

OAPFF QUESTIONS ANSWERS

Marco Miller

Question 1

I am running for trustee because I have seen a lack of communications from the current board. With the major changes to the health care plans, especially for those that are pre-65, more discussions should have occurred during the decision making process. I think we may have been able to avoid the problems many are now facing if members themselves could have been part of the discussion early on, instead of just have seminars after the decision was already made for us.

I believe we need more transparency and open lines of communications between those we elect to serve us on the board and the contributing members. If I am elected, that will be my primary goal. Members need to know what is going on to ensure we are being represented.

Question 2

I joined the Columbus Division of Fire in 1973. I worked my way up through the ranks retiring as a Lieutenant. I became active in Columbus Professional Firefighters Local 67 in 1981 as a Union Steward; in 1985 I was elected 2nd Vice President, and in 1987 I was elected President, where I served three terms.

In Union leadership I was on the negotiating team for seven different contracts. I successfully negotiated their health insurance; which was the start of the modern coverage for the Columbus Division of Fire. I also negotiated the largest pay increase in the Department's history, 22.5% over three years.

From negotiating contracts, I gained experience in bringing about changes for the largest Firefighters union in the state. Working on these agreements was for the better good for everyone, and not just a few individuals. When we were able to bring health insurance we brought in, not only the firefighters, but also their families and explained how everything worked, how to make claims, how to see specialists. Communications on changes before they occurred were key to ensuring a smooth transition.

Question 3

The current contract with AON is in turmoil. The pension board should not have gone with a brokerage firm to provide our members with health care. We need to have health insurance, not a middle man company that will sell subpar coverage that costs more money. We should have been working to find better coverage programs for those retirees that are disabled or not Medicare eligible.

The ideal solution would be to have Medicare at age 55 for all first responders. But, since that is a legislative change, we need to be willing to fight to re-bid our health now, and without delay. The longer we stay with the brokerage firm; we will lose the ability to collect claims data, which we will need in order to get a group coverage insurance plan. While we will be able to get an insurance plan without claims data, we will have higher premiums in the meantime until new claims data can be collected. So, we need to do this sooner, rather than later, if we want affordable health insurance plans for our retirees.

Question 4

My recommendation for short-term and long-term solvency of the pension fund and healthcare stabilization fund is to even out Police and Fire contributions. Currently, Police pay less money into the fund than firefighters, which if we all have equal shares after retirement, it leaves the firefighters carrying the bulk of the load.

Question 5

We currently have a defined benefits systems, and I think it works fine and needs to be left alone.

Question 6

I believe that we do need a disability evaluation process, but we need to find an Ohio doctor who actually sees the patient. Not only is the Board paying the current doctor's travel and rooming fees every time he comes to Ohio from

Tennessee from a meeting, but he is only looking at charts to make a decision on a person's disability claim.

Question 7

I believe that the overall transparency of the board's decision to go with AON was non-existent. Many feel their questions before the new plans took effect weren't answered, and the Board did not want to release information to the very people that they are representing. I would advocate that all of these records be released, and allowed to be reviewed. The Board cannot operate in secret, which is why I am advocating for meetings to be streamed over the internet, so members can watch no matter where they are living.

Question 8

My view of fiduciary responsibility as a Trustee is to ensure the monies contributed to the fund are spent transparently, wisely, trustfully, and with everyone's best interest in mind. I would take this duty to heart, and avoid conflicts of interest, and put in the needed time in researching and listening to retirees in order to make the best decision for those that I would be representing.

Question 9

OAPFF members should vote for me because I believe that it is time for a change on the board. While no one likes change, sometimes it is needed to move forward in the best direction for everyone.

As a Trustee I will work hard to ensure members feel as though they can talk to me about their concerns and be listened to, make lines of communications easier, and be their advocate on the Board. I believe that trust is earned and not a given. I will work to earn the trust of the retirees, and expect them to hold my feet to the fire.

Question 10

I have been to several Pension Board and Ohio Retirement Study Council meetings over the last three decades.