# THE MPFFU PODCAST ANNUAL REPORT 2023









Contact us at MPFFUpodcast@gmail.com





#### **ANNUAL REPORT - 2023**

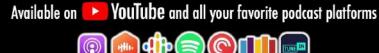
This report serves as an account of all Michigan Professional Fire Fighter Union (MPFFU) Podcast content produced between September 15, 2022, and September 25, 2023.

The MPFFU Podcast launched in September 2022 with the intent and purpose of supporting the mission to improve wages, working hours, and working conditions for its members through the dissemination of evidence-based relevant information, resources, and strategies. To accomplish this, the MPFFU podcast provides reliable, factual, and actionable information that strengthens, empowers, and supports MPFFU members and locals through united action.

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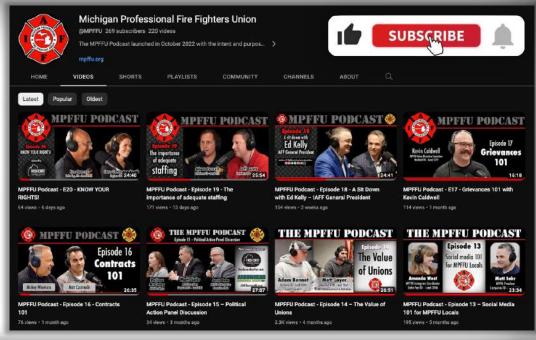




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## **TOTALS**

September 15, 2022, to September 25, 2023

68,179 views
691.67 hours of watch time
269 subscribers
108,598 impressions







Watch



#### Top 15 MPFFU YouTube videos

September 15, 2022, to September 25, 2023

YouTube video title Click on the title to view the video	Video publish date	Views	time (hours)
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 4b	6-Sep-23	2,422	6.78
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 18	10-Sep-23	2,336	15.74
MPFFU Podcast - Episode 14 - The Value of Unions	16-May-23	2,309	21.82
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 18b	10-Sep-23	2,139	8.77
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 2	5-Sep-23	2,123	10.21
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 10b	7-Sep-23	2,110	7.35
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 12	8-Sep-23	2,034	17.29
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 16b	9-Sep-23	2,029	7.93
MPFFU Podcast - E16 - Contracts 101 - Clip 8 - #shorts	6-Aug-23	2,000	7.19
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 13	8-Sep-23	1,954	9.15
MPFFU Podcast - E19 - Clip 15 - #shorts	16-Sep-23	1,849	13.00
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 13b	8-Sep-23	1,717	5.87
MPFFU Podcast - E18 - #Shorts - Clip 5b	6-Sep-23	1,681	6.12
MPFFU Podcast Clip - E13 - Capturing real life moments in the professional fire service (#shorts)	12-Apr-23	1,617	6.38
MPFFU Podcast - E19 - Clip 13d - #shorts	15-Sep-23	1,527	4.55







## 2,129 TOTAL DOWNLOADS

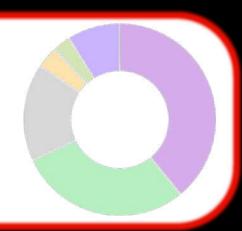
All audio only podcast platforms - September 15, 2022, to September 25, 2023
The MPFFU Podcast has been downloaded in 7 countries and 229 cities worldwide!



Apple Podcasts

39%

Apple Podcasts	39%	833
Spotify	28%	616
Unknown Apple Apps	16%	348
· Google Podcasts	3%	79
Web Browser	3%	64

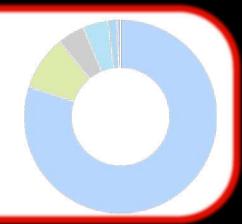




Apple iPhone

**79%** 

Apple iPhone	79%	1,703
Android Phone	9%	195
Unknown Device	4%	96
Windows Computer	4%	89
Apple Computer	1%	33

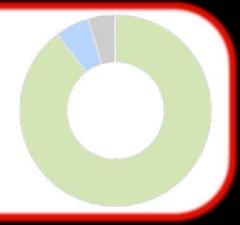




Mobile

89%

Mobile	89%	1,908
Computer	5%	122
Unknown	4%	96
Smart TV	0%	3









## Please support our sponsors!

In our first year, the MPFFU was successful at obtaining multiple sponsors to support the show! Please support our sponsors!



Fresh Coast Leather Works creates beautiful custom, hand-crafted American-made leather goods. This Michigan-based company has a great selection of high-quality customizable products for firefighters, including suspenders, radio straps, radio holsters, chin and glove straps, shields, and passports.

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Arrowhead Behavioral Health (located in Fowlerville, Michigan) provides specialized trauma therapy services for people of all ages who are suffering from anxiety, depression, and even PTSD. The Arrowhead team comprises culturally competent male and female therapists who offer various therapy options, including EMDR. Arrowhead Behavioral Health accepts a wide range of health insurance, offers live and virtual visits, AND has a depth of experience serving police, fire, EMS, and their families.

Go to ABHTherapyMI.com for more information or call them directly at 517-375-8798.

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to set up a discovery meeting









#### **E20** KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!



## **Ken Barnes**Delta Twp. FD - Local 2846

**Education Committee** 



#### Sara Cottington-Heath

Saginaw FD – Local 102 MPFFU Education Committee

In this episode, we welcome Ken Barnes and Sara Cottington-Heath. Ken is a Captain with the Delta Twp FD - Local 2846. In addition, Ken is the MPFFU Western Trustee, as well as the co-chair of the MPFFU Education Committee. Sara is a Lieutenant with the City of Saginaw – Local 102, as well as a member of the MPFFU Education Committee. In addition, Sara is a licensed attorney in the State of Michigan with over ten years of experience. Ken and Sara are here to talk about employee rights. Specifically, our guests are here to describe the value of knowing your employee rights when being questioned by your FD administration or employer. During this episode, Ken and Sara will help us all to better understand Weingarten and Garrity Rights.



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#### E19 The importance of adequate staffing



In this episode, we welcome Jeff Lentz and Adam Ferrell. Jeff Lentz is a Battalion Chief with Dearborn FD Local 412, as well as their local president. Adam Ferrell is a lieutenant with the Dearborn FD, the Secretary for Local 412, as well as a member of the MPFFU Political Education Committee.

Jeff and Adam are here to discuss the importance of adequate fire department staffing. Specifically, our quests will help us understand the value of adequately staffed fire departments for Michigan communities. Then, we'll discuss the laws and standards that dictate fire department staffing in Michigan. Finally, we'll dive into House Bill 4688 which, if passed, will amend the Public Employee Relations Act, to make staffing a mandatory topic of collective bargaining.



















#### E18 A sit down with Ed Kelly, IAFF General President



## **Ed Kelly**

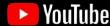
IAFF General President

Boston Fire Department - Local 718

In this episode, we welcome Ed Kelly, the General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). Ed "Edzo" Kelly has been a Boston Firefighter, or Jake, for over 25 years. As the General President, Ed and his team play a crucial role in shaping the future of the fire service, advocating for the well-being of firefighters, and leading one of the most influential labor unions in North America and beyond.

During this, President Kelly weighs in on many issues currently faced by the fire service, including staffing, recruitment and retention, PFAS, and the future of bunker gear. Ed also describes why MPFFU members should show up for the rally in Lansing on September 14, 2023.





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#### **E17** Grievances 101



In this episode, we introduce you to Kevin Caldwell. Kevin is a firefighter paramedic with the Westland FD - Local 1279, as well as a member of the MPFFU Education Committee. Kevin is here to talk about contract grievances. For context, a grievance is 'an allegation or complaint by a member or members of a Union that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or improper application of the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreements (CBA), aka the contract. During this episode, Kevin will describe what a grievance is. Then, we'll discuss the grievance process. Finally, Kevin and I will discuss duty of fair representation, or DFR, which is the legal assurance that every member is represented fairly and equally.



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#### E16 Contracts 101



MPFFU Union Education Committee Chair MPFFU Eastern Trustee



In this episode, we welcome back Mickey Wiewiura and introduce you to Matt Czarnecki. Mickey retired as a captain from the Dearborn Heights FD Local 1355 and is currently the MPFFU Eastern Trustee, as well as the Union Education Committee Chair. Matt Czarnecki is a sergeant with the Harrison Twp. FD Local 1737 and is currently a member of the MPFFU Union Education Committee. During this episode, Mikey and Matt will help MPFFU members and locals appreciate the value of understanding your contract. In addition, our guests will list and describe key points to be consider prior to contract negotiations. This episode covers the basics by providing a clear, concise, and high-level overview of labor contracts.



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#### **E15** Political Action Panel Discussion



This episode was recorded live at the MPFFU Education Seminar that took place at the Suburban Showplace in Novi, Michigan on May 15, 2023. During the seminar, Geoff Lassers took part in emceeing the Political Action Panel discussion. The panel included Matt Sahr, the MPFFU President, Scott Bala, the MPFFU Political Action Committee Chair, and Melissa McKinley, who is the MPFFU's lobbyist. During the discussion, the panel members talked about various political issues and how they may impact the MPFFU and its members. This was a fantastic episode that provides a clear and concise description of the current political landscape that will shape the future of Michigan's professional firefighters.





















#### **E14** The value of unions



In this episode, we welcome Adam Bennet and Matt Layer. Adam Bennet is a firefighter with the Oshtemo fire department, as well as the president of local 5240. Matt Layer is a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Eastpointe Fire Department local 1561, as well as their Treasurer. Matt is a member of the MPFFU Recruitment and Retention Committee.

The Oshtemo fire department local is relatively new and joined the MPFFU in 2019. Adam is here to tells us why, and how the Oshtemo Fire Department unionized and joined the IAFF and MPFFU. In addition, he'll describe why his department chose to join the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union over other union organizations. Finally, Adam will describe how joining the MPFFU has benefited the entire Oshtemo community, including the citizens, the township, and their fire department members.



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### **E13** Social media 101 for MPFFU Locals





In this episode, we welcome back Matt Sahr and Amanda West to provide a clear and concise overview of the "do's and don'ts" for MPFFU Locals to consider when using social media. Matt Sahr is the president of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Association (MPFFU), and a firefighter paramedic with the city of Eastpointe Local 1561. Amanda West is the MPFFU Instagram coordinator and a member of the Recruitment & Retention Committee, as well as a firefighter paramedic with Delta Twp. Fire Department Local 2846.

Like many things in life, social media can be used to help, but it can create potential problems. During this episode, Matt and Amanda will discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential threats related to MPFFU Locals utilizing social media. Most importantly, our guests describe how MPFFU Locals can use social media to show the value of the union and the direct positive impact they provide to their community.

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#### **E12** The value of attending district meetings

Pete
Windsor
Marquette City FD
Local 643
1st District



Jake Ruth Glen Lake FD Local 5086 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Matt Oleaga Port Huron FD Local 354 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Mike Thoms Canton FD Local 2289 4th District



Gunnar Morrall East Lansing FD Local 1609 5th District



Ryan
Sears
Sterling Heights FD
Local 1557
6th District



Each district is made up of the locals within that geographic area. Every spring and fall, district meetings are held to bring our locals and members together to network, as well as share ideas and information. The district meetings are a GREAT way for members to come together, eat, drink, and learn about what is happening at the State level, as well as in your surrounding communities. These are very informative and fun events that I highly recommend to all MPFFU members.

In this episode, we welcome MPFFU members from each of the districts to the show to express the value of attending District meetings.



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## **E11** An update from the MPFFU Political Education and Recruitment & Retention Committees





In this two-part episode we welcome back the chairpersons of the MPFFU Recruitment & Retention Committee and the Political Education Committee. In the first part, we welcome back firefighter/paramedic Scott Korycki from the Dearborn FD local 412 who also serves as the MPFFU Recruitment and Retention Committee Chair. Scott will provide an update regarding what his committee has accomplished since his last appearance on the show back in November of last year.

In the second part, we welcome back the other Scott. Scott Bala who serves as the MPFFU 6<sup>th</sup> District VP and the Chairperson of the Political Education Committee. Scotty B retired from the Roseville FD (Local 1614) as a Battalion Chief after 30 years. Scott will give us an update from the Political Education Committee and let us know how things are going.





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#### **E10** Balancing firefighter health & wellness

#### Maureen Stoecklein

MLB Nutrition Coordinator **Detroit Tigers** 

Canton Fire Department (Retired)



In this episode, we welcome Maureen Stoecklein who is a retired firefighter / paramedic from the Canton Fire Department, local 2289 who served 22 years. Maureen, or Mo as she prefers to be called, has been a registered dietitian for over 25 years. While working as a professional firefighter in Canton Township, she worked three seasons as the Team Dietitian for the New York Mets baseball organization. Since retirement, Mo has brought her dietary skills to Detroit and is currently the MLB Nutrition Coordinator for the Detroit Tigers.

During this episode. Mo helps us appreciate how a balanced lifestyle supports our overall health and wellness. No matter if you're an avid athlete with a super clean diet, or someone who has never worked out or paid attention to what they eat, there's something in this episode for you.



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E9 What to expect in 2023

#### **Matt Sahr**

MPFFU President
Eastpointe FD - Local 1561



In this episode, Matt Sahr, president of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Association, and firefighter paramedic with the city of Eastpointe local 1561. During this episode, Matt will provide an overview of what MPFFU members can expect in 2023. Then, he'll provide us with an update of the cancer presumption act, Public Act 152, the MPFFU Recruitment & Retention Committee, and the status Michigan only EMS license.



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#### **E8** A sit down with MPFFU Committee members



MPFFU President
Eastpointe FD - Local 1561



MPFFU Podcast Host West Bloomfield Township FD - Local 1721

In this episode, Matt Sahr and Geoff Lassers sit down with various members from MPFFU Committees to ask three important questions:

- 1) WHY did you become a firefighter?
- 2) WHO should become a firefighter?
- 3) What should Michigan's politicians know about the MPFFU and our members?



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#### **E7** MPFFU EMS Committee



#### **Monty Nye**

MPFFU EMS Committee Chair

MPFFU 5<sup>th</sup> District VP

Active retiree with Grande Ledge FD - Local 2627

Meridian Township FD - Local 1600 (retired)

In this episode, we sit down with Monty Nye. Monty is a retired firefighter and paramedic that spent many years with the Meridian Twp fire department - Local 1600. Monty is a super busy retiree. He is an Active Retiree with Grande Ledge Local 2627, the MPFFU 5<sup>th</sup> District VP, and the MPFFU EMS Committee Chair.

During this episode, Monty will help us appreciate the value of understanding the role and functions of MPFFU and its locals. Then, he'll describe the role of the MPFFU EMS Committee, as well as it's current goals and objectives. We will finish of by discussing how members can get informed, educated, and involved with the EMS Committee goals and initiatives.



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#### **E6** MPFFU Health & Safety Committee



MPFFU Health & Safety Committee

Ferndale FD - Local 812



MPFFU Health & Safety Committee

Rochester Hills FD - Local 3472

In this episode, I sit down with Larry Gambotto and John Schwall. Larry Gambotto is the Captain of Training and Safety with the Rochester Hills Fire Department local 3472, as well as a member of the MPFFU Health and Safety Committee. John Schwall is a shift Captain with the Ferndale Fire Department local 812 and is also a member of the MPFFU Health and Safety Committee.

During this episode, Larry and John will help us appreciate the value of understanding the role and functions of MPFFU and its locals. Then, they'll describe the role of the MPFFU Health and Safety Committee. In doing so, Larry and John will describe the committee's current priorities regarding promoting firefighter health and safety. We will finish of by discussing how members can get informed, educated, and involved with the Health and Safety Committee goals and initiatives.



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#### **E5** MPFFU Union Education Committee



#### **Mickey Wiewiura**

MPFFU Union Education Committee Chair

MPFFU Eastern Trustee

Dearborn Heights FD - Local 1355 (retired)

In this episode, we're joined by Mickey Wiewiura and Matt Sahr. Matt Sahr is a firefighter paramedic with the city of Eastpointe local 1561, as well as the president of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Association. He's also the one responsible for getting this podcast off the ground and out to our members. Mickey Wiewiura retired from the Dearborn Heights FD Local 1355 and is currently the MPFFU Eastern Trustee and Chair of the Union Education Committee.

During this episode, Mickey and Matt help us appreciate the value of understanding the role and functions of MPFFU and its locals. Then, they describe the role of the MPFFU Union Education Committee. We will finish of by discussing how members can get informed, educated, and involved with the Union Education Committee initiatives.



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#### **E4** MPFFU Recruitment & Retention Committee



#### Scott Korycki

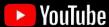
MPFFU Recruitment & Retention Committee Chair

Dearborn Fire Department Local 412

In this episode, we meet Scott Korycki, who has a long history and depth of experience as a professional firefighter and an active union representative at the local and state level. Scott is a current firefighter paramedic with Dearborn Fire Department local 412, as well as the MPFFU Recruitment and Retention Committee Chairperson.

During this episode, Scott will appreciate the value of understanding the role and functions of MPFFU and its locals. Then, he'll Describe the role of the MPFFU Recruitment and Retention Committee, as well as their current functions and objectives. Finally, Scott will describe how MPFFU members can get informed, educated, and/or directly involved with the MPFFU Recruitment & Retention Committee, as well as its goals and objectives.





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#### **E3** MPFFU Political Education Committee



#### Scott Bala

**Political Education Committee Chair** MPFFU 6th District Vice President Roseville Fire Department - Local 1614 (retired)

In this episode, we introduce Scott Bala, who has a long history and depth of experience as a professional firefighter and an active union representative at the local and state level. Scott recently retired from the Roseville FD (Local 1614) as a Battalion Chief with 30 years of service. Scott is currently the 6th District VP and the Chairperson of the MPFFU Political **Education Committee** 

During this episode, Scott will help us appreciate the value of understanding the role and functions of MPFFU and its locals. Then, he'll describe the role of the Political Education Committee, as well as discuss key considerations for the upcoming elections in November 2022. We finish off the conversation with Scott's recommendation regarding how MPFFU members can get informed, educated, and involved with Political Education Committee initiatives

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#### **E2** MPFFU Behavioral Health Committee



#### Mike Mattern

MPFFU Behavior Health Committee Chair

Dearborn Fire
Department Local 412



1-833-34-STRONG

In the second episode of the MPFFU Podcast, we are joined by Mike Mattern is a LT with Dearborn FD Local 412, as well as a Peer Support member and the Chairperson of the MPFFU Mental Health Committee. During this episode, Mike will help us appreciate the value of the MPFFU and its locals. Then, he'll describe the role and functions of the MPFFU Behavior Health Committee and tell where you can find more information. Finally, Mike will provide an overview of the Wayne State University Frontline Strong Together program which was collaboratively created by first responders and mental health experts.

Frontline strong provides 24/7 live support, effective resources, and cutting-edge services to prevent and alleviate PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other frontline work-related mental health challenges. Go to FST5.org for more information. NEED HELP NOW? If you are experiencing any crisis — work related, substance abuse, depression, relationships, financial, or any other, reach out by calling 1-833-34-STRONG. Check out the show notes for additional details.



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In this first episode of the MPFFU Podcast, we are joined by Matt Sahr, the newly elected MPFFU President, as well as a firefighter paramedic with the Eastpointe Fire Department. We're also joined by Terry Chesney, a retired Trenton firefighter and long-time MPFFU Secretary Treasurer who is a fountain of knowledge and experience for all things MPFFU. Finally, our conversation also includes Michael O'Hearon who is the MPFFU long-time legal counsel.

During this episode, our guests will help us appreciate the value of understanding the role, functions, and structure of the IAFF and the MPFFU. Then, we'll describe how members can get informed, educated, and involved with the IAFF and MPFFU initiatives and functions.



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