



The Blue Hydrant

Methuen Police / Firefighter Retirees Association

290 Broadway, Suite 133,
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

Our new website www.mpfra.com

Our next meeting – March 4, 2010 – 7:00 PM – Police Squad Room

Sunshine Committee

Call Vinny Belfiore if you know of anyone needing a card, cheering up, etc. at 978-683-6801.

Our Meeting Place

We meet in the Squad Room in the Police Station, 90 Hampshire St., Methuen.

'10 MEETING CALENDAR

www.mpfra.com

Dues for 2010 are due!

Please send your dues today to:

MPFRA

290 Broadway

Suite 133

Methuen, MA 01844

NEVER BE COMPLACENT!!

M.P.F.R.A.'s current
Officers:

President – Robert A. Murad

Vice – Brian Kane

Secretary/Treasurer

Stephen J. Devan

E-mail Notification

The M.P.F.R.A. wants to be able to keep in touch with all its members. To help lower postage fees, if you have an e-mail address we can create a list and send information more often and more cheaply. Stay connected!

Please let us know.

Send an e-mail to:

contact@mpfra.com

IMPORTANT NEWS!

The information we have been receiving from outside sources and the Insurance Coalition are NOT favorable for us as retirees.

The Insurance committee will do it's best to stay abreast of any changes planned by the State or city that will affect us and our benefits.

The Blue Hydrant will now be available exclusively on our new website:

www.mpfra.com

Check in often for important updates that may affect your status as a retiree.

Meeting Attendance

This organization operates for the benefit of all Police and Firefighter Retirees. It has a long standing reputation of bringing you important information that ultimately protects our benefits.

We are in the middle of a crisis that is threatening our insurance benefits and have tried to schedule speakers to educate us about alternative solutions. For some time attendance has fallen off and routinely ten members attend regularly. We need your attendance, input, and ideas so we can remain a viable vehicle defending our rights.

This is an important reminder – if we do not continue to pay attention to the threats of changes to our insurance coverage and benefits, we face much higher co-pays for office visits, emergency room visits, and prescription medication. All these added expenses will rapidly consume any promised savings through lower monthly premiums. Don't be fooled!

Possible New Venue

We are looking for a new venue to hold our meetings. If we were to change locations, would you have a stronger interest to attend?

We have had suggestions like the conference room at the Central Fire Station. Another is the VFW on River St. We can meet and throw down a few at the same time.

We can ask at the Methuen Senior Center too. Please get back to us with feedback at contact@mpfra.com

City Hall (without mentioning names) has put the pension in jeopardy. At the last city council meeting it was voted to hold payment to the State pension Fund until July 1, 2010. This money was supposed to be paid last July. An arrangement had been struck that would allow Methuen to postpone the July 2009 payment until December and pay half. The remainder could be paid in monthly installments from January through June. The City has refused to pay anything. This will add 12% to the amount owed, and there will be legal fees that will have to be paid as well. Retirees are being disregarded when it comes to a simple thing like paying the money owed for the retirees

to the state. This is why we need you to pay attention and participate in the MPFRA. Please pay your dues, please attend meetings, and please be part of the organization!

Political Attention

Senator Steven Baddour and State Representative Linda Dean Campbell are never at any meetings at City Hall. Neither have helped the retirees, even after being asked. They have not been there to answer questions at City Council Meetings even after extensive newspaper notice was given to their constituents. We need to take notice and ask them why they are failing to represent us, the citizens and retirees of Methuen, their constituents.

They are behind the move to drive the city employees and retirees to the GIC. Other cities and towns are begging to get out of it. Co-Pays are doubling and deductibles and monthly payments are on the rise too. Don't let the city dump us to the curb to save a dime at our expense.

We Welcome Your Input

Do you have something to add? Just let us know.

contact@mpfra.com

Take a look at the first web page and check out the information about the GIC. Then take a look at the new changes taking effect in February of 2010. All participants in the GIC are having to bear the load of increasing costs while the state is doing anything they can to turn the burden onto the members of the GIC.

If we are not aware of the changes that may be in store for us we are destined to fall through the cracks and become another statistic.

We all should be mad as Hell and take action. Instead it seems there is complacency about the topic of insurance and soon there will be nothing we can do if we are not proactive TODAY!!



Be Proactive!