

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Michael Sedgwick. I proudly retired as a Captain in 2014 after serving 35 years with the department. In 2009, I was honored to be named Administrative Manager of the Benefits Fund, a role I held for 15 years until my retirement last year. I am currently serving as a consultant to our new Administrative Manager, Leigh Clarke, through the end of 2025.

My time with the Benefits Fund has been one of the most rewarding chapters of my career. I had the privilege of building a dedicated team committed to delivering exceptional benefits to you and your families, benefits unmatched by any other fire department. Under my leadership, we not only maintained a generous benefits package but also established three state-of-the-art medical centers to serve our members and their families.

Today, the Fund faces significant financial challenges. We are currently operating at a deficit, spending more than we are taking in. While we do have reserves, they could be depleted by the end of this decade if corrective action is not taken. This situation has developed, in part, because the employer, PBCFR, has not kept pace with rising healthcare costs and inflation. In recent years, available funding has largely been directed toward salary increases, increased staffing, and anticipated shorter work schedules, all worthwhile initiatives, but this has come at the expense of sustaining our health insurance benefits.

In the past five years, the Board of Trustees has undergone considerable change with the retirement of several long-standing Trustees and the addition of newer, younger members, transitions I've supported. However, this has also resulted in a significant loss of institutional knowledge and experience in managing the Fund.

I am seeking to fill the Trustee seat being vacated by Tony Tozzi, who is stepping down for personal reasons. I believe my deep knowledge of the Fund's finances, benefits, and operations, particularly the medical centers, can bring tremendous value in a voting capacity. While I have always provided guidance in my role as Administrator, I've never had a vote. I now feel the time is right to take on this responsibility.

Whether or not I am elected, I will continue to offer my support and experience to the Board. However, I firmly believe that becoming a voting Trustee is the most effective way I can contribute to the Fund's stability and future. My goal is to help steer the Fund back to financial health and ensure its sustainability for the next generation of members.

I respectfully ask for your vote and the opportunity to continue serving you, this time as a Trustee on the Board.

Fraternally,
Michael Sedgwick