

**OFFICERS and BOARD**

**NEW YORK**

Albert Rubbert, Pres.  
Alan Gonseth, Vice Pres.  
Patricia Beckhard, Editor  
Vince Bonaventurra  
Anthony De Biase  
Thomas F. Donovan  
Lee Goodman  
Richard Helman  
Edward J. O'Malley  
Richard L. Rowe  
Mario V. Salzano  
Judith Schiffer\*

**NEW JERSEY**

Harold A. Milley, Chairman Emeritus  
Stephen P. Kenny, Second Vice Pres., Secretary  
Bernard J. Duffy, Treasurer  
James G. Carlock  
Harry Greene  
Thomas Kearney  
Cornelius Lynch  
Thomas O'Kane\*  
Al Pettenati  
Stanley Raith, Ass't Editor  
Merle Robb  
Cy Storer

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

Annual Membership renewal for June 1999-May 2000 is due. Just use the remittance slip inside and the new convenient return envelope enclosed. You can't beat it for the price! Don't forget to let your elected representatives know you are watching how they vote on retiree issues!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Al Rubbert*

As you know, other than some Special Newsletters last Summer and Fall regarding status of pension issues, we did not publish a Winter issue owing to a host of reasons mainly devoting our energies to the Albany scene. Suffice it to say we are back on schedule and have added some recent retirees to your Board of Directors as indicated on our masthead, namely, Judith Schiffer and Tom O'Kane. Both bring a wealth of experience and expertise to our Board and we are delighted they have agreed to serve. Welcome Judith and Tom!

The Albany activities included lobbying Legislators all these months for added pension benefits, health insurance protection and other issues. There have been numerous special and regular meetings with the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations as well as with the Comptroller and his staff which continue as we go to press.

Chief among the issues being pursued is the game plan for a Permanent COLA beginning in the year 2000. (See "The Battle Begins Anew"). Our recently won pen-

sion supplement, the second phase of which kicks in this September, is scheduled to expire in August 2000. Experience has taught us it is never too early to push for a Permanent COLA particularly in the face of an election year and speculation that Governor Pataki may seek higher, national office.

Your officers attended several Pension Justice rallies in Albany displaying the PARA banner and visiting with numerous Legislators pushing our cause. These treks will continue until the Legislature recesses for the Summer but dialogue and visits with the Comptroller and his staff to script a Permanent COLA will continue throughout the months ahead.

Meanwhile, Summer well and as we reach key decision points and need you to contact your Legislators, we will advise you again via Special Newsletter.

*"Only Robinson Carusoe had everything done by Friday."*

**THE BATTLE BEGINS ANEW**

When the smoke of the New York State elections last November cleared, we were delighted to learn that the retiree's champion, H. Carl McCall, was re-elected as State Comptroller for another term. While it is not PARA's policy to dabble in politics, his re-election bodes well for all current and future Port Authority retirees. His tireless efforts exhorting State elected

officials over the past 3 years resulted in supplemental retirement increases which those of you who retired prior to 1992 began receiving last September and which will include those 1993 retirees beginning September this year. Comptroller McCall stated he would not re-submit his Performance COLA bill again in the current legislative session since the current sup-

*(Please turn to page 2)*

plement which kicks in in September is good until August 2000. However, he will work with various supportive Legislators to have a Permanent COLA introduced in the next session for the year 2000.

As we reported in our last Special Newsletter announcing the newly won pension enhancement, the trek to Albany began anew for your officers in the current legislative session. We could not (and should not) rest on our laurels and were committed to support the Comptroller every step of the way cultivating some of the newly elected Legislators and reminding others of past promises made. As time goes on, we will be calling upon you to contact the appropriate elected officials to finally get a Permanent COLA bill passed.

Meanwhile, we thought it would be helpful to review some excerpts from the Comptroller's program as a refresher and to prepare you for the battle that looms ahead.

"As sole-trustee of the New York State & Local Retirement Systems (NYSLRS), I take pride in the performance of our Common Retirement Fund, the high standard of service we provide our members and retirees, and retirement benefits that compare favorably with other pension plans around the Nation.

But there is one feature of our Retirement Systems in which I take no pride. Our Retirement Systems, and the others in New York State, are among the worst in the Nation in protecting pensions from being eroded by inflation after retirement.

So, while most of our pensioners retire with adequate annual allowances, New York State allows their pensions to shrink over time. Year after year, the thief that is inflation enters their homes, opens their pocketbooks, and steals their money—while we, as a State, do little to help them. Most years we do nothing.

Since becoming Comptroller, I have received thousands of complaints from pensioners underscoring the inequity of this feature of our Retirement Systems. These folks thought they had done everything right. They worked hard providing needed public services to their fellow citizens. They were Police Officers, Firefighters and Teachers. They cleared the roads during snowstorms, removed our refuse, and administered vital public programs. They worked for decades, accumulating enough years to receive a pension on which they could live, and then they retired. A decade-or-two later they are in trouble, some living below the poverty line, and facing dependence on welfare and

Medicaid.

For the past three years, I have proposed scrapping ad hoc supplementation in New York State, and replacing it with a program that more closely resembles those of most other States, i.e., a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA). As you'll see in Part 2, most States' COLAs are based upon the consumer price index (CPI). As inflation goes up, benefits go up. This is how Social Security works.

Other States' COLAs are investment-related, and correspond to the performance of their retirement funds. I proposed such a COLA for our State in 1997, and again in 1998. The performance COLA, as the proposal was called, was ideally suited for the NYSLRS and the State Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS). However, some New York City retirees groups were not enthusiastic about Performance COLA. For this and other reasons, it was not enacted.

As a matter of equity and political necessity, all retirement systems in New York State, whether State or City, should have the same COLA program. This is a lesson learned of experience.

During the 1997 Legislative Session, and again in 1998, I proposed that my Performance COLA be supported for NYSLRS, and NYSTRS and that City retirement systems be supported in whatever reasonable plan worked best for them. Unfortunately, this only served to divide our coalition, and let the Legislature and Executive Chamber off the hook. It is now clear that a COLA will only come from unity among all retirement systems in the State.

Because the ad hoc supplement passed by the Legislature in 1998 unfolds over two years, covering those retiring 1992 and earlier during 1998, and those retiring in 1993 during 1999 (with modest increases in the cap both years), the Legislature is unlikely to act on any COLA or supplement proposal before the year 2000. We must use the time prior to the 2000 Legislative Session to arrive at a COLA proposal that meets the needs of all public retirement systems in the State.

Therefore, I am suggesting a process to bring together the best minds in all our State's retirement systems, along with policy experts from governments, unions, employer groups, and, of course, retiree groups, with the objective of agreeing to one COLA proposal to be introduced and passed in the year 2000.

*(Please turn to page 3)*

## THE BATTLE (continued from page 2)

This process, call COLA/2000, begins now. I am adamant that this process be guided by four principles. Any proposal emerging from the COLA 2000 process must be:

Permanent: Not subject to any sunset provisions.

Automatic: Requiring no further legislative or gubernatorial approval.

Reliable: Affording annual increases.

Affordable: Having minimal impact on State and local budgets.

*"The safest rules for predictions is to be indefinite about the date. Sooner or later almost anything can happen."*

## "BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A ....?"

Many of our senior retirees will remember that during World War II there were many patriotic American men and women who served in critical jobs on the home front for the grand sum of \$1.00 a year. Well, one of the hot issues being discussed by our Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations, of which PARA is a member, is the development of what is currently being termed "The Retiree Recognition Fund."

By way of background, the APRO of today started in 1985 with six organizations meeting on a monthly basis as an informal roundtable discussion group concerning public retiree issues. PARA was an early member of this group. In 1991, because of a large increased in participation by retiree organizations and increase concerns and activity related to retiree matters, these groups organized on a formalized basis with By-Laws, election of officers and adoption of the present Alliance name.

Now, in 1999, the Alliance member organizations have increased to 40 representing over 520,000 New York public retirees. The duties and responsibilities along with legislative activity have also increased and we are conducting an evaluation of present procedures. Along the way, the Alliance has achieved some successes but under its present volunteer, solely pro-bono operation, it may never reach its professional role as the representative and spokesperson for New York public retirees until its mechanisms and operating procedures are up-graded to meet the ever increasing challenges of today.

Since its inception, the Alliance has operated on funds derived from yearly dues which have been kept at minimal and flexible amounts. PARA's annual dues is \$500 plus any donations made for special programs. In reality, though, dues alone cannot support the activity of today necessary to increase the name, voice and efforts of the Alliance and public retirees

Consequently, it has been proposed that the Alliance establish and fund a new Special Fund separate and apart from the present dues funded operating account. How will this Special Fund be funded? The concept is that each

member of each member organization be requested to make a voluntary contribution of one dollar (\$1.00) to the Fund. The idea is that the Special Fund should not infringe on the treasury or finances of any member organization which have other expenses in addition to APRO dues, i.e., this Newsletter, Rallies, mailings, etc. The feeling is that most retirees, if properly informed of the purpose of the Fund, would be willing donors of one dollar (\$1.00) knowing they would be participating in the enhancement and/or protection of their entitlements.

How would the Fund be used? Some of the considerations put forth thus far are:

- + Conduct legislative informational meetings, forums and rallies re: public retiree legislative matters, concerns, etc.
- + Communicate legislative concerns to Legislators via paid "ads" in Legislative Gazette, flyers, brochures, etc.
- + Conduct Legislative receptions.
- + Centralize and coordinate operation of Alliance.
- + Create Officers operational expense account.

Note: Funds would not be utilized as a Political Action Committee to support political candidates.

All this is in the discussion stage and an APRO committee is developing a program of activities and will prepare a rough budget for elements of cost. Once this is prepared, it will be sent to all Alliance member organizations for our review and comment.

We would appreciate any of your comments on the back of the dues slip accompanying this Newsletter.

To sum up and to use a poker game analogy—We had a great hand with the Performance COLA bill last year but we will have to raise the ante to stay in the game. We'll keep you posted!

*"Even a woodpecker owes success to the fact that he uses his head."*

## NEW NEWSLETTER FEATURE

With this issue, we are introducing a new feature in our Newsletter which we hope will be ongoing in future issues.

Many retirees have gone on to other distinguished careers after their PA Service and we felt some of their accomplishments might be of interest to their former co-workers. If you know of a former PA employee who has gone on to another distinguished career, please let us know. We would be most interested in hearing from you and request you write to one of the P.O. boxes on the masthead of this Newsletter. Editorial staff will take it from there.

Our first featured former co-worker is Guy Tozzoli who had a most distinguished Port Authority career.

When Guy Tozzoli retired from the Port Authority in 1987 after a 40-year career, he had assembled a very impressive list of accomplishments. These included the then revolutionary container terminals at Port Newark and Elizabeth, the Transportation Section of the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, the PA's "T" building at the Fair, the Teleport, the Newark Legal Center and most important, the World Trade Center.

As Director of the World Trade Department from 1962, when the project was authorized, until his retirement 25 years later, he was responsible for every phase of the World Trade Center, including its planning, financing, construction, rental and operation. The highly successful completion of the World Trade Center, overcoming innumerable problems along the way, is a tribute to Guy's leadership skills and helped him earn the coveted Howard S. Cullman Distinguished Service Medal on retirement.

Even while he was heavily occupied with the World Trade Center in New York, Guy envisioned a chain of similar facilities around the globe. In 1970 he led the effort to establish the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) and has served as its president ever since. It was a part-time volunteer job, of course, while he worked for the PA, and it became a full-time job after he retired.

Starting with sixteen members from seven countries in 1970, the WTCA has grown under Guy's stewardship to become a powerful worldwide organization. It now represents 338 members in 101 countries, servicing more than 500,000 international companies. Each WTCA member is actively involved in the operation or development of a World Trade Center of its own. Many

of these members, such as the China External Trade Association in Taipei, The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade in Beijing, the Korean Traders Association in Seoul, the Russian Chamber of Commerce in Moscow and the Paris Chamber of Commerce, are among the most prominent trade organizations in the regions they represent.

From the WTCA's headquarters on the 77th floor of the World Trade Center in New York, Guy directs a staff of about 40 in three locations. Not surprisingly, he has drawn extensively on the large pool of PA retirees (and a few active employees) to meet the WTCA's staffing needs. Former PA employees now working for the WTCA or its subsidiaries include Bob DiChiara, Janet Wiles Driscoll, Regina Dunne, Tom Kearney (consultant), Marianne Kopfer, John Nolan, Herb Ouida, Jennifer Rogers, Juana Sanchez Rosado and Barry Weintrob. Their job is to assist WTCA members in establishing and operating successful World Trade Centers. They also develop new services for World Trade Centers and their local clientele.

Guy was known as an innovator in his PA days, and he has burnished this reputation significantly as head of the WTCA. In 1974, for example, years before the fax became popular, the WTCA was one of the first to demonstrate how this new technology could be used to support international trade. In 1985, the WTCA was the first organization in the world to establish and operate a global E-mail, bulletin board and database service. Today, the WTCA operates a very successful web site ([www.wtca.org](http://www.wtca.org)) called WTCA On-Line that provides an impressive array of trade opportunities, product displays, data on the services of World Trade Centers and a host of other useful information for World Trade Centers and their clients. An Internet-based World Trade Center University is under active development, and a program is underway to create special insurance products for businesses associated with World Trade Centers.

But the most ambitious project that Guy has created to date is a revolutionary idea called TradeCard, which will become operational by the end of this year. He conceived the new service as the world's first credit card for trade. It will simplify and stimulate world commerce by making trade finance and related services available quickly, conveniently and at an attractive cost. A patent has been awarded for the computer engine that matches

*(Please turn to page 5)*

the electronic purchase orders of both the importer and exporter, producing a truly paperless transaction. The response to the plan has been extremely favorable. Large, multi-national corporations have shown special interest in the service because they can link TradeCard with their in-house systems and use its capability for inventory control and to track shipments to their ultimate destinations. In February, the E.M. Warburg Pincus & Co., a major private equity investment firm based in New York, became the majority owner of TradeCard by agreeing to invest up to \$53 million in the project.

While the WTCA has been a major force for international trade, Guy has always been mindful of the WTCA's equally important role in promoting world peace. He made sure that the WTCA was founded as an apolitical association, with the ability to accept members from all types of political and economic settings. This has given the WTCA entree to literally every region in the world. It has also created a WTCA membership roster that is truly global, including many countries that do not have diplomatic relations with one another.

On several occasions, Guy and the WTCA were able to build bridges of productive contact that spanned decades of distrust among nations. For example, in the early 1970's, Guy helped establish a World Trade Center in Johannesburg in the face of disapproval because of apartheid. He was convinced that the project there could be a factor in the peaceful resolution of the problem, and in 1990 World Trade Center Johannesburg was chosen as the setting for the successful meetings to end apartheid. In 1978, while problems between Peoples Republic of China and the government of Taiwan were swirling, Guy personally conducted negotiations with Beijing and Taipei authorities that led to both organizations joining the WTCA. This

was the first time that the two regions were represented in the same organizations.

In 1981, Guy successfully arranged with officials of the USSR to permit citizens of Hong Kong, Israel, the Ivory Coast, South Korea, South Africa and Taiwan to attend the WTCA's General Assembly in Moscow, even though none of these countries had diplomatic relations with the USSR. Through Guy's intercession in 1989, World Trade Center Beijing opened its borders to trade missions from Taiwan, South Korea, Israel and other WTCA member countries to attend the WTCA General Assembly in Beijing. Also, during the height of strained relations between North and South Korea following the submarine incident in 1996, Guy hosted a dinner for representatives of both countries. This led to the acceptance of Pyongyang for WTCA membership and a 1997 visit by Guy to North Korea to discuss that country's trade with the rest of the world.

In recognition of the important part that Guy has played in promoting peace, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997, 1998 and 1999 by a group of legislators from South Korea. This nomination was formally supported by a number of key international personalities, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, F.W. DeKlerk and Mikhail Gorbachov. While the nomination was not successful in 1997 and 1998 (the 1999 winner will be announced in October), the WTCA was informed that Guy was one of the few finalists for the Prize.

Peace Prize or not, there is no question that Guy Tozzoli is continuing to make an important contribution on the international stage, using his unique talents not only to promote trade but to improve communication and understanding among all the world's nations.

*"He has spent his life best who has enjoyed it the most."*

## LEST WE FORGET!

HELLO, remember me? some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Stars and Strips. I have also been referred to as "The Star Spangled Banner." But whatever they call me...I am your flag of the United States of America. There is something that has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you, because it is about you and me.

I remember one time...it was Independence Day. People lined both sides of the street to watch the big parade. I was in the lead, of course and the high school band was right behind me. When your daddy saw me coming, waving in the breeze, he immediately



## LEST WE FORGET! (continued from page 5)

removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder, so that his hand was over his heart. Do you remember?

WELL...I remember you! Standing straight and tall. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. You were taught in school how to place your hand over heart. And little sister...not to be outdone, she was saluting just like you. There were some soldiers home on leave, all standing at attention giving the military salute. Ladies...to...everyone was paying me the respect that I deserve, and I was very proud to be there!

NOW if I sound conceited...that's because I am. I have a right to be. I represent the finest country in the world...the United States of America...More than one aggressive nation has tried to haul me down but they all felt the fury of this freedom-loving country. You know...you had to go overseas and defend me.

WHAT happened? I am still the same old flag. Oh...a couple of more stars now, and a lot more blood has been shed since that Independence Day so long ago. I haven't really changed.

BUT now, I don't feel as proud as I used to...When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets...give me a quick glance and look

away. And your children...running around and shouting, they don't seem to know, or care, who I am. I saw one man take his hat off and then look around, he didn't see anyone with theirs off, so he actually put his back on.

WHAT is wrong with being patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for? Think of all the places I have been ANZIO... GUADALCANAL... KOREA...VIETNAM and NOW still helping others to have what we have. Have you forgotten all the battlefields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free?

TAKE a look at the Memorial Honor Roll sometime, and read the names of those that never came back. Some of them were friends or relatives of yours. When you salute me...you are actually saluting them.

WELL, it won't be long before I'll be coming down your street again. This time when you see me...place your hand over your heart...and you will see me waving back. My salute to you. And I will know that you...remembered.

*"The trouble with walking in a parade is that life seems so dull and colorless afterwards."*

## BITS & PIECES

The Consumer Price Index, or CPI as it is often called, is used to determine the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) which increases our Social Security benefits to keep pace with the rate of inflation. Many believe that the CPI increases don't actually reflect our increased living costs.

Did you know there are actually several CPI's? The CPI-U covers urban consumers, the CPI-W covers urban wage earners and clerical workers and an "experimental CPI-E is for seniors age 62 and over. Using the CPI-W results in a smaller increase for seniors in part because it does not reflect the medical costs they normally experience.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has tracked the CPI-E figures for every year except two since 1982. Each time the CPI-E for seniors produces a higher increase than the CPI-W which is typically used.

Having our lives measured from the same "market basket" as urban wage earners and clerical workers just doesn't make sense for seniors. It is one of the many unfair practices that have a serious effect on seniors lives and need to be changed. CPI-E for seniors is a good place to start. Write to your Senators and Congressmen and ask for their help.

*"How can there be so much difference between a day off and an off day?"*

## STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER

1. Since the last PARA Newsletter and Special Newsletter last July, there were 12 meetings with the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations in Albany as well as several with the Comptroller. Your PARA Board Officers represented you at all.
2. Our E-mail list is growing! Those of you who are "on-line" should contact Bob Foote at bobfoote@ewol.com if you are not on the list. We plan to try a pilot Newsletter at some point to all those on the list thanks to Bob. More on this next time!
3. Approximately 100 former co workers retired last December with only 7 this year as of last month. December has typically been the month for most retirees with over 300 in December 1997. Our PARA membership rolls now number 4,300 persons.
4. Since our last Newsletter, your Board of Directors met at the Bus Terminal in June, Newark Intl. Airport in September, the World Trade Center in November, the George Washington Bridge in April and Journal Square Transportation Center in June. Your current slate of Officers was re-elected at the annual meeting according to the By-Laws and your President agreed to serve until a successor is named. We must say that our reception at all the facilities was most pleasant and provided an excellent atmosphere in which to have our meetings and plan PARA strategy.
5. If you've changed your address recently, all active employees should send change of address forms to their Departmental Administrator. Retired staff should now submit address changes in a signed letter to PA Today, 1 WTC, Room 68 South, NY, NY 10048 as well as to one of the P.O. Boxes on this Newsletter masthead.
6. To compute your Pension Supplementation beginning this September, use the same percentage as attached to our Special Newsletter last July but use a base of \$14,000. Year 1993 retirees should use the 1.5 percentage to compute their expected pension increase.
7. *Sources of Help:*

P.A. Benefits	800-269-4280
Retirement Systems	518-474-7736
Prudential	800-772-4683
Social Security	800-772-1213

---

### Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.

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

Please print or type:

Check

P.A. Employee

P.A. Retiree

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK  :

Name, address, or phone number changed?  Yes  No

Enclosed is \$5.00 Annual Membership Dues (June 1999 through May 2000)

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_. I would like to contribute as a sponsor. Receipts in excess of annual dues are credited as sponsor contributions.

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

Return form and check to the above address. Retain cancelled check for your receipt.