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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

If you overlooked it, annual dues for fiscal year June 2002 - May 2003 are overdue. If you already renewed your membership, ignore the reminder. If you haven't, please use the remittance form inside and the convenient return envelope enclosed. Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since our Special Spring Newsletter urging all PARA members and friends to contact both Legislatures in Albany regarding the respective bills enhancing our COLA, there is unfortunately not much positive to report. The bills, A9889 in the Assembly and S6775 in the Senate did not get acted upon before the Summer recess for both Houses. This despite the Legislative Lobby Day on May 31 when as many Legislators as possible were personally contacted by the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations in their offices urging them to pass the COLA legislation bills. As of this writing, the 2002 Legislative session is in recess mode. If they return to session during the remainder of this year it will probably be for some special legislation and not likely for any retiree legislation. All 2002 pending legislation not passed before December 31, 2002 will automatically die. To be considered during the 2003 legislative session, pending bills would have to be re-introduced as new legislation. Actually, your PARA Board of Directors as members of the Alliance are already at work on this important issue. Meetings have already been held and will continue right up to the end of the year and thereafter.

This years COLA efforts have been hampered by the fact that our champion, Comptroller H. Carl McCall, has been busy campaigning for the office of Governor of New York. It was through his efforts and leadership that the 50% COLA we now have was passed by both Legislators and signed by Governor Pataki. Now Mr. McCall is in a head to head race with Governor Pataki for the office of New York State Governor. With this decision on his part concentrating on the campaign he in effect vacated the Office of Comptroller and it is now up for grabs in the forthcoming November 5 election. Rest assured that as soon as the new Comptroller is elected and settled in, PARA will be at his doorstep reactivating the call for a full COLA with the increased cap and other enhancements.

To review, these are:

1. Increase COLA adjustments from 50% to 100% of the CPI.
2. Increase the CPI benefit from 3% to 5%.
3. Raise the current cap from \$18,000 to \$25,000.

These COLA enhancements would affect retirees who have been retired 5 years and who are 55 years old or older.

We thank all of you who contacted your respective elected representatives as requested in our Spring Special Newsletter. We will again request your help as soon as the smoke clears after the election and will provide new bill numbers as they become available to pursue the issue of a full COLA which you so rightfully deserve.

*"By the time you can make ends meet,
they move the ends."*

INTERFAITH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Obviously with our far spread out 4000 PARA memberships, all were not able to attend the first annual Interfaith Remembrance Service for our lost colleagues on September 11, 2002 at the Riverside Church in New York City.

For those who were able to attend, it was a most moving and memorable experience. As expected, it was consistent with the typical top quality, professional performance of virtually all programs that the Port Authority put on or for which it was responsible during the golden years most remember. There was a multitude of dignitaries and Port Authority colleagues in attendance—a veritable packed house with people outside listening to the proceedings via loudspeakers.

We thought it important to include here excerpts from the program for our membership who were unable to attend. The actual sequence of the service follows:

PROGRAM		
1:00 PM	CHURCH OPENS	String Quartet Selections "Kyrle" Requiem. W.A.Mozart "At the River," Aaron Copland
1:59 PM	TOLLING OF BOURBON BELL	
2:00 PM	SERVICE BEGINS	Entrance of Port Authority Police Pipe & Drum Port Authority Police Honor Guard
2:05 PM	SONG	National Anthem, Diana Solomon-Glover The Riverside Church
2:08 PM	WELCOME and 23 rd PSALM	Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. The Riverside Church
2:12 PM	WORDS OF COMFORT	George E. Pataki, Governor of New York James E. McGreevey, Governor of New Jersey
2:25 PM	READING	Rev. Joseph J. D'Angelo, CMC, PAPD Chaplain The Lord's Prayer
2:27 PM	READING	Christy Ferer Levin
	LIGHTING OF CANDELS	Linda Morrone
	READING OF NAMES OF HEROES	Ernesto L. Butcher, Chief Operating Officer, The Port Authority of NY & NJ
2:40 PM	MOMENT OF SILENCE	
2:41 PM	CLOSING PRAYER	Rabbi Isaac M. Heschel, PAPD Chaplain
	RETIRING of COLORS	Port Authority Police Pipe & Drums Port Authority Police Honor Guard
2:45 PM	PROGRAM CONCLUDES	

The reading of the names of the fallen heroes of 9/11 as well as those lost in the first World Trade Center bombing on Feb. 6, 1993 by Chief Operating Officer Ernesto L. Butcher was most moving as one might expect. There probably was not a dry eye in the church.

The following is taken verbatim from the program without pride of authorship and we feel it speaks for all of us:

Together, we can turn
remembrance into renewal.

We commemorate the events of September 11, 2001, knowing that our will to move forward
is made stronger by the memory of everything that day has come to mean.

We believe that to rebuild, we must remember, and to renew, we must dream. It is in this spirit of
optimism that we resolve never to lose sight of the strength, dedication, and bravery of
our Port Authority colleagues and friends, and all those who lost their lives that day.

We stand united with them all, and their families, today and forever.

*"We each have only enough strength to complete those assignments that we are
fully convinced are important."*

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

As you may have noticed our masthead has changed somewhat to reflect some recent changes in the composition of our Board of Directors. These changes stem from a host of reasons ranging from travel distance to attend meetings, relocation, family considerations and in one case a death. In the interest of their own privacy, we are not specific as to the reasons for their resignations but can assure you that they have the highest regard for PARA and will assist in any way possible if called upon in the future.

Our Chairman Emeritus Hal Milley, who was the driving force behind the formation of PARA in 1988, has tendered his resignation effective with this Newsletter after 14 years serving us. Every Port Authority retiree owes Hal a debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts in Albany over the years in improving the lot of all retirees.

Jim Carlock, also one of the original 8 Board of Directors who has served the Board loyally over these 14 years, has also resigned. Jim, the author of our By-Laws and frequent visitor to Albany to represent us could always be counted upon to keep us on track in all that we do.

Cy Storer, also one of our founding fathers left this world a better place than he found it and may he rest in peace.

One of our Newsletter editors, Judith Schiffer, and recent Board member, Tom O'Kane and Vince Bonaventura who contributed greatly to this Newsletter and our liaison with Mother PONYA have also rendered their resignations for family and travel reasons.

We thank all those departing Board members from the bottom of our hearts for all their time and effort to better the lot of their fellow retirees past, present and future.

Our Membership Committee headed by Tom Donovan is busy at work seeking and sounding out replacements. One of our newly appointed replacements as noted in the masthead is Dick Williams, formerly of N.I.A. as his last assignment before retirement. We welcome Dick aboard with his depth of knowledge and know he will make significant contributions to PARA and carry on in the highest traditions of his predecessors. Welcome aboard Dick!

"If you are too open minded, your brains will fall out."

DUES SLIP CHANGES

Owing to a number of requests and to assist with our bookkeeping, the annual dues registrations slip has been slightly changed. We still want to encourage Sponsor Contributions over and above the \$5.00 annual dues to support this Newsletter and other costs but we want to ensure that everyone gets credit for dues payment. Your cooperation and understanding will be greatly appreciated!

----- Detach here -----

Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 331, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008-0212

Please print or type:

Last Name _____ First _____ Home Phone Number _____ (_____) _____ Year _____
Check P.A. Employee
 P.A. Retiree

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Address CHECK :

Name, address, or phone number changed? Yes No

Enclosed is \$5.00 Annual Membership Dues (June 2002 through May 2003). Receipts in excess of annual dues are welcomed and credited as Sponsor Contributions.

Please submit checks only payable to: Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.

STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER

1. The World Trade Center Port Authority Relief Fund Chairman reports that nearly 4 million dollars were raised for families of PA employees who lost loved ones in the 9/11/01 tragedy. This equates to roughly 54 thousand dollars for each family. PARA contributed 10 thousand dollars from your dues money and a letter of appreciation was received from Chairman of the Board Jack G. Sinagra. Thank you one and all!
2. Your full Board of PARA Directors met on April 18 at the JSTC; on June 13 at the PABT, on September 18 at the JSTC and will meet at the PABT on November 13. The primary focus of these meetings was to develop strategy for the full COLA with the respective Legislative bodies in Albany as well as the day-to-day contacts with Mother PONYA on retiree issues.
3. In our previous Newsletters we erroneously reported an incorrect E-mail address for Bob Foote who is compiling a list of retirees on line. The correct E-mail address is bobfoote@adelphia.net (no spaces, no caps.) Despite our error, the E-mail list keeps growing and it numbers well over 150 at this writing. It's a great way to stay in touch and it is planned to put out news flashes from time to time. If you have E-mail.....sign on!
4. The Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of which PARA is a member meets monthly in Albany on COLA and other retiree issues. As reported elsewhere, a huge rally was held in Albany last Spring to push for a COLA and our efforts will continue until the battle is won.
5. Thirty PA staff retired so far this year compared to only 13 in all of 2001. It was interesting to note that none retired in December last year when typically that is the month for large numbers (156 retired Dec. 2000 and 127 retired Dec. 1999).
6. Many PA staff are still scattered amongst the facilities and an up-dated directory will be published later this year. In the meantime those retirees moving and changing home addresses should send these changes to Brenda Jimenez, PANY-NJ, Journal Square Transportation Center, One PATH Plaza 1st floor, Jersey City, N.J. 07306. A copy should also be sent to one of the addresses on this Newsletter masthead. Most Executive Officers have been relocated to 225 Park Ave South, NY, NY 10003. Other offices will be relocated throughout the year.

PA Benefits can be reached at: 212-435-2870

Currently there are PA Offices at the Newark Legal Center, Journal Square Transportation Center, Port Authority Technical Center in Jersey City, 5 Marine Plaza, Hoboken, One Madison Ave, NYC, 115 Broadway, NYC.

7. For those of you who are interested the Port Authority Employees Bowling League is still active. It is the oldest American Bowling Congress sanctioned league in the U.S. They meet Tuesday nights at 5:45 PM at Hudson Lanes, Bayonne, N.J. For more information contact Joe Barbariantz (845) 783-4349.

"A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel good."

