



# The Billy & Spanner



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ray Storms

Last time I spoke to you on this subject was in 2020. A lot has happened we now have around 65 retired and active San Jose Fire Department employees plus many other firefighters from surrounding jurisdictions involved in the lawsuit. One of the other things that has changed is that PFAS is found in our Turnouts in one of the barriers in the liners. So, think about it and how often we wore them. Being exposed all the time to

PFAS this was one of the materials used in non-stick pans. If you had the chance to watch the CBS morning show on 2-17-22 you saw a couple of our Firefighters interviewed. Thank you Dan Stapp and Theresa Mauldin for sharing your story

## AFFF LAWSUIT

I know you have seen the ads on TV and a couple of our members are looking at pursuing a class action lawsuit. I am not endorsing any law firm for any member wishing to pursue a lawsuit that is up to the member. I would include both Firefighters and Police Officers (Coast Oil fire ect) as possibly being effected by AFFF. Here is some information:

The highly durable nature of PFOS and PFAS means they do not break down over time. Because of this, they may remain in the body for years. PFOS/PFAS and AFFF have been linked with elevated rates of kidney cancer, testicular cancer, prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, bladder cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, and neuroendocrine tumors.

## FIREFIGHTING FOAM AND CANCER

Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) is used to extinguish Class B flammable liquid fires. Up until recently, this was accomplished by using a fluorocarbon surfactant called perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). In 2002, production of PFOS was banned in the United States and manufacturers switched to AFFF formulas that contain other fluorocarbon surfactants made through a process called telomerization. While these foams do not contain PFOS, they break down and form a hazardous byproduct called perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

In 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 3M, the manufacturer of PFOS, agreed to a voluntary phase out of production, which was completed in 2002. AFFF containing PFOS is no longer made in the U.S.

In 2006, the EPA and the eight major companies that manufacturer PFOA launched the 2010/15 PFOA Stewardship Program, in which companies agree to reduce

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visit our website at [www.retiredsjpoff.org](http://www.retiredsjpoff.org)

## I'M DEAD. NOW WHAT?



**The Association continues to give away this book.**

A useful and helpful planner to give you peace of mind.

It has important information about your belongings, business affairs, and wishes. It helps organize vital details about contacts, health and financial issues, etc.

Contact Walter Bugna at [believe42218@earthlink.net](mailto:believe42218@earthlink.net) if you want a copy. Please include your name, current phone and current mailing address in your e-mail.

## ASSOCIATION VIDEO: MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS



Many of you have questions about how the Medicare Part B Reimbursement process works. At our February membership meeting we had David Lisenbee from Retirement Services present to explain the process and answer questions. For those who did not attend, you can view Lisenbee's presentation by scanning the QR Code (like you would a restaurant menu since COVID) or by clicking this link: <https://youtu.be/lCyNcwoFrTs>



**SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW VIDEO**



## SJPOA REACHES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT LOCKING IN PENSION BENEFITS FOR 8 YEARS

The SJPOA announced this month that it reached a Tentative Agreement (TA) with the City that will guarantee current retirement benefits for 8 years, until 2030, which is a 5-year extension of the current agreement.

What's at issue? The City is pursuing Pension Obligation Bonds. According to the SJPOA, they did a legal analysis and determined that the City has a right to pursue bonds as long as the City takes specific legal steps. The main point of concern was ensuring that pension benefits would not be diminished or harmed if the City sold bonds. Further, assurances were needed that the city would continue to contribute their required share of pension contributions and not take a "holiday," meaning skip payments during years the retirement fund's performance performs well.

The TA provides protection through 2030 for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 members from the city coming back and attempting to reduce retirement benefits moving forward. For retirees, this means that certain benefits and conditions we enjoy that are products of negotiations between the active unions and the City should remain protected.

The TA needs to be ratified by SJPOA members then approved by the Mayor and Council.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

**ADOLPH CARRANZA**, Fire Captain, 26.72 years of service.

**SAUL FLORES**, Firefighter, 21.98 years of service.

**JAMES T. LE**, Police Officer, Police Department, 26.30 years of service.

**NORENE MARINELLI**, Police Officer, 22.69 years of service.

**PAUL MARSHALL**, Fire Engineer, 25.50 years of service.

**TAK M. ODAMA**, Police Officer, 27.26 years of service.

**JASON A. SUAREZ**, Fire Captain, 27.59 years of service.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT (Continued from Pg. 1)

emissions of PFOA by 95% by 2010 and phase out production by 2015.

**These voluntary phase outs do not affect existing products containing PFOS and PFOA. AFFFs that contain these chemicals may still be in use and are sources of potential harmful exposures.**

In May 2016, the EPA updated the PFOA and PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisory, which is a non-enforceable concentration established to provide the general U.S. population with a margin of protection from health effects related to drinking water contaminants. The health advisory for both PFOA and PFOS is 70 parts per trillion (ppt), or 0.07 parts per billion (ppb). These are much lower than the older 2009 EPA Health Advisories, which were 0.4 ppb for PFOA and 0.2 ppb for PFOS.

### FIREFIGHTING FOAM AND CANCER

There have been lots of published articles about the link between Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) and cancer in firefighters. One California law firm, Pritzker Levine LLP, is conducting a legal investigation into the issue. Pritzker Levine represents firefighters who may have contracted cancer as a result of their exposure to AFFF. The firm is working with UCSF to test and analyze blood samples from firefighters who have or once had cancer for elevated levels of PFAS or PFOS—chemicals in AFFF linked to cancer. Any active or retired firefighter diagnosed with cancer who wants to learn more about their potential claims against the companies that make AFFF should contact retired SJFD Battalion Chief Richard Seal, Esq., who is Of Counsel to Pritzker Levine, at (408) 623-3519, or firm partner, Elizabeth Pritzker, at (415) 805-8532.

**As always stay safe and enjoy your retirement you earned it!**

## KNOW YOUR PENSION FUND

### TOTAL ASSETS IN PENSION FUND



**\$4,726  
Billion**

### TOTAL FUNDS PAID 2021

**\$8.92  
Million**

**CITY**

**\$1.28  
Million**

**P&F EMPLOYEES**



ASSOCIATION  
OF RETIRED SAN JOSE  
**POLICE OFFICERS  
& FIREFIGHTERS**

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ASSOCIATION  
OF RETIRED SAN JOSE  
**POLICE OFFICERS  
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## ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

We will return to hosting our monthly membership meetings in-person at the SJPOA Hall.

Join us on Thursday, March 10, 2021, at 11AM for our next meeting. Per health orders, masks will be required indoors, except when eating.

The SJPOA Hall is located at 1151 N 4th St, San Jose, CA 95112. It's our intent to also host these meetings live as Zoom meetings. Check your emails for updates on the Zoom option.

## CONDOLENCES

Retired SJPD Officer William C. "Bill" McLean, III #1814., died January 22, 2022.  
Retired SJPD Sergeant Gilbert S. Gonzales, Badge #1527, died February 12, 2022, at age 81.  
Retired SJFD Fire Captain William "Ski" Bartosiewicz. assed away February 3, 2022.

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Gary Johnson, Jerry Ellis, Director Emeritus

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