



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

Honor Bash A Huge Success

By Bryan Jeffries, President

The 2006 Honor Bash was a great time. Molly Brannigans turned out to be a fantastic venue. There was plenty of room. The food, music and camaraderie made for a great time. This was the first Honor Bash for our brothers and sisters in Salt River and we were thrilled that there was a strong showing from SR Fire Fighters.

Two tremendous friends of our Local became honorary Local 2260 Fire Fighters at the event. Mike Galloway's strong commitment to our members and Eric Landau's commitment to the Pipe and Drum/Honor Guard earned them both this very special place as part of our family.



Arizona Fire Fighters Converge On State Capitol

By Bryan Jeffries, President

With a recent state budget surplus, our Legislators have remained in session to negotiate with the Governor and one another what to do with the extra money. The strong push by many legislators has been to refund the surplus by way of a statewide income tax break. Such an income tax break has the potential to squeeze urban shared revenues, which our cities and towns rely upon for Fire Department and other city revenues. To send a strong message to our legislators, PFFA members from throughout the state joined Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs and Mayors, including Mesa Keno Hawker in a joint press conference to urge a “hold harmless” for urban shared revenues. The message from all of us at this solidarity event was public safety needs require continuous revenues to keep up with growth in communities throughout Arizona. Local 2260 made a very strong showing at the event and we greatly appreciate those of you who were able to show up on such short notice.



“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing” President Theodore Roosevelt, Labor Day speech, Syracuse, New York, 9/7/1903



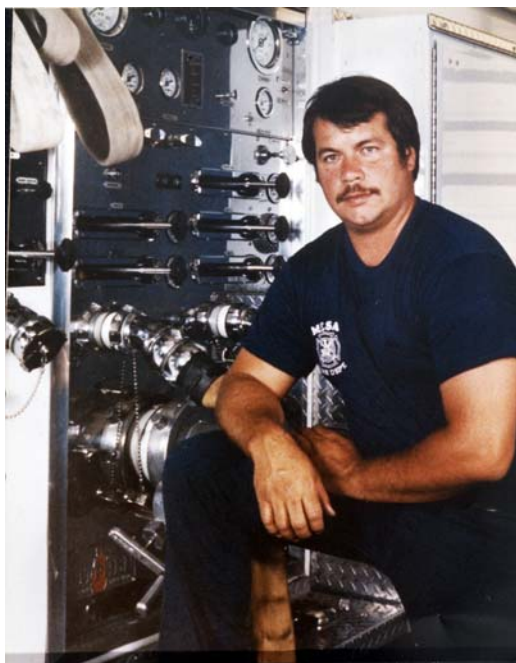
Colorado Springs Is Around The Corner

By Bryan Jeffries, President

The IAFF Fallen Firefighter memorial will be held on Saturday, September 16th. This will be a very special day for Local 2260 as one of our own; Carl Shoemaker's name will be added to the memorial wall. I truly believe that every Firefighter should travel to the memorial at least once in their career. What a great year to do so and to be able to honor one of our fallen. This is such a special ceremony and the events surrounding the memorial bring us all together.

To learn more about the specifics of the event, go to www.iaff.org. On the right side of the website you will find a link for the memorial. On this sight you will find information about our discounted hotels and other travel information.

Please make every effort to be in Colorado Springs, it will be an unforgettable event for all of us and our families. Rooms are filling up so act fast. There are still some pretty good air fares available.



Gilbert Fire Fighters Back to School Drive

By Mike Rudolph, Gilbert VP



Mike with Councilman Steve Urie

Gilbert Fire Fighters with the United East Valley Firefighters Charities Foundation successfully provided underprivileged children with essential school supplies for the 2006-2007 school year. Our Union members partnered with the Town of Gilbert's Employee Communication Committee for the Annual Back to School Event. The Fire Fighter's Union purchased over 200 backpacks and donations were received from Town of Gilbert Employees and local businesses such as JanSport, Target, and Staples. Together, we were successful in providing over 220 kids registered at the Gilbert CAP office with backpacks and school materials to start the new school year. Councilmember Joan Krueger and Councilmember Steve Urie worked with our members for this worthy cause. Council members Steve Urie and Joan Krueger have always supported the Gilbert Fire Fighters and I thank them for their continued support.

Thank you to everybody who helped to make this a successful event!



Mesa, Phoenix and Tucson To Experiment With Code 2 Cars

By John Locklin, Executive VP

In an innovative attempt to relieve busy crews and to find a cost-effective solution to servicing our growing number of non-emergency calls, Mesa, Phoenix and Tucson will be each bringing up one two-person code two medical response teams. In Mesa the unit will be called Medic 203. Medic 203 will be assigned to station 203 and will be in service from 1900-0700. The intent of the team is to focus on code-2 “minor” calls so our overburdened west side response units can remain more available for emergencies, which require the response of a full response crew. Tucson was actually the first department to get the project going and has so far experienced great success.

Many of you have already asked the very important question regarding precedence and the threat to our coveted 4 person response companies. Labor and Management are very cognizant of these issues and are confident that the limited service scope of these units will only be, and will only be sold as a supplement to our service; never any form of replacement.

There is still discussion ensuing regarding the specifics of staffing, sleeping areas, etc. Local 2260 has maintained the position that these units should only be staffed with overtime personnel, not with rovers or other on-shift staff. At the time of this writing it appears that in Mesa, management is going to move forward with using on-duty staff despite our strong position otherwise. We will be interviewing everyone involved to assess the impact on the on-duty crews as well as others affected to determine the impact of the staffing arrangement. We are still working with management to ensure that this pilot project is an agreeable venture for everyone. Below are some bullet points about some of the proposed specifics of the project. Please do not hesitate to advise your Trustee, to let us know if you have any concerns regarding the project.

- **Medic 203 will run out of station 203**
- **The weight room will be used for partial temporary quarters**
- **Initially, the vehicle will be a reserve LT, until one of the older BC suburbans comes available.**
- **It will be staffed with one ALS and one BLS member.**
- **The unit will not be used for automatic aid**



Official Financial Planners for
the United Mesa and Tempe
Firefighters

The DROP Zone

Is DROP Hurting our Pension Fund?

Mike Galloway, Financial Planner (Retired Mesa Police Lieutenant)

Thanks for the many retirement party invites, I certainly had my share of cake last month! During these retirement parties, several conversations revolved around this question, “Is DROP hurting our Pension Funds?”

First, let me state that I have found no evidence to support this concern.

I have heard the arguments...too many people are not paying into the fund because they are in DROP, and the rollovers are hurting the system. The pension system is based on contributions from employees, employers and fund performance. While there is a pension obligation for each member of the system that grows as employees increase their high three years income average and time in service, these liabilities cease as the employee enters DROP. The benefits earned are either directed to the employee’s pocket (no DROP) or a DROP account; it’s all the same to the pension system. In addition, while you are in DROP a new pension obligation does not occur until a new employee is hired. Now there is interest paid on DROP money but the percentage is regulated by the Fund Manager, based on anticipated rates of return. This protects both the pension system and members. Our system has numerous check and balances in place to which are overseen by the Fund Manager. In conclusion, the only negative I see to DROP is that I consumed more than my share of cake and punch during the month of June than I should have.

Did you know?

You can learn more about your Public Safety Pension Retirement System (PSPRS) on their website at www.psprs.com. Take some time to check out this website. I think you will find it informative. In addition, both my staff and I have always found PSPRS employees to provide professional client service in the most courteous manner.

Please call us with any questions at 480.325.8668.



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Firefighter Documentary

By Bryan Jeffries, President

An Insurance group called the Fireman's Fund will be releasing a documentary about the day to day life and trials of the fire service, directed by Academy Award-winning director Bill Couturie. The documentary is being aired on the history channel on October 13th.

To learn more about the film go to www.firemansfund.com/heritage and click on the box that says: "into the fire."

IAFF Talks About Global Alliance With Other Fire Unions

July 28, 2006 – A delegation led by IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger met with representatives from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) of the United Kingdom; the United Firefighters Union of Australia (UFUA); and the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union (NZPFU) July 25-27 in Hawaii, to begin discussions and set parameters for an information sharing process that could develop into a powerful global alliance, after the unions involved take the information they learned at the meetings to their respective memberships for review and consideration.



"These meetings were important for us to be able to share information and learn about each other so we could clearly see the benefits of a potential partnership down the road," says General President Schaitberger. "I will be taking this information back to my union and presenting a report to the delegates at our Convention in August to let them know what we learned and to get their guidance.

The IAFF was represented at the meeting by General President Schaitberger and District Vice Presidents Louie Wright (2nd District), Jim Ferguson (10th District), Michael Mullane (3rd District), Thomas Miller (8th District) and Lorne West (6th District). The Australian representatives were Mark Walker from the Queensland branch of the United Firefighters Union, Leigh Hubbard National Executive Officer, national president Ron Hanna, General Secretary Peter Marshall, and branch officials Tony Scully and Tony Trimble. The New-Zealand Professional Firefighters Union was represented by national committee member Steve Warner, National Secretary Derek Best, and President Michael McEnaney. The FBU was represented by AGS Andy Dark.

"Along with the other members of the IAFF delegation, I will be reporting to our convention that what I learned from the unions and esteemed leaders we met with has the potential to strengthen all fire unions around the globe, including the IAFF," says Schaitberger. Delegates at the convention will be considering a resolution on this issue, as well.

"The fight for better working conditions, adequate benefits and sufficient training for fire and EMS personnel is not only an issue in the United States and Canada; it's a worldwide concern," Schaitberger says. "Together with our brothers and sisters in other countries, we can speak louder and we will be heard."

While the alliance is still in the information gathering stage, that process will take place under the umbrella of the participating unions. The alliance participants will also be inviting other like-minded fire fighter unions to join this partnership process.

The unions agreed to begin with a sharing of information, development of standards, assistance with campaigning and responding to international trends in the firefighting and fire services industries.

The [Fire Brigades Union](#) is the sole trade union representing emergency fire fighters control staff in the United Kingdom. The [United Firefighters Union of Australia](#) represents the 14,000 professional fire fighters providing fire and rescue services across the country. The [New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union](#) represents New Zealand members in all matters having an impact on fire fighters.

We Now Have Our Own IAFF Bank

By Bryan Jeffries, President



Now you can earn higher rates on your deposits and enjoy the benefits of traditional banking through the IAFF-FC Banking Center. The Banking Center was developed exclusively for IAFF members and their families by the IAFF-FC and Affinity Financial Corporation, which is an award-winning financial technology company established in 1996. Affinity Financial Corporation has contracted with Union Federal Bank of Indianapolis, founded in 1887, to provide superior deposit services for all banking center customers. Union Federal Bank has grown into the largest Indiana based thrift, with over \$3.4 billion in assets. All checking, savings, money market and certificate of deposit accounts offered through the banking center are FDIC insured up to \$100,000 per customer by one of the Affinity Financial Corporation participating FDIC insured depository institutions. Go to:

<http://www.iaff-fcbankingcenter.com/iaff-fc/> for more information.