

Correspondence: POB 761, New City, NY 10956 • Dues: POB 0344, Thiells, NY 10984-0344

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Chairman's Message

Where to begin? There has been a lot of activity since our last newsletter and yet, there is not very much new to report. Your officers have been busy up in Albany lobbying for the remaining 1.5% of the Consumer Price Index that you so rightly deserve in your pensions. However, as the local press reports, the financial and political situation in New York State is not good. **This notwithstanding, it is still your money and you are entitled to it.**

The Governor continues to make overtures regarding raiding our pension system to balance his budget. The Comptroller of the State of NY, the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations and your association are all diametrically opposed to his tactics. There is a lot of tension in Albany as we continue the fight for your pension increase. Although several rallies have been held in the State Capitol, results will not be known until the legislature departs in July for the summer. Along with New York State Comptroller Alan E. Hevasi, our new champion, **I urge all PARA members who are New York residents to let their elected representatives know where they stand.** By expressing an opinion, we can keep our pension fund strong and secure.

Continued on back side

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual membership dues for June 2004-May 2005 are due. At \$5.00 per membership, you can't beat the value! Simply fill out the remittance form on this newsletter and cut it off. Insert the form along with your payment into the convenient return envelope enclosed. Don't forget to add postage. **And remember to let your elected representatives know that you are watching how they vote on the retiree issues!**

PARA DUES REMITTANCE FORM

Please print or type:

P.A. Employee
 P.A. Retiree

 Last Name First Name Home Phone Year

 Address Town State Zip Code

Please check:

- Has your name, address or telephone number changed? Yes No
- Enclosed is \$5.00 annual membership dues for period of June 2004 through May 2005
- Enclosed is \$ _____. I would like to contribute as a sponsor. Receipts in excess of annual dues are credited as sponsor contributions.

Please only make checks payable to: **Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.** Retain cancelled check as your receipt.

After eleven years in office as president of PARA, this will be my last message to you. Effective June 1, Dick Helman, retiree from the PA Law Department, took office as your new president. I know he will do a fine job. Looking back, it is comforting for me to know that our success in some areas improved the lot of most retirees. We were triumphant in 1996, after many years of lobbying in Albany, when legislation provided a supplemental increase in pensions for many of you. After this initial victory and following several more modest supplemental increases, we finally obtained a permanent Cost of Living Adjustment in 2000, which continues ad infinitum. After an initial "catch-up" payment to redress past inflation and to bring eligible retirees up to speed, the annual COLA is designed to address future inflation as it occurs. **This is where we still need your help.** To obtain the remaining 50% of the Consumer Price Index, we must let our elected representatives know that we are watching how they vote on this issue and *we will act accordingly.*

The PARA Newsletter format to which you have become accustomed these many years is about to change for the better. We are taking an entirely new approach to bring us up to the 21st Century. Hence the brevity of this, our last edition, before the new format is introduced. For example, we will kick off the

"new and improved" newsletter with a 6-page

issue that will cover current topics, updates on members, other tidbits of information for seniors and lots more. Meanwhile, in the interest of timing, we are sending this interim newsletter as a reminder to contact your elected representatives and express your concern over pension increases before the legislature leaves in July.

Again, it has been a real pleasure and honor serving you as president these many years and I ask that you give the same level of support to Dick Helman as you gave to me.

Have a great summer!

Al Rubbert
Chairman
Emeritus



**NOTICE: CHANGE OF ADDRESS
FOR REMITTANCE OF DUES**

You may have noticed a change on our masthead regarding our P.O. Boxes for correspondence and the remittance of dues. As a result of the sudden passing of our Treasurer Bob Dennebaum, we have discontinued our long time Shipbottom address. We have established a new position of Financial Secretary. Dues should now be sent to:

**Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.
PO Box 0344 • Thiells, NY 10984-0344**

A return envelope has been provided. Your understanding and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

“Learn from
the mistakes of
others. You can't live
long enough to
make them all
yourself.”