



*New Jersey State
Retired Police And Firemen's
Association, Inc.*

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 07, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the New Jersey State Retired Policemen and Firemen's Association was called to order by President Valdora on Monday December 07, 2015 at 12 PM. The meeting convened at the Willingboro FOP Lodge, 4136 US Rt. 130, Beverly, Burlington County, New Jersey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PRAYER IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED BROTHERS:

President Valdora led the members present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

Local 16 Delegate Merrill Kelem read a prayer in memory of our members and all policemen and firemen who have passed away and asked for a moment of silence. In particular all members were asked to keep in their thoughts on this, the Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DELEGATES:

President Valdora conducted a roll call of Officers/Delegates.

Officers and Delegates present were:

President Joseph Valdora

2nd Vice President Dennis Deal

Treasurer Len Mundy

Financial Secretary James Stewart

Trustee Ed Rappleyea

Trustee Ed Strittmatter

1st Vice President David Earle

3rd Vice President Walt Sztatjowski

Secretary William McKnight

Sergeant at Arms Bill Seaman

Trustee Robert Del Sordo Esq.

ATTENDANCE:

<u>Local</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Local</u>
1. Essex County 2	7. Cumberland Co 0	13. Morris County 0
2. Folded 12/31/08	8. Ocean County 1	14. (Merged with Local # 3)
3. Union County 0	9. Middlesex-Monmouth Co 5	15. Cape May County 1
4. Hudson County 3	10. Burlington County 2	16. Atlantic County 5
5. Passaic County 0	11. Gloucester-Camden 3	22. Florida 0
6. Salem County 0	12. Mercer County 1	
	Total in attendance	23

(Refer to attachment # 1)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

President Valdora noted that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on September 21st 2015 had been distributed by email and by US Mail to those who do not have email available. A motion was made by Local 16, Seconded by Local 4 to accept them as distributed. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

No Report.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

No Report.

PENSION BOARD ISSUES:

Member Frank Casey reported on the following Pension Issues : He supplied documents required upon the death of a member which must be filed in a timely manner by the surviving spouse and relatives. Many are time sensitive and must be submitted as soon as possible. Attached are these Survivor Benefit Forms and the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision information, which can have significant financial impact if not properly completed. Member Casey offered to provide information for any member, spouse or family member who needs help. His contact information is contained on the first page of the documents.

(Refer to attachment # 2)

Member Robert Brown Esq. reports the court proceedings are in the briefing stage. Copies of these documents are available on the After The Badge Website : <http://www.afterthebadge.com/AfterTheBadgeHome.php>

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Treasurer Len Mundy gave the financial report for the period of June 22, 2015 thru September 2, 2015. He reported the following:

Cash on hand as of June 22, 2015	\$	11,695.84
Total Receipts	+ \$	867.00
Disbursements	- \$	<u>1,485.09</u>
Cash on hand as of September 2, 2015	\$	11,077.75

A motion was made by Local 10 seconded by Local 12 to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented. Motion carried. (**Refer to attachment # 3**)

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

LEGISLATIVE

Trustee Robert Del Sordo Esq. reports there will be no COLA this year. In addition to the legal issues the cost of living index is at approximately 1% which would not trigger a COLA if it was in effect.

He said there will be no property tax relief this year and the Homestead Rebate is going away.

Trustee Del Sordo said to be attentive to any proposed legislation efforts to combine all pension assets under one fund. The combining of the Police and Fire Pension system with other pension systems such as the Teacher's Pension and the Public Employee's Pension would greatly lessen the value of our pension fund. Our pension fund is funded at a higher rate than others.

He reported that Governor Christie will sign a bill cutting the sales tax on boats sold in NJ. The bill would also cap the amount of sales or use tax that can be imposed on yacht sales at \$20,000, which applies to yachts sold for more than \$571,000

Other pending legislation includes driver's licenses for illegal aliens, Internet voting, recreational marijuana, a four foot stay away from bicycle riders law, and a law to require turning on the interior lights of a motor vehicle when stopped by the Police. A motion by Local 16 and seconded by Local 11 to have our organization support this piece of legislation was passed.

Trustee Del Sordo has presented and provided Veteran Service Branch plaques and flags to the USCG Basic Training Base in Cape May, the Disabled American Veterans and the Camden County College. On January 6th 2016 at 6 PM he will make a presentation to the USS Battleship New Jersey. All are invited to attend, and let him know if you will be attending. The value of these presentations is immense, and fulfill our need to be known and a group to be listened to.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

No Report

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

No Report.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

No Report.

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Local 1- Christmas Party to be held tomorrow December 9th. There will also be a member of the Year Award.

Local 3 – No Report.

Local 4 - Has had their Christmas Party and it was well attended.

Local 5 - No Report.

Local 6 - No Report.

Local 7 - No Report.

Local 8- No Report.

Local 9 - This Wednesday December 9th at 3PM in the Hiberian Hall their Christmas Party will be held. Cost is \$ 15.00 / person. All are invited.

Local 10 - Christmas Party is on December 8th at 6:30 PM and the cost is \$ 10 / person and the Executive Board is free. It is at 312 Filmore in Riverside NJ in a private museum. Filet, beer and wine will be featured.

Local 11 - Christmas Party is on December 12th at the Coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill. Cost is \$ 15 / person. The Coastline is closing and this is the Local's last event there.

Local 12 - The Christmas Party is Friday December 11th and is sold out. Meeting attendance has been high at 50 members plus.

Local 15 - No Report.

Local 16 - Christmas Party is December 19th at 2 PM in the Italian Gourmet Restaurant. Jim Leeds and Pitney Road, Galloway Twp NJ. Cost is \$ 15 / person and all are invited. There will be a Chinese Auction there also. Contact Ron DiGiovanni if you wish to attend : ronsrjr@comcast.net

Local 16 has blue 'Police Lives Matter' soft bracelets. Cost is \$ 2.00 each or 3 for \$ 5.00 ; contact Ron for these also.

Local 22 – No Report

MEETING VENUE/REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Looking into holding the June meeting at the Battleship New Jersey. This will be discussed at future meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The 2016 Executive Board and State Officers will be sworn in at the January 25th meeting. The new Board and Officers is attached. (**Refer to attachment # 4**)

NEW BUSINESS

President Valdora reports a low voter turnout in the November 2015 Elections of only 22 %. The efforts to not support those legislators who did not in turn support our pensions was successful, with four legislators losing their positions. President Valdora said we must continue our efforts with other similar organizations.

President Valdora said the recent gun legislation and the governor's veto of a bill to include police in the judicial process of deciding whether a person with a documented mental illness can get a gun permit; requires us to let our legislators know how we feel. The organization has post cards to send to the legislators and provided these to the attendees for their locals.

Member Robert Brown Esq. suggested our organization support legislation to deputize all retired police officers. This would provide a level of immunity if a retired officer fires their weapon. Member Brown will prepare a letter for our Organization in support of this proposal and present this to President Valdora.

Member M. Kelem proposed the June 2016 State Meeting be held on the Battleship New Jersey. President Valdora will look into this and the associated costs if any.

President Valdora informed all the members the old website was placed on the newer cards and this will be corrected from this point forward. The new website is :

WWW.njrpfa.org

GOOD AND WELFARE

Trustee Bob Del Sordo, a member of the faculty at the Camden County College informed all the college is offering a Certificate in Homeland Security. Bob said this is a valuable credential in today's environment and employment market. Please contact him for further information and assistance.

The next meeting will be held on January 25th 2016 at the Willingboro FOP Lodge, 4136 Rt 130, Beverly, Burlington County, NJ.

MEETING DATES FOR 2016

Monday January 25, 2016
Monday March 28, 2016
Monday June 20, 2016
Monday September 26, 2016
Monday December 5, 2016

ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made Local 16 and seconded by Local 9 to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting closed at 2:25 PM.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 –	Attendance Sheet
Attachment 2 –	Pension Survivor Benefit Forms
Attachment 3–	Report of the Treasurer
Attachment 4–	2016 State Officers