



The Siren

Important News and Updates for NYSPFFA Members

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September 2012

nyspffa.org

Vol. #1, Issue #2

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UPDATE FROM THE STATE CAPITOL

Our bills — described below — have been delivered to the Governor. We have submitted letters in support for each of these bills to the Governor on behalf of the NYSPFFA.

[A.9943-C \(Brindisi\)](#) - addresses the immediate need to continue ambulance services in Utica and Glens Falls. If the bill is vetoed, their current ambulance services are in jeopardy of being terminated.

[A.5739-A \(Abbate\)](#) - extends accidental disability benefits to police officers and firefighters that have contracted methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) on the job. Current law applies to HIV, TB and hepatitis, but not MRSA.

[A.9367-A \(Abbate\)](#) - requires NYC fire officers to be trained in changes to building and construction codes and local ordinances in NYC—a minimum of 40 hours of field training and 40 hours of classroom instruction to be completed no later than July 1, 2014.

Upcoming District Meetings—[First District](#), October 2

NYSPFFA Insurance Program—Open Enrollment period, October 8 through December 7. Click [here for forms](#).

NYSPFFA Health & Safety Conference—October 16-18, Syracuse, NY - See the [agenda](#), or [register](#).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this newsletter, please contact Joseph Dougherty or John Black at (518) 436-0751. For other questions or concerns, please contact your NYSPFFA leadership — Mike McManus or Sam Fresina — at (518) 436.8827.

POTENTIAL CONTROL BOARD LEGISLATION

In recent months, many people, including the Governor, have publically discussed legislation establishing a “super control board” to manage cash-poor and/or insolvent local governments.

If established, a super control board would likely have the authority to freeze wages and other negotiated benefits contained in collective bargaining agreements.

Read NYSPFFA’s detailed memo on the issue [here](#).

AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED ON 9/11 MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

One day before the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Gov. Cuomo and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg resolved a longstanding dispute over the funding and oversight of the Sept. 11 museum and memorial.

The resolution of the dispute involves additional cash payments from the Sept. 11 foundation for construction costs, closer coordination among the parties and the creation of an advisory committee to resolve disputes.”

Read the MOU [here](#).

COURT SAYS RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS CAN BE REDUCED IN RETIREMENT

Judge Kevin Ryan of State Supreme Court in Clinton County recently issued a decision which found that a school district acted lawfully when it reduced retiree health benefits after a similar reduction was made through the collective bargaining process for active employees.

While this decision is expected to be appealed, this decision — and the reasoning behind it — are obviously of major concern to all public labor organizations through out the state.

NYSPFFA SUBMITS AMICUS BRIEF TO COURT OF APPEALS

On September 26, 2012 the NYSPFFA submitted its brief *amicus curie* to the Court of Appeals in support of Yonkers Local 628’s appeal seeking to protect its members right to elect a non-contributory retirement plan in the wake of Tier V.

The NYSPFFA’s brief seeks to notify the Court that its decision will effect Locals statewide.

NYC MAYOR DIRECTS CITY AGENCIES TO CUT BUDGETS

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has ordered all city agencies to cut their spending by a total of \$2 billion during an 18-month period beginning January 1, 2013.

In a letter to city agency heads, the city budget director told agencies to identify \$750 million in cuts from the current fiscal year’s budget by October 4. Cuts are expected to be implemented in November. Agencies were also directed to identify an additional \$1.25 billion in savings for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.

The city’s budget situation took a turn for the worse last month, when a State Supreme Court Justice struck down the city’s plan to auction 2,000 new yellow-taxi medallions, which was expected to generate \$635 million in the current fiscal year and \$1.46 billion over three years.

The mayor has raised the possibility of layoffs, saying the budget cuts will likely result in the need to decrease the city’s workforce.