As a result, our information regarding your membership became obsolete. It was frustrating to go to a file and discover that the address, phone number, or email address was incorrect. Even worse, to learn that the member or spouse had died. Someone checking the file who was not familiar with the name would have no idea that the member or spouse had died. Maybe we were not notified of the death.

We incorporated the dues payment slips to help keep our member information current. This of course, created another job and process. Each year, when we receive the dues payment slips, we must check the dues payment information with the information we have on file to verify or update. The year of the dues payment must be posted on our roster and on the Newsletter mailing label. Any other changes such as, cellphone, email address, or mailing address changes have to be posted on the roster, the email list, and on the Newsletter U.S. mailing list. When we receive the check from DRS for the \$5.00 deduction withheld from the members who had the \$5.00 dues deduction in their retirement check, we have to confirm that the total amount is correct. This process became routine but is confusing when we have a new Administrative Assistant. We post the names of the members who have paid their dues in the Newsletter for two reasons, first to confirm that we have your dues payment, and secondly to allow you to view the names in the event you have lost contact with a friend or associate and would like to contact them. We only list the names of members who have recently signed up for payroll deduction or who have signed up in the past and have returned the 2020 dues payment slip.

We now have about 450 members on payroll deduction. In the past we have posted the names of all the members on payroll deduction, twenty-five or so at a time each month after all the dues payments are in. This again allows you to confirm that you are on the payroll deduction. We also post the names of those who donated to the Legislative Fund on the roster and list in the Newsletter. I am explaining all this because sometimes we miss in listing a name, donation, or dues payment date in the Newsletter or on the Newsletter mailing label and don't mind receiving a note, phone call or email to inform us of our error.

Our Bill HB 2051 has passed the House and is now in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. There was a hearing on HB 2051 in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Monday, February 3, 2020. Directors Ray Orlando, Curt Vander, Ken Crowder, President Washington State Retired Police Officers Assoc. (WSRPO) and a representative of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) were all in attendance. Curt, Ken, the WSCFF Representative and I testified on the Bill. The Bill introduced and passed by the House will expand the eligibility for active & retired firefighters & law enforcement officers to serve on Pension and Disability boards. The Bill when passed, will allow any active or retired firefighter or law enforcement officer who is a resident and

(Continued on page 2)

Page 2 February 2020

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

taxpayer in a city covered by a board, to serve on the board, if elected by the members under the jurisdiction of the board.

Unfortunately, Bill Dickenson of the LEOFF I Coalition wanted to amend the House Bill to only allow firefighters and law enforcement officers who are residents of the city, fire dist., or fire authority and a member of a Washington State Police or Fire Retirement system. Our bill provides another option, if in some situation the members want to exercise it. Anytime you can get additional options, you should! I doubt this option would be used, but it could if the members choose to do so. A member under a city or other Disability Board could have a brother or other relative who is a retired firefighter or law enforcement officer from another state move home into Washington State and be willing to serve and be elected to the Disability Board. This would be far better than having a citizen at large elected to the board.

Another rationale is that active and retired firefighters are not secondclass citizens. As a resident and taxpayer, they can be elected mayor to the city council or any other city elected position, why can't they serve on a city Disability Board if elected by the members under the jurisdiction of the board? This is another example of how two groups can confuse a legislative committee and give them the option to do nothing. The Coalition didn't offer any solution in the first place and just last year testified to the Select Committee on Pension Policy that they were not aware of any problems filling the board positions. If they don't represent members at board hearings, they wouldn't be aware of these problems. Please call

the Legislative Hotline (360)786-7573, give your Legislative district number if you know it, or give your address and ask the operator to notify your State Senator and two State Representatives that you are in support of HB 2051, with no amendment as passed in the house.

We are getting bids for the printing of the LEOFF I survey that will be mailed to all the 6,900 LEOFF I members, police, fire, and surviving spouses. We currently have two bids. We hope to have the survey in the mail by March I, 2020. I also hope the results will provide us with enough information to bring us under one umbrella to ensure that we have the proper representation and protection in the future.

Why does the time change at 2 A.M. on Daylight Saving Time?

Time.com reports that the reason Daylight Saving Time starts at 2 a.m., rather than midnight, is all thanks to the railroads: Amtrak, specifically. When the country first experimented with Daylight Saving Time in 1918 during World War I, there were actually no trains that left New York City at 2 a.m. on a Sunday. Sunday morning at 2 a.m. was when they would interrupt the least amount of train travel around the country,.

Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 8th, 2020.

Don't forget to set your clocks forward!



Valentine's Day Facts

- In addition to the United
 States, Valentine's Day is
 celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.
 In Great Britain, Valentine's
 Day began to be popularly
 celebrated around the 17th
 century.
- Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s.
- There are two theories about the origin of Valentine's Day. According to History.com, one is that the day derives from Lupercalia, a raucous Roman festival
- Second theory is that Roman Emperor Claudius II was forbade young men to marry, because apparently single men make better soldiers. In the spirit of love, St. Valentine defied the ban and performed secret marriages. He was punished for his acts on February 14th.

Read more about Valentine's Day history on History.com

Page 3 February 2020

February Pension Report

By: Ray Sanderson

CERTAIN DISABILITY PAYMENTS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION MAY AF-FECT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENE-FITS:

Many people working nowadays have more than one job. This means they have several sources of income. It's important to keep in mind that having multiple sources of income can sometimes affect your Social Security benefits; but it depends on the source. Disability payments from private sources, such as private pensions or insurance benefits, do not affect your Social Security disability benefits. Workers' compensation and other public disability benefits, however, may reduce what you receive from Social Security. Workers' compensation benefits are paid to a worker because of a jobrelated injury or illness. These benefits may be paid by federal or state workers' compensation agencies, employers or by insurance companies on behalf of employers. Public disability payments that may affect your Social Security benefits are those paid from a federal, state or local government for disabling medical conditions that are not job-related. Examples of these are civil service disability benefits, state temporary disability benefits, and state or local government retirement benefits that are based on disability. Some public benefits do not affect your Social Security disability benefits. If you receive Social Security disability benefits, and one of the following types of

public benefits, your Social Security benefits will not be reduced:

- Veterans Administration benefits
- State and local government benefits if Social Security taxes were deducted from your earnings; or
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You can read how workers' compensation and other disability payments may affect your benefits to find out about the possible ways your benefits might be reduced. Please be sure to report changes. If there is a change in the amount of your other disability payment, or if those benefits stop, please notify us right away. Tell us if the amount of your workers' compensation or public disability payment increases or decreases. Any change in the amount or frequency of these benefits is likely to affect the amount of your Social Security benefits. An unexpected change in benefits can have unintended consequences. You can be better prepared if you're informed and have financially prepared yourself. Visit our benefits planner for information about your options for securing your future.

"How Workers' Compensation and Other Disability Payments May Affect Your Benefits" can be read at: https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10018.pdf

"The "Benefits Planner" is available at: https://www.ssa.gov/planners/

This article is from Mike Korbey, Deputy Commissioner for Communications, Social Security Administration, January 17, 2020.



Ground Hog's Day 2020

On February 2, 2020 Punxsutawney Phil came out of his den in Punxsutawney, Pa, and didn't see his shadow. That's right, Phil predicts an early spring!

Phil Facts

- According to folklore, groundhog Phil lives in his tiny hill in Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney where he emerges from his deep sleep every year.
- Since his first prediction in 1887 through this year, Phil has seen his shadow 104 times, while he has failed to spot it on just 20 oc-



casions.

Oregon Zoo's Stumptown Fil

Takes over for Hedgehogs

On Sunday, February 2, 2020, the Oregon zoo had Filbert A.K.A
"Stumptown Fil" an American Beaver, determine if we were going to have an

determine if we were going to have an early spring or six more weeks of winter. Like his pal in Punxsutawney, Fil predicted an early spring! Hedgehogs usually do the predictions but are no longer residents at the zoo. Zoo staff states that the hedgehogs were accurate 50% of the time compared to Phil's 39%.

Page 4 February 2020

RFFOW Meeting Minutes

1/8/2020

President Warbrouck opened the meeting at 1100 hours and led the National flag salute.

- Board Members in Attendance-President Warbrouck, Vice
 President Adsley, Directors Orlando, Vandver, Fisher, and Kinsella. Absent- Directors
 Bartlow, and Stanford.
 (currently one vacancy)
- Membership report- Director
 Fisher reported there were no new applications for membership this month.
- Meeting Minutes- A motion to approve the November Minutes as presented in the December newsletter was made and approved by the members in attendance. Note there was no official business meeting in December, rather the annual Christmas luncheon was held at the fabulous Inglewood Golf Club.

Financial Report- President Warbrouck reported that a CPA was hired to review the RFFOW financial reports prepared by our previous administrative assistant from March 2019 through November 2019. The CPA also prepared a profit and loss report to indicate where the funds were spent. The financial report is in correct order as presented at the meeting and was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

- In Memory- A minute of silence was held for 9 brothers and sisters as noted in the December newsletter.
- Patrick Brock
- George Nichols
- James Woodcock
- Donald Reed
- Charles Maehren
- Joseph Chapman
- John Tennesen
- Rosalie Stevenson -Husband was Stanley Stevenson
- Rita Chudecke- Husband was Peter Chudecke

Since then,

- Retired Battalion Chief Theodore Baskett passed on January 1, 2020
- And Retired Seattle Battalion
 Chief Albert T. Sprague passed
 on January 16,2020.
 - Old Business-President Warbrouck reported on the annual Christmas luncheon held at the Inglewood Golf Club again. Over 80 attended which was down a few from 2018. This is a fabulous facility, beautifully decorated including several Christmas trees. The food was again very good, and all present had a great time of fellowship with longtime friends. We are fortunate that one of our brothers belongs to this club and gives us the opportunity to meet there. We hope to see you there this

December.

President Warbrouck reported the 2020 Legislative session will begin on January 13, 2020. Being a nonbudget year, it will be a shorter 90day session. Our Bill HB2051 dealing with improving the eligibility to serve on LEOFFI local disability boards was approved in the House last year, but did not make it through the Senate as time in the session ran out. It will start in the House Rules committee this year and then the House floor and then back to the Senate Ways and Means committee, then Senate Rules and finally the Senate floor if all goes well. Dick plans on testifying before committees on this again. As you can see it takes a lot of work to address prospective legislation. Adsley mentioned the laws still currently do not address what happens to a local disability board when a city joins one of the newly formed regional fire authorities. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of amending HB2015 to include language to clarify this omission.

survey- The RFFOW LEOFFI survey committee of Warbrouck, Orlando, Vandver, and Adsley met with Jerry Taylor, President of the Retired Seattle Police Officers Association in late Fall to tie down the specific options to be included on the survey. Both associations will split the cost of this project.

(Continued on Pg. 5)

Page 5 February 2020

(continued from Pg. 4)

Adsley had prepared a two-page draft document which included a historical list of attacks associated with the LEOFFI pension fund, why we need to create a more unified response of LEOFFI beneficiaries in the future and survey questions. Based on numerous meetings Adsley submitted a revised three-page draft to all the above between the holidays. Jerry Taylor was asked to transform the information into a newsletter format that would also include his ideas for review. He provided that document in time for our meeting today. The RFFOW board survey committee members will meet after the general membership meeting to go over the draft from Jerry.

• The final document will be larger than all hoped, however, we know it is important that those returning the survey questions understand the importance of providing their favored approach. Dick mentioned that he plans to retire from the RFFOW presidency at the end of 2020. The RFFOW had 2500 members at one time and now we are down to 1002.

This provides additional incentive for working on this future representation survey for the benefit of all LEOFFI beneficiaries. Dick has worked on numerous legislations for correcting or improving the LEOFFI plan and defeating the bad proposals. Having attended many hearings in Olympia on this subject,

it is apparent to me the Legislators consider Dick Warbrouck to be the expert on these issues. It is imperative we plan for future representation now!

- The RFFOW sub committee
 will meet after the general
 meeting to go over the proposal
 from Jerry Taylor for final review.
- letter from Joyce Wilhelm, lobbyist for the Coalition, asking for a copy of the list of all LEOFFI beneficiaries used for the survey. The reality is DRS has only approved the RFFOW send information by this process. In reality, they provide the list to us. We send the document to be mailed to a third party and DRS provides them with the addresses. We never see the addresses.
- The Freedom Foundation has won a lawsuit that requires public agencies to provide employee contact information. It is not yet clear if that would affect pension system member information.

In a related matter we had asked through our attorney for all emails and other correspondence between Senator Van De Wege and others during the discussions of his proposal last session to merge Plan one and two funds. His office was evasive on the matter. That particular proposed legislation was dropped.

Seattle Prior Act Pension members-

President Warbrouck reported that these members will receive a nice increase and back pay based on approval of negotiations between the union and city. The new contract provides for a 6.6% increase and an average retroactive check for \$2376.00.

Good of the Order- Adsley reiterated the significance of President Warbrouck retiring position in the RFFOW at the end of the year. He also brought up a possible new issue with local disability boards. The City of SeaTac has had their prescription plan changed reportedly due to the state insurance Commissioner's office denying the old plan because it is considered too rich. Adsley is trying to get official documents to prove this happened. If so and the insurance commissioner can deny coverage, due to being too rich, this could be a problem for many local boards in the future.

Minutes prepared by Vice President Jim Adsley

In Memoriam

- Donald Hoffman 10/9/2019
- Georgiana Nielsen 10/27/2019
- Loraine Moe (Wife of Donald Moe)1/15/2020
- Albert Sprague Sr. 1/16/2020

Page 6 February 2020

January 22, 2020

LEOFF 2 Board Meeting Notes

- Steve Nelson called the meeting to order at 0930
- Several board Members attended by telephone, no board members were in the conference room.

Legislative update-Steve Nelson:

- Survivor Option Reelection HB 2678 SB 6417 have no scheduled hearings
- Month of Death Payment HB 1414, SB 5335, Legislature will use last year's bill. Bill reintroduced, retained in present status. No hearings scheduled.
- Definition of Period of War HB 2655, SB 6418
- Hearing rescheduled in House Appropriations in the afternoon of 1/23/2020
- Hearing on definition of Veteran rescheduled on 1/23/2020
- DRS has a bill to protect members medical information

General discussion held regarding PDRs by the Freedom Foundation, some of the information requested includes members mailing addresses. This is problematic for members of public safety, particularly Law Enforcement. The Freedom Foundation has sent out some mailings to opt-out of unions. The PDR requests is being held up in the Courts at the present time.

- Outreach

 Steve Nelson
- WSCFF Legislative Conference is February 4-5, 2020

Dues	Paid	hv	Payrol	ı
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Deduction

- Renee Anderson
- James Behrends
- Rod Brecht
- Elaine C. Brock
- Jack Day
- Clifford Desjardin
- Richard Forth
- Alfred Gray
- Douglas Hanson
- Dennis Harwood
- Jean Hunt

- Robert Iones
- Donald Kimball
- Mona Landers
- John Livers
- Charles Maehren
- Michael Maloney
- Nancy Nance
- William Otani
- Patricia Peak
- Samuel Ray
- Joseph Roozen
- Ronald Stadick
- Edna Steffens

- Alan Thomson
- Robert Wickham



Still need to pay your Dues?

Mail your payment to

RFFOW ANNUAL DUES

9134 207th Pl. SW

Edmonds, WA. 98026

Page 7 February 2020

PAC Donations

- ◆ \$500 Jack Day
- \$500 Michael
 McGovern
- \$303 Adrienne
 Hager
- \$300 Marion
 Herth
- \$298 Roy TeterJr.
- \$250 A.D. Vickery
- \$203 Lewis Eyman
- \$203 Edwin Jackson
- \$200 Frank Bladen
- \$200 Kenneth
 Carroll
- \$200 Dan Doles
- \$200 Evelyn Ferguson
- \$200 Richard
 Forth
- \$200 Bob L. Hansen
- \$200 Curtis Johnson
- \$200 John Livers
- \$200 Connie Sample
- \$150 Kathryn Hall
- \$150 Michael
 Maloney
- \$150 Elynor Roehr

- \$143 Monte Harrison
- \$143 Bill O'Brien
- \$143 Dan Zlock
- \$103 Robert Breda
- \$103 StevenBrooks
- \$103 Jeff Bontemps
- \$103 Alan Collinson
- \$103 Ronal Eckerman
- \$103 Pauline
 Kirlin
- \$103 Connie
 McGrath
- \$103 Ray R.Wiggs
- \$100 BarbaraCrawley
- \$100 Jerry Davis
- \$100 Douglas
 Easter
- \$100 Alfred Gray
- \$100 William Hull
- \$100 Mona
 Landers
- \$100 Jacqueline
 Melsted
- \$100 WilliamMitchell
- \$100 Dwayne Paul
- \$100 John Sim-

mons

- \$100 ThomasTrunk
- \$100 Robert
 Wickham
- \$100 Ray Wiggs
- \$100 CharlesWright Jr.
- \$68 Eugene Hasson
- \$53 Lyle Lewis
- \$50 Jerry Shearer
- \$46 Ralph
 Maughan
- \$43 Tom Betrozoff
- \$43 Eddie Brown
- \$43 Karl R. Burley
- ◆ \$43 Jean Hunt
- \$43 Rod Huthison
- \$43 Chuck Kahler
- \$43 Ronald Larkin
- ◆ \$43 Ron Profit
- \$43 Chuck
 Seeman
- \$43 Lucille
 Thrasher
- \$36 Jeri Gough
- \$25 John R. Ellis
- \$25 Samuel L. Ray
- \$18 Clyde Nihipali
- #12 Daham \/am

\$13 Robert VanDyke



Retired Firefighters Of Washington

Published once a month by the Retired Firefighters of Washington: 9134 207th PI SW, Edmonds WA 98026-6659. Phone: 425-775-9080, Fax: 425-776-7939, website: www.rffow.org. All articles and classifieds need to be received by the **20th of the month**. Classifieds are for personal property of members only – not personal business. The Retired Firefighters of Washington reserves the right to reject or cancel any classified. For any questions, please contact Amalia Akagi (contact information below).

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Page 8 February 2020

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The next Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11th at 11:00am;
Calvary Christian Assembly, 6801 Roosevelt Way NE Seattle, WA

2020 Dues Paid

Dwight Altenburg Robert Anderson Bill Ashe Jerry W. Bailey William Barger Don Bartelson Judy Bedard Marvin Berg Melvin Berg Tom Betrozoff Frank Bladen Hugh Bond Jeff Bontemps Robert Breda Herbert Brooks Steven Brooks Eddie Brown Twyla Bryant Karl R. Burley William Bush Ray Cadwallader David Campbell Kenneth Carroll Charlotte Clark Richard Clemens LARRY COFER Alan Collinson Michael Rae Cooke Frederick Corlis

Alvie Covington Larry Crane Mick Crawford **Hubert Crawley** Jerry Davis Dailene Dean Gail Denk Clifford Desjardin Dan Doles Douglas R. Easter Ronald Eckerman John Ellis Lewis Eyman Evelyn Ferguson Michael D. Foley Robert Fuhrman Wavne Garder Charles Gardner Kenneth Gibler Gene Gideon Dennis L. Gill Wesley Goss Jeri Gough Carol Green Gerald Grill Rex Guichard Adrienne Hager Kathi Hall Bob L. Hansen

Douglas Hanson James L. Hanson Valerie Harrison Dennis Harwood Eugene Hasson Willis Hawks Thomas Hazelwood Richard Hearon Michael Heaton Lou Hegtuelt Marion Herth Lou Heytvelt III James Hill Don Hirschman Steve Hull William Hull Jean Hunt Rod Huthison Rebecca Hvde Edwin Jackson Ferdie Jay Barbara Johnson Curtis Johnson Lois Johnson Lee Jones Chuck Kahler Barbara Kellis Donald Kimball Charles King

Ken Kingman Pauline Kirlin Mona Landers Ronald Larkin Lyle Lewis Jerry Little Katherine Maehren Duane Malo Michael Malonev Ralph Maughan Michael McGovern Connie McGrath Dorothy Mchus Myrtle McLean Karen McRae Bertha Mead Dorothy Mehus Jacqueline Melsted Walter Michl Carole Sue Miller Steve Mitchell William Mitchell Gary Newton David Nevens Jim Niemi Cylde Nihipali Willis Norman Bill O'Brien Steven Oleson

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