

## **Message from the President**

**John Schnittgrund**

We are now into February and the Roster Book will soon be at the printer. I hope that you have made all of the changes to your personal information so the book will be accurate. We are attempting to have the book in your hands by mid April at the latest. If you need to amend any of your information please get the changes to us ASAP so the book can be as accurate as possible.

As I write this message it is gratifying to know that our membership has never been stronger. This year we have more dues paying members than we have had in a long, long time. We are also experiencing an all time high in the number of times our web site is accessed. You are entering the site at a rate of over 5000 times a month. It is the membership that is driving our success. We are always in an improvement mode to keep our information as fresh as possible. Your support for us is most gratifying and we are going to make it a priority to reward your support before the year is over.

In my travels I have met many of you and you are quick to thank me for looking out for our interests. Your gratitude is appreciated but you need to know that this has been a mutual effort and I hope that mutual effort will continue in the future. I've said it before and I will continue to say how impressed I have been by your interest and knowledge of the issues that concern us. I look at my job as that of giving you the information that you need when you are affected by any decision good or bad. So far we are a good team and working together we will always be a force to be reckoned with. Having each other's back makes us strong and as long as we stick together we will win most of the issues that affect us. Working together is in our best interest.

We are continuing to monitor the Pension Board. I have noticed that things move at a snail's pace on some issues. We are still working at removing the administration of the old hire benefit to an outside manager. The proposal has been given to the Manager's representative and she is receptive but there is still a lot to do getting the proposal to the City Attorney. We will stay on this issue because it is important.

We are still working on an outstanding issue regarding the pension benefit of a recently deceased member. His death did not make his possible problem go away

and it is important for his widow to know her benefit is being correctly awarded. We will continue to monitor this issue until it is resolved.

The City has included the pension information on the City's web site and we have linked to the City's web site so you can have the minutes to meetings and meeting announcements by going to our web site. If you are like me you have probably noticed that the City is very slow in posting the minutes of recent meetings and I have yet to see the scheduling of meetings on the site. My fear is that the City believes that since the problems are now few they can relax and post the latest information at their leisure. This is not acceptable and a complaint is now being sent to the Manager. They need to know we are watching and we are going to continue to watch and they need to be receptive to our concerns. Just because things are returning to normal it is not the time to return to what caused the problems in the first place.

Thank you again, for your continued support. If we can be of assistance please let us know.