



THE DISPATCH

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**Publication Of The United Mesa Fire Fighters Representing Fire Fighters Of
Mesa, Gilbert, Apache Junction, and the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community**



SAVE GILBERT FIRE JOBS

TOWN OF GILBERT GOING TO VOTERS WITH PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

By Bryan Jeffries, Local 2260 President, PFFA Executive VP

Like so many of our communities, Gilbert is facing serious budget shortfalls. The Council has wrangled over how to deal with these deficits, while maintaining City services.

Public Safety is at the heart of these deliberations as Town hall is saying that without an infusion of money, 29 Fire personnel and 65 Police personnel will likely be laid off.

In a 4-3 vote of the Gilbert Town Council, a ¼ of 1 percent sales tax increase will go before the voters. If passed this means that for every 100 dollars spent while shopping in Gilbert, voters would pay an extra 25 cents.

United Mesa Fire Fighters are joining with many concerned citizens, the Gilbert Law Enforcement Association and Town Prosecutors to educate Gilbert voters and push to support the tax increase. The Gilbert Chapter is currently filing the campaign and will be looking for people and money to get the word out for this critical assistance.

For residents of Gilbert, the special election will be held on **Tuesday, May 18, 2010**. Registered voters may request a ballot by mail, by phone, or by linking to the Maricopa County Elections website. Phone requests for ballots may be made by contacting the Clerk's Office (480) 503-6871 or Maricopa County Elections at (602) 506-1511. Persons requesting a ballot over the phone need to provide their name and address, date of birth, and voter identification number (if available). Electronic requests may be made through the Maricopa County Recorder at <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/earlyvoteballotnet/evbrequest.aspx>. If you or a friend or family member are not currently registered to vote, you can still register before April 19th. Voter registration forms are available at the following locations:

- Gilbert Municipal Center, 50 East Civic Center Drive, Gilbert, Arizona
- Southeast Regional Library, 775 North Greenfield Road, Gilbert, Arizona

Forms may also be obtained from Maricopa County Recorder at <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/web/regform.aspx>.

For more information members may contact the Town Clerk :

Town Clerk's Office
Town of Gilbert
50 East Civic Center Drive
Gilbert, Arizona 85296

(480) 503-6871 Voice
cathy.templeton@gilbertaz.gov



2010 LOCAL 2260 MESA
RETIREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST
By Bryan Jeffries, Local 2260 President, PFFA VP

One of my favorite events of the year is our annual Mesa Fire/Local 2260 retiree pancake breakfast. Retired members came from all over the nation to say hello and reminisce. Seeing old friends and swapping stories are great for the folks who came before us. February 15th, we broke our attendance record yet again when over 60 retirees attended this great event. Many folks helped set up and cook pancakes and make the coffee but nobody puts more time and effort into making this get together so successful than retired Captain, Ivard Brimley. "Uncle Ivard" is the organizer, cheerleader and magnet that reminds, pesters and draws everyone back together to remember what a special experience it is to be a part of the Mesa Fire Department. Thanks to everyone and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Local 2260 To Vote On Adding Fort McDowell Fire Fighters to Local 2260

By Bryan Jeffries, President

Many months ago, Fire Fighters from the Fort McDowell Tribal Community reached out to our Salt River V.P., John Acosta to discuss organizing into the IAFF. Eventually this led to a meeting with Johnny and I and some of the Fort McDowell folks. During that meeting I laid out the limitations our organization has when working in a tribal environment. The response I received was very heartening when they stated that their Fire Fighters were appreciative of the pension benefits established for them and protected for them by the PFFA. They also stated that the benefits of membership go beyond just employer recognition. Care for our families and each other during times of need with our member services resources, education and training from IAFF haz-mat, discounts on insurance and financial services, wills and trusts, and the many more benefits of membership have Fort McDowell Fire Fighters eager to join us.

Because of the size of the Fort McDowell Department we have decided to propose to our members that we alter the bylaws to expand our Salt River Chapter to include Fort McDowell in a “Tribal Communities Chapter”, which would be led by Salt River VP, John Acosta. This is a way for us to do this in a financially feasible way and allow Salt River and Fort McDowell to share ideas and strategies to be effective in their environments. Vice president Acosta has agreed to take on this additional challenge and I know he will do a good job putting it together.

My philosophy is that every Firefighter deserves a union. Every environment is a little different, whether you are in Gilbert or Mesa or whether you are in Topeka or Boston.

Regardless of where you work, being a member of the greatest union on the planet should be available to every Firefighter. I speak on behalf of the entire Executive Board when I say that we are strongly urging you all to vote yes on our proposal, vote yes on the Tribal Communities bylaw change and let's issue a warm IAFF, Local 2260 welcome to Fort McDowell Fire Fighters.



Local 2260 Teams up with AFLAC

By Chris Mapel, Local 2260 Operations Director

Based on popular demand for supplemental insurance products, Local 2260 has teamed up with AFALC to provide discounted insurance products for our members. AFLAC provides cash benefits to members for out of pocket expenses when you are sick or injured. AFLAC has a history of stable rates for members. In the past, one of the biggest complaints we have heard from our members who currently have cancer or other supplemental insurance is that their rates have increased significantly. You will soon be hearing from Vicky Rumford to provide an AFLAC presentation at your station. The products are provided at a Local 2260 union discounted rate. As always it is entirely up to crews whether you want the presentation. Please let us know your feedback on the presentation and if you purchase a plan, please let us know how the service is going.