

**CITY OF MIAMI • RETIRED
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

AFSCME RETIREES CHAPTER 11

4349 N.W. 36th Street, Suite 104 / Miami, Florida 33166 / Phone (305) 863-8623 / Fax (305) 884-1745



DECEMBER 2008

OFFICERS:

President: Louis M. Sarsich
1st V. Pres: Angel DePedro
2nd V. Pres:
Treasurer: Berenice Bass
Rec. Secy: Helen Myskiw

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sylvia Scheider
Toni Chao

NEXT MEETING: December 14, 2008

LOCATION

PICADILLY CAFETERIA

8301 WEST FLAGLER SHOPPING CENTER, MIAMI, FLORIDA

LUNCH COMMENCING FROM 12 TO 1PM: MEETING AT 1PM

The association will pay for the lunch bill of each member and one guest. The first general meeting for 2009 will be at the Picadilly Cafeteria on April 19, 2009, at the same time; your attendance will be welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President, Officers and Board members we want to wish all our members and their families a peaceful, safe and happy holiday season, ENJOY IN GOOD HEALTH.

The Board has lost several members and new members are needed to support our work for the benefit of all. Please consider to become a member of the Board, we can not do without you. If you are interested contact us at 305-863-8623.

We hope to see all the members who live in the Miami area come to our December meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis M. Sarsich".

Lou Sarsich

FROM CHARLIE COX, PRESIDENT OF GENERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION:

To all general retirees I want to assure that there is plenty of money still in the Fund to assure retiree's benefits. The Fund lost 13.9% last year, but there have also been years that the Fund has gained over 20%. By being in the Stock Market we know that is cyclical.

THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS met on September 2, 2008, and voted that the cities of Miami, Coral Gables, Hialeah, Miami Beach and Key Biscayne will be permitted to maintain their own fire departments and not be absorbed into Metro.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER?

Remember to send us the new information. Also, when calling the Association, **please speak slowly and clearly** to give us your name, telephone number and area code.

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER:

Members who would like to get in touch with each other, know about former fellow workers that they have not heard from or seen for a long time, family affairs, reunions, etc., should leave us a message of any information you want to appear in the next newsletter. You can contact us by mail or call (305) 863-8623. The success of this column depend on your cooperation. Start sending us your tidbits.

REMINDER:

Please ensure that family members, friends and care-takers of deceased retirees CALL THE GESE, FIRE or POLICE offices and the SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, if applicable –**NOT THIS OFFICE**- with the name of the (deceased) retiree member.

HEALTH AND PENSION ALERT

Please remember to send all health claims to the City of Miami's Group Benefits Section, PO Box 330708, Miami, FL 33233. In Miami-Dade call 305-416-1380 or 1385. Toll free 1-800-416-1385 or 1-866-494-2344, or send the claims directly to CIGNA. All pension questions or paperwork should be addressed or sent to GESE and FIPO offices listed on the back of your membership card – **not to this office**.

SUNSHINE CLUB

Call Berenice B. Bass at 1-954-434-3290 from 6 pm to 9 pm, to have a card sent for all occasions. You may also write to Berenice with the information at the Retiree Association's Office.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FOR AFSCME MEMBERS:

The below information can be obtained visiting www.afscme.org or call 1-800-228-3523.

Health: Save an average of 18% on prescriptions cost and out-of-pocket expenses on other services such as dental and vision care. Call 1-800-228-3523, or www.afscme.org.

Hotels: Save money and support union workers when you stay at union hotels. www.afscme.org.

Vacation Tours: \$50 discount off any travel package. Open to /union members, retirees and their families. For more information call 1-800-590-1104.

Auto Buying Service: Buy a new union-made car or truck and receive an additional \$100 savings. www.afscme.org.

Retired Work Force: www.retireeworkforce.com Niche Job Site for Retirees. Is an internet based organization that connects companies with highly qualified retirees for job opportunities. There is not a charge for this service and all information is kept strictly confidential. Telephone 877-778-9675, Fax 732-975-9838.

Toll Free Number to Contact your Florida Congressperson/Senator: 1-866-340-9279. The Capital Operator will assist you to obtain your representative's name by your zip code.

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES WINNERS: Selino Vidal, Charles Hasseler, Ursula Mierzwa, Sam Rivens, Margaret Kerns, Erno Rosa, Marie Conway, Eddy Plotnick, Bernard Plotnick, Juan Gonzalez, Muriel Tower.

FIRE CORNER:

Fire Fighters Local 587 opened enrollment for Health Insurance in November if you are eligible for Medicare 65 or older. Make sure to sign up for Medicare eligible health insurance rather than the regular health insurance. You must send copy of Medicare Card to City Group Benefits and request a lower rate.

City of Miami Retired Fire Fighters BBQ reunion took place in Otto, NC, on September 18, 19, 20, 2008 was well attended by at least 250 people, the weather was great. We would like to give a large vote of thanks to the Hardegrees and all those who helped to put on this event.

Fire retirees are urged to attend Local 587 Fire Department Union meetings at the Fire Benevolent Hall the second Wednesday of every month at 8 P.M., to show your appreciation for the support Local 587 gives to our needs.

POLICE CORNER:

e-mail addresses for Fire and Police Retirees sites are: MFD vet.org / MPDVET@aol.com
 FIPORetaol.com / MFD memorialist Dlyon 911@aol.com George Bilberry:(941-723-3621) Gqbillberry@aol.com.
 The Internet sites are: www.ci.miami.fl.us/fire/Phil Doherty. **For Fire contract negotiations information go to:**
www.IAFF587.org. Telephone 305-633-3442.

NEW RETIREES GENERAL EMPLOYEES

Urinales, Juan A.	05/15/05	Roberts, Terry	08/27/07	Murillo, Alfredo	03/29/08
Washington Rhonda	03/28/08	Perez, Roberto	03/29/08	Clark, Earnest E	04/19/08
Walthour, Sonja P	04/05/08	Aragon, Andres	05/24/08	Brunson Natalie D	05/08
Walker, Cora M	06/08	Wade, Fred L	07/21/08	Moore, S.L.	08/18/08
Miller, Jr, Jerdy E	08/08	Nunez, Carlos J	09/08	Wright, Gregory	10/01/08
Castellanos, Marlene	10/08	Heyward, Helen	10/08	Copeland, James	10/01/08
St. Ange, Celieux	10/08	Willard, Delancy	10/01/08		

IN MEMORIAM GENERAL EMPLOYEES

Kotler, Bertha	02/08	Slade, Pauline M	06/08	Weaver, Eulamae	07/08
Henn, Edith M	08/08	Cerbone, Hilda	08/08	Baker, Clara E	08/08
Parkes, Sr, William E	08/08	Bortle, Pearl E	08/08	Frost, Lon	08/08
Hardwick, Kathleen	08/08	Mason, Betty L	08/08	Seymour, Harold	08/08
Mazgardian, Harry	08/08	Bridges, Dale F	09/08	Cummings, Robert	09/08
Douglass, Donald C	09/08	Mitten, JD	09/08	Hernandez, Alfredo	09/08
Smart, Richard	09/08	Tatum, L	09/08	Southern, Houston	09/08
Queen, Wilma	09/08				

FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREES

Chief Oestreich, Bruce	08/31/08	FF Nedelman, Gail	08/31/08	Lt Collier, Charles	10/12/08
Cpt Herrin, Richard	10/26/08	Chief Ledea, Phillip	10/26/08		



Charles Harris Matthews, Sr.

Passed away on November 12, 2008

Services were held at the Coral Gables Congregational Church
A large following of Family, Friends and Firefighters attended the Services



FIRE DEPARTMENT LAST ALARM

Chief Wasilewski, Martin	09/17/08	Chief Wilkes, John	09/06/08	Lt Adkins, Thomas	08/21/08
Lt Williams, Kenneth	09/30/08	FF Alvarez, Oswaldo	08/11/08		

POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREES

PO Gerbier, Reynaud	09/14/08	Sgt Behar, Jose	10/12/08	PO Dowda, Angela	10/12/08
PO Cockfield, Sheila	10/12/08	PO Fernandez, Jorge	10/12/08	Lt Gonzalez, Juan	10/12/08
PO Hernandez, Juan	10/12/08	PO Perez, Jose	10/12/08	Lt Rojas, Ariel	10/12/08
PO VazdeCarvalho, Paulo	10/12/08	Sgt Soler, Roberto	10/12/08	PO Remedios, A	10/26/08
PO Zumarraga, George	10/12/08				

POLICE IN MEMORIAM

Furtunely nobody passed away in the past period.

THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

Money talks....it usually says only "GOOD-BYE"

Proverb for installment buyers: "All's well that ends."

You know you are getting old if you get lost strolling down memory lane.

Money can't buy happiness, help, or what it did last year.

Whichever line you choose the other one always moves faster.

If you believe you are what you eat, don't eat nuts.

Old age is always fifteen years older than you are.

Your are neither as young as you used to be nor as old as you hope to become.

A hair on the head is worth two in the brush.

The most expensive vehicle to operate is the shopping cart.

The only one who can smile when things go wrong is the repairman.

All things come to the one who is on the mailing list.

By the time you learn to watch your step, you are not going any place.

People who live beyond their means must be given a lot of credit.

I can keep a secret, but those I tell it to never can.

Once you get started doing nothing it is hard to quit.