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INSIGHT

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OFFICE ADDRESS: UNITED PROFESSIONAL CENTER, BLDG. 2,

617 UNION AVE., BRIELLE, NJ 08730

WEBSITE: panj.org

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LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATION IS ENACTED

by John Morton, Editor

At 5:40 PM on January 7, 2002, the State Senate voted in favor of S 950, the bill which grants police powers to Probation Officers. The bill was forwarded to the desk of the Acting Governor, Donald DiFrancesco who signed it into law later the same night. There was much opposition to the bill and there were attempts to “water it down” at the last minute, but PANJ President George Christie was resolute in espousing the union’s position. PANJ has advocated this legislation for seven years, and as a result of our effective strategy and persistence it has been realized.

The bill passed 22 to 10, with 8 abstentions. Senators who voted in favor of the bill were Allen, Baer, Bark, Cafiero, Cardinale, Ciesla, Connors, DiFrancesco, Furnari, Girgenti, Kavanaugh, Kosco, Kyrillos, Littell, Martin, Matheussen, O’Toole, Palaia, Rice, Robertson, Singer, and Zane. Abstaining were Senators Bryant, Bucco, Codey, Gormley, James, Kenny, Lynch, and Turner. Voting against the bill were Senators Adler, Bennett, Himelman, Inverso, Lesniak, McNamara, O’Connor, Sacco, Schluter, and Vitale.

PANJ would like to thank Senator Robert Singer, the bill’s sponsor since inception, and outgoing Governor Donald DiFrancesco for posting and signing the law. Thanks are also due to Michael Madonna, PBA President, and Bill Thomas, President of the Friends of Amanda, who lobbied on our behalf. Thanks to Brad Brewster, Rob Nixon, and all the staff of Princeton Public Affairs who worked to help us reach our goal. Thanks to George Christie, President, Stephanie Hennessey, 2nd Vice President, Stuart Martinsen, Chairman, the PANJ Legislative Committee, and all of the PANJ members who did their part by contacting their legislators. You truly made this happen.

This law creates a Probation Officer Community Safety Unit in each county to consist of Probation Officers who will be trained by the Police Training Commission and will be authorized to carry a firearm. They shall have the authority to arrest, detain, and transport prisoners, and enforce warrants for the arrest of probationers. All Probation Officers including those assigned to the Community Safety Units shall undergo a basic course of self-defense training administered by the Police Training Commission. The act is to take effect immediately. PANJ is justly proud of this achievement, which demonstrates that we are a formidable force in the public policy arena.

On the same day the bill passed, *The Star Ledger* reported that murders in Newark went up 69% during 2001. The number of guns seized by Newark police rose from 375 in 1998 to 629 last year.

SUPERVISORS GET DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL APPROVAL FOR ADJUSTMENT TO MAXIMUM SALARIES

by George P. Christie, President

On December 14, 2001 Assistant Commissioner Arthur E. Brown, Jr. approved the joint request of PANJ and the AOC to increase the maximum ranges of Professional Supervisors in the titles of Administrative Supervisor 2, Administrative Supervisor 3, Court Service Supervisor 2 and Court Service Supervisor 3.

Effective January 1, 2002 the maximum range for the Supervisory titles listed will be adjusted with an increase of \$1,000.00.

Effective January 1, 2004 the maximum range for the Supervisory titles listed will be adjusted with another increase of \$500.00.

The following will occur:

Administrative Supervisor 2 and Court Services Supervisor 2-

\$74,625 as of January 1, 2001

\$81,603 as of January 1, 2004

Administrative Specialist 3 and Court Services Specialist 3

\$77,133 as of January 1, 2002

\$83,828 as of January 1, 2004

PANJ has successfully accomplished increases for its members that far exceed what the other unions have been able to accomplish.

The current agreement provides for almost 2% more income for Professional Supervisors at maximum. These accomplishments are the result of the perseverance of those Supervisors who participated on the Negotiations Team. It is also proof of the

concept that the people in the bargaining unit are better represented by their peers and not by paid union staff representatives who have no idea about the work of the unit.

Chief Justice Rehnquist Speaks Out

by Peter A. Tortoreto, 1st Vice President

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist in his annual report on the Courts says unfilled Judgeships are inexcusable during a time of terrorist attacks and threats.

“During times such as these the role of the Courts becomes even more important in order to enforce the rule of Law.” “To continue functioning effectively and efficiently, however, the Court must be appropriately staffed.”

PANJ agrees with Chief Justice Rehnquist. This staffing of the Courts inclusive of Probation Officers as enforcers of Court Orders and protectors of the communities must be paramount.

In New Jersey the hiring freeze and spending freeze imposed could have a tumultuous effect upon the Judiciary. We would urge the Administrative Director of the Courts to act with reasonable promptness to insure proper staffing of the courts and court staff where public safety is at risk.

During the uncertain times of America’s new war we cannot afford to lapse into past complacencies. Freedom must be protected and defended at all costs.

Statewide Health and Safety Committee

by David Yennior, Health and Safety Committee Representative

The Health and Safety (H&S) Committee, established by the Letter of Agreement between the Judiciary and the various Labor Unions in 1995 as part of the Statewide Unification of the Courts, currently consists of 14 representatives, 7 from Labor and 7 from Management. The H&S Committee is the only Statewide Labor/ Management (L/M) Committee which meets monthly. One successful innovation of the Committee was to permit designated Alternates to attend. This has enabled the Committee to reach a quorum necessary for conducting business.

David Yennior, President Local 201 (Essex), was appointed as the PANJ Representative to the Committee in 1997 to replace Peter Savage, PANJ Parliamentarian. David also serves on the Probation Task Force on Staff Safety. In 2000, a second PANJ representative, Stuart Martinsen, was appointed to the Committee. Stuart is also the PANJ Recording Secretary, Legislative Committee Chair, and President Local 106 (Ocean).

The H&S Committee deals with a wide range of issues including Workplace Violence, Employee Assistance Programs, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, HIV, Ergonomics, and PEOSHA matters. The Committee makes recommendations about appropriate action or training that may be needed to address these issues. Health and Safety Grievances and PEOSHA complaints are discussed. The Committee's work has resulted in Statewide Training and Vaccination of staff for Hepatitis.

The H&S Committee is seeking to establish a dialogue with the Local L/M Committees in the Vicinages and the Central Offices by reviewing the Local L/M minutes to be informed of local issues, and by sending our minutes to the Local Committees. The AOC Labor and Employee Relations Unit, headed by Joseph Orlando, Esquire, serves as staff support for

distribution of meeting notices, minutes, new Administrative Directives, and PEOSHA Complaints.

The H&S Committee is working to establish a Web Site within the Judiciary InfoNet which will include a Committee membership list and a Mission statement explaining the role of the Committee. There are proposals to include certain Health and Safety articles on the Web Site.

The most significant development for the year 2001 was the creation of the position of a Statewide Health and Safety Officer, which is something your PANJ representatives have been advocating. More than 90 applications for the H&S Officer position were received. After a lengthy selection process, the Judiciary chose Mr. Steve Yang, who arrives with impeccable credentials. Mr. Yang is an ex-officio Member of the Committee and has been making an important contribution since being appointed to his position in September 2001. PANJ welcomes Steve to the Judiciary.

The need for training on the Workplace Violence Policy implemented in September 1999 is something that the Committee discusses on a regular basis as well. PANJ is very concerned that Incident Reports have been collected by AOC officials since September 1999 and that there has been no accounting of these Reports or analysis done with the information. Management assures that a Workplace Violence Report Summary for 1999-2001 will be forthcoming in early 2002.

PANJ requests that members continue to submit a PANJ Incident Report along with a copy of the Judiciary Incident Report to the PANJ Office. This will help to insure that incidents are properly reported and addressed. PANJ Incident Report Forms are available at **www.panj.org**.

Look for future articles in *INSIGHT* regarding the activities of the Health and Safety Committee, training for Ergonomics, the H&S Web Site, the Judiciary-wide Workplace Violence Training, as well as the 1999-2001 Incident Report Summary.

PANJ Educational Fund Gets Tax Exempt Status

by George P. Christie

The new corporation formed recently called the PANJ Educational Fund (PANJ-EF) has applied for and received tax exempt status with the Federal Internal Revenue Service as well as with the State of New Jersey. As a 501 (c) (3) corporation, the PANJ-EF is now exempt from paying New Jersey sales taxes when providing services for its educational programs. Contributors to the PANJ-EF are also able to take a tax credit for supporting these educational endeavors. This status has taken a long time to achieve, and it will ultimately mean cost savings for the PANJ-EF. It also allows the PANJ-EF to find funding for PANJ members who wish to attend the Annual Training Conference or to attend the Probation and Community Justice Graduate Studies Program at Seton Hall.



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Above: George Christie (right) and Stephanie Hennessey present the Legislator of the Year Award to Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco.

These are Thumbnail photos. Click on them to expand picture size.

Below: President of PANJ George Christie meets with PBA President Michael Madonna