

For those who could not attend Thursday's meeting here is a brief synopsis of the topics we covered:

Update on Motion for Protective Order: This hearing conducted in Austin on Wednesday, August 14th was to determine if the Texas Attorney General's Office would be granted a protective order to prevent our attorneys from deposing Mr. Josh McGee, the former Chair of the Pension Review Board. The AG's attorney Cynthia Morales started with some background on the case in general. She reported that the legislature in 2017 changed the pension law, which in turn changed some of the ways the DP&FP calculated members' benefits. At this point the judge interjected, "and stopped paying them the benefits they were entitled"? Ms. Morales continued with her explanation of why the PRB was not the entity to be sued. The judge stopped her and asked why she had not filed a motion to plea the jurisdiction in the five months since the law suit was filed. She replied they had been working behind the scenes to try and avoid getting the courts involved. The judge explained that the jurisdiction issue needed to be resolved first and then a determination could be made on discovery.

The final outcome is a new hearing date is set for September 19th at 2:00pm, to hear the Plea to jurisdiction and the motion to continue with discovery. We will not know which court or Judge will hear the case until that day. I will keep you posted.

The oral arguments before the TSC are still scheduled for September 17th regarding the certified questions submitted by the Fifth Circuit Appeals Court in the Degan Case. These proceedings can be viewed online the night following the hearing. All of the attorney's briefs and amicus briefs filed in the case can be viewed on our website.

The three candidates for DP&FP Board supported by the DPROA (Gilbert Garcia, Tina Hernandez Patterson, and Robert French) were elected and the election results have been certified by the DP&FP Board. It was reported at last week's meeting that Mayor Johnson has asked the current mayoral appointees to the board to continue in their respective positions until he has time to become better acquainted with the issues. It is my opinion this is good for us. The current board members have experience with our situation and have come to the realization that more revenue (Pension Obligation Bond etc....) will be required.

The DPROA Board has decided that effective January 1, 2020, we will reopen the sign up for the Annual Adjustment/Benefit Supplement Lawsuit for three months. We know there are fellow police and fire members, active and retired, who still want to join in this effort to recover their benefits. To keep everyone on equal footing and giving no one an advantage in regards to how much they have to pay to join the suit, we will require all new members to pay dues effective June 1, 2019. This means they pay the same as any other member who joined on the last day of the initial sign-up. For example:

1. A current DPROA member or affiliate member in good standing does not need to do anything until January 1, 2020, when they will have three months (January-March) to

complete the required Contractual Agreement and pay the \$400 legal contribution to join the lawsuit.

2. A non-member who wants to join DPROA as a member or affiliate member will have to submit a request for membership and pay back dues from June 1, 2019 to date. After January 1, 2020, they will have three months to complete the required Contractual Agreement (January-March) and pay the \$400 legal contribution to join the lawsuit.
3. Active Police/Fire who are ineligible for membership in DPROA need only complete the Contractual Agreement and pay the \$400 legal contribution to join the lawsuit.

Dale Erves delivered the first order of DPROA Polo Shirts and took orders for more. He has both men's and women's style shirts for \$30 each. If you are interested in placing an order, email Dale at dale.erves@yahoo.com.

I hope to see you at our next meeting on September 11th at the DPA.