

## **A Few minutes with the Boss**

*By: Joseph Andalina*

### **The Happiest Week of the Year**

It's here! Just as they advertised on the Discovery Channel; it's Christmas in August! Shark Week is back! And it's eerily similar to what's coming to a legislature near you.

The marauding blood-thirsty, black-eyed denizens all circling, just waiting for the opportunity to take a bite out of your pensions!

Oh, forgive me, I keep getting the politicians confused with the Bull sharks. Or, is that the Bull\*\*\*\* sharks?

And yes, they are circling, circling, circling. The Fall Veto Session starts shortly. The great question is will they be bold enough to come in fast and take a chunk out of your pension, before you know what hit you?

Will they leave you screaming that your retirement age is going to be expanded as you thrash about your police agencies? Are you to be left lying in the ocean of debt when they claim they cannot fund your golden years and your monthly retirement payments will be reduced?

For newbies now, but the plan may be that once they take a "test bite" to see if they can bilk you without a fight, they will comeback and finish you off by applying the new rules to existing coppers, too.

These sharks, er, politicians, get bolder with more blood in the water. If you're swimming alone, they've got you. That's why it takes a bunch of you all swimming in unison to scare them away. Collectively, you have to write, call, fax, or e-mail and tell your leaders that you see them. Election time is nigh, folks. That is the true shark repellent. If they think you're drifting away in your rubber raft, you're screwed. But if you've got your shark stick, shark repellent, and shark cage, you can defeat them.

You can scare them into deeper water, which is next year. But even then, you have to be on the alert. If the water is murky and they think you are not looking, they will come back. You have to let them know that in the "dawn and dusk" of election day, you will be out there "casting" a ballot and it won't have "their" name on it if they try to make your pension bleed. Unlike a real shark attack, what is looming as regards a dismemberment of your pension is a real possibility. Only you can stop them.

Get out of the water and make that contact. Use your shark repellent and make it all go away. Fight back, just like with real sharks—that's all politicians fear.

As far as August 1<sup>st</sup>? Yeah, it is that other Shark Week. It's a chance to get your mind off what is sneaking up on you on the horizon. At least with the week dedicated to real

sharks, you know it's not personal when they take a bite out of some poor bloke who is unaware of his surroundings.

Maybe it will get you ready for the battle that is coming. Maybe it will keep you focused on the mayhem at the capital as you watch the mayhem on your telly.

I, for one, love Shark Week on Discovery, but it does remind me of some of our not-so-fine sharks in Springfield.

Vita é bella

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