

SEVENTEEN (17) MONTHS AGO THE PRESIDENT OF THE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION , JOSEPH O'NEIL, RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY INFORMING HIM THAT ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX MEMBERS (136) OF THE ASSOCIATION WOULD HAVE THEIR RETIREMENT BENEFITS CHANGED EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2015.

AFTER RECEIVING THIS CORRESPONDENCE PRESIDENT O'NEIL APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO ASSIST MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED NOTICE FROM THE U.S. TREASURY DATED JANUARY 23, 2015. THE COMMITTEE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO IDENTIFY ALL OF THE MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED LETTERS FROM THE TREASURY. THE EFFORT CONSISTED OF WRITTEN REQUEST FROM TREASURY, WHICH WAS DENIED, LETTERS TO MEMBERS AND WORD OF MOUTH.

AS OF THIS DATE THE COMMITTEE HAS ONLY BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY SIXTY-FIVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED. IT COULD BE THAT SOME CHOSE NOT TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR INFORMATION BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY INVOLVED WAS MINOR, SOME MEMBERS WERE OWED MONEY, WIDOWS WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF THE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

DURING THE LAST YEAR THE COMMITTEE HAS ASSISTED MEMBERS IN RESPONDING TO THE US TREASURY THROUGH REQUESTS FOR RECONSIDERATION, MOST REQUESTS WERE DENIED, APPEALING THE DENIAL OF RECONSIDERATION, ALL DENIED AND CURRENTLY ASSISTING WITH REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS OF ALLEGED MONIES OWED.

THE COMMITTEE HAS PRIORTIZED ITS GOALS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. ASSIST MEMBERS FROM WHOM TREASURY IS TRYING TO RECOUP FUNDS. WRITING LETTERS AND SUPPLYING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
2. ASSIST MEMBERS WHO HAVE OR WILL RECEIVE TAX FORM 1099C. THE COMMITTEE IS WORKING WITH THE RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCAITION, ATTORNEY AND CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT TO GET A FAVORABLE RULING FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REGARDING DOUBLE TAXATION.
3. CONTINUE TO PURSUE FROM A POLITICAL APPROACH THE RETURN OF THE ANNUITIES FOR MEMBERS PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2015. COMMITTEE MEMBER EDWARD SMITH, PRESIDENT LOCAL 36, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS (IAFF) HAS BEEN WORKING WITH CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER, AND OTHERS, TO SEEK A RESOLUTION WITH THE U.S. TREASURY.

YOUR SUPPORT, EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY NOT BE AFFECTED THIS TIME, IS REQUESTED. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN AFFECTED HAVE THEM CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER.

FIGHTING THE GOVERNMENT IS TIME CONSUMING AND EXPENSIVE.

LOCAL 36 AND THE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION EXIST TO PROVIDE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THAT YOU EARNED AS A FIREFIGHTER WITH THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ONLY 50% OF THE MEMBERS LISTED IN THE 2015 – 2016 RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS HANDBOOK HAVE PAID THEIR DUES?

WE NEED YOUR HELP – THE BOX IS BEING SOUNDED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

William Embrey

David Kauffman

William Mould

Joseph O'Neil

Thomas Scherer

Edward Smith

Harry Subacz

Thomas Tippet