

A Few minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

You have to stand up and fight

A long time MAP member recently sent a letter to an area newspaper rebutting an article that was printed demanding that the legislature implement new rules regarding insurance perks for public sector employees who receive disability pensions.

Our writer objected to the article's content, stating the paper's editorial contained "potentially false and purposely inflammatory information and (was) a great disservice to many grievously injured men and women..." in the police and fire services.

I did not see the rebuttal letter in the paper and am not sure if it appeared on-line. Our writer is a pensioned (disability) sergeant who makes a great case for his point of view on this issue. He provides information and questions to the newspaper, which have gone pretty much unanswered. Some media outlets may aim to rile up the masses and in so doing, make disingenuous claims in the direction they obviously want to see the public go.

And that too often is a continual attack on anything that is, was, or could be a benefit to police or fire and public sector employees as a whole.

In a follow up email from our writer, who gave his permission to use his rebuttal on our website (but MAP will withhold his name), he further states "I can't say I truly believed they would publish my response, but their (newspaper) deceitful editorial about the need for the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act's (PSEBA) reform made me very angry."

And angry all of you in the public service should be, too. It is a constant barrage of baloney from civic groups, tax groups, municipal leaders and Springfield politicians that appear to have the press in their pockets, and who joyfully spew out negatives about our benefits. We appear to be heroes no more to some of these institutions.

If you don't stand up now and contact your representatives and demand that they cease and desist in these attacks, and if you sit idly by and do not voice your concerns, they will win and your benefits will most certainly disappear. That means you will lose many of the benefits you thought would be there while employed, retired, or on a line-of-duty disability. Tell them you will vote them out next election cycle if they continue to destroy your pension benefits.

It's sad it has come this far—but it is upon us. Get involved and stand up and protest. Let them all know how you feel, just like our writer did. Do it now.

Our writer's full letter appears in our Guest Column section, right under the 2012 Opinion Pieces. Check it out and read what he has to say. We all need to have this passion in order to maintain our benefits. Your future is serious stuff—do not let those with their own agendas take it away from you without a fight. Because they will.

Stay safe.

Ps: When you finish reading this opinion piece, sit yourself down and write your own Letter to Editor of your local newspaper. It's about time you share your thoughts on pensions, unions, and your collective bargaining rights. Tell them to stop spinning your livelihood in such a negative fashion. Tell them you don't appreciate their taking sides against public workers.

More on this next time.