

I retired from the Dubuque Fire Department in 1996 with a job-related disability, after 32 years of service. My total percent for disability was 64.8%. For years it was 66^{2/3} percent, and now I understand it is 82%. I'm all for improving something, but I don't think a small group should be cut to do it. I talked to Mr. Jacobs from the Pension Board on this issue, and he said that the State increased the escalator to help make up for this loss. To some degree that is true, except that when the newer retirees that received the 82% pension will also received the higher escalator. So for a short while, I will gain back some of my loses, but then I start losing again when the newer retirees at 82% receives the same escalator. Before any more increases in the Pension System for the current Fire Fighters, I would like to a percent increase for all retirees.

I would also like to see a change in 411 regarding the Heart and Lung clause. For a long time I throughout this part of 411 was a good idea, I no longer think so. The Paid Fire Departments are getting more and more Volunteer Fire Fighters on the job, and I don't think its right to presume it happens on a Fire Fighters career job when it could have happen on the Volunteer Dept. The best example I can give you is when a Dubuque Fire fighter who was also on a Volunteer Dept for years received a job related disable under Chapter 411 Heart & Lung. section. This man is currently still fighting fires on a Volunteer Fire Dept. I don't know why someone would want to abuse a system this way.

I as a City Taxpayer who has to support the large increase in pension costs I would like to see some protection built into the system. {Remember, these Fire Fighters don't live in the City that pays their good salaries and benefits. They also believe that a Volunteer Fire Dept. is good enough for their families.} I think that any Career Fire Fighter that gets hurt working as a Volunteer Fire fighter or any other off day job or business should be denied any pension benefits. Their injuries should be covered by who ever they work for, even if is their own business. Thank You

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