

BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICER

LOCAL 964

--STAFF--

STEPHAN G. FUGATE -- MIKE CAMPBELL

By and For the Professional Fire Officer

IN UNION
THERE IS STRENGTH

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April/May 2005

**From the Desk of
the President**

By Stephan G. Fugate

Much ado about nothing

As the last edition of this newsletter was, quite literally, on its way to print, a meeting was called that sparked a possibility that some of the contentious issues already written about in very pointed terms might yet be resolved or, at least addressed. Keeping in mind that it was, very coincidentally, the third anniversary of this administration's tenure marking three full years of renegeing on every single commitment ever made, it provided a very timely opportunity to offer an assessment; a third anniversary, annual report-card if you will. Additionally, there were more than a dozen outstanding grievances from this Local alone, of varying significance that were simply being ignored and, in some cases, were not even to be found.

So, the just written column was a no-holds-barred, scathing rebuke that was (even by my standards) an abrasive, gauntlet-smashing invective from which there could be no reconciliation was put on hold. On the business day before the newsletter deadline, however, the meeting between Rick, the Chief, Assistant Chief of Operations and myself was convened and after more than two hours, I was of the cautiously optimistic opinion that we might be, at long last, headed in the right direction in a sincere effort by

the administration to finally deal honestly, directly, and above-board with the Unions.

I will readily admit that my learned cynicism caused me to suspect not only the veracity of this surprise "olive branch", but the underlying reasons for an alleged sudden change of direction. The point being that if this newfound cooperation was being driven by ANYTHING other than honesty and sincerity, two qualities sorely lacking to date, it would be short-lived and fruitless. Well, cynicism has once again proven to be the better index than optimism in dealing with this administration as, at the very least, you'll not be completely wrong, but regrettably accurate to some degree.

Yes, some of the outstanding grievances were "resolved" by the Union either withdrawing or compromising its position. Some others were "resolved" with the administration admitting fault and committing not to repeat the same breach of contract which, in my view, is the equivalent of saying "*well I'll be, your contract does say that*". Of course, that particular admission and promise to amend lasted nearly a month which, I suppose, is a step in the right direction. I could go on, but the bottom line is that it all now seems to have been much ado about nothing and so far as I am concerned, we are right back where we were in early February with not only no relief in sight, but the splendid prospect of things getting even worse. Oh, and that "scathing anniversary perspective" that would have graced this space in the last edition? I have ten more months now to update it for next year and at the rate things are

going, it could well make a Stephen King novel look like bedtime story.

Shock therapy for Union Officials

I will never forget the first time I heard it, and I vividly recall that I could not have been more dazed than if someone had kicked me in the chest. I became, literally, physically ill and retreated to my humble home-office later that evening to contemplate just how I would remove myself from union office with as little fanfare and interference as possible. I had, just one month before being sworn in as Local 964's first Secretary-Treasurer and the transition from combining the two previous offices of Financial Secretary and Treasurer had gone very smoothly and I wondered who might want or be able to take over with my departure.

The prospect of forever being know as the guy who served ONE MONTH in office was outweighed, at least in my mind, by the charge leveled against me that day, so I just knew that I had to step down. Not yet having a PC, I first handwrote, then typed a letter of resignation to then President John Seiss, but by the time I'd finished, it was too late in the evening to disturb him at his home, so I waited until the next day when I knew he was on day work.

I walked into the kitchen of Truck 20 early that next morning and asked to speak with John in private. Engine 41 and Truck 20 shared an office back then, and John had to ask the Engine Lieutenant to step out so he and I could talk, and I can still

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From the President's Desk....

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recall the utter despair I felt as the office door closed. I couldn't muster the ability to speak, so I handed John the envelope containing the single page letter and sat in silence as he read. (As an aside, John was one of a handful of people in my life who, in addition to my Mother, are allowed to call me "Stevie".) "What's this all about, Stevie?" he asked in his fatherly tone. I was taken aback more than a little because he was the only other person in the room the day before when the Chief of Department issued the admonishment that would bring my fledgling union career to an abrupt end; surely he heard what was said.

Not wanting to even repeat the utterance, I said that I just didn't think it would be fair to the membership for me to continue in office and that it was in their best interest that I simply step aside. "What are you talking about?" he asked. "What the Chief said to me yesterday", I responded not yet sensing his waning patience with me. "Come on, Stevie. If you won't tell me what you're talking about, I can't help you". He (the Chief) said that I was "... *only hurting our members...*" I finally blurted out, just knowing that John would now recall the exchange, agree with my view, and accept my resignation. "You're kidding, right?", he said. "No. Not at all." I responded, then total silence. It was my good fortune that John was not only a very patient man, but he also had the wisdom that only first-hand experience allows and he just smiled and said "you got to him". He went on to say that it took him a long time to get that kind of reaction from anyone, and my accomplishing it in just one month foretold of good things to come.

John clearly and patiently explained what I already intuitively knew, but had lost in that first horrible encounter with self-doubt which is that, like it or not, we are ALL politicians to one degree or another, and are similarly driven. Quite obviously, we are driven by different wants, needs, and desires; some choose to serve, others choose to rule;

some choose to give, others choose to take; some choose to advocate the greater-good, others, choose to advocate themselves. The first step in dealing with another "politician" is to figure out what drives them, and then use that knowledge to try and control them.

Like most Union officials of any longevity, John was driven by a desire to serve, to give, and to advance the greater-good and the Chief apparently believed early on that I was similarly principled and likely felt somewhat threatened by that. The Chief wasted no time in going for the throat by telling me that I was "*only hurting my members*" because he knew full well that the one thing I would NOT want to do is bring harm in any way to this Union's members.

The only fitting analogy I can offer to those not "politically" inclined or experienced is having a child of your own, in a fit of unthinking anger; shriek "I hate you!". That analogy, though it gives you some idea of the potential impact, fortunately falls way short of the underlying motivation. An angry child shouting "I hate you" might be driven by a momentary urge to lash-out or a misguided attempt to "shock" you into seeing things his or her way. The individual with the ability to affect the implied threat contained in someone is "... *only hurting your members...*" is little more than one who has finally slithered to the last vestiges of a scoundrel. Moreover, someone who would actually misuse their authority to bring harm to a member because they dislike someone else is unworthy of the position they would abuse.

I have heard that ominous phrase three more times since that first dreadful day, and I'm relatively certain that no Mayor, Labor Commissioner, or Chief has yet to act on such an easily self-fulfilling prophecy. So, my friends, whenever you hear someone in a position of authority say that the actions or deeds of one sworn and committed to serving, giving, and advocating the greater-good are "... *hurting his members...*" just consider the source and the circumstances. Without exception, the "source" in each and

every case has been an honorable man who would NOT abuse his position, but merely reacting to the uncomfortable circumstances.

"Light For All"?

I don't recall his name, and I can't even remember what prompted his vigil, but many years ago there was a man who would walk up and down Calvert Street in front of The Baltimore Sun building all day, carrying a sign that simply said "The SUN lies". He was a fixture of Calvert Street for years, and I believe that the Sun actually did a little story/obit upon his death in grudging admiration of his method, if not his message. I don't know if that's how the Baltimore cliché "The Sun lies" originated, or it is merely unanimous acceptance of the obvious, but here's further evidence of its accuracy.

On "news-light" side of the Metro page, of the Maryland section on Thursday, March 31st, a story appeared relating the details of a Board of Estimates action the day before that contained a statement that I personally know to be demonstrably false. Wanting only to set the record straight in a method that I've used many times before, I wrote a letter to the editor, clearly explaining my concern and even conceding possible "fault" but only to soften the edge. (The original Sun article and my letter in response can be found on the President's page of our website but will not be reprinted here in the interest of brevity.)

Within an hour of my e-mailed version which was followed by hard copy, I received a call from an editor whose name I regrettably do not recall. This call, by the way, and the one to follow later in the afternoon were both taken on my cell phone with no means of note-taking or documenting, and I am TERRIBLE with names, so I trust you'll forgive me for that lapse.

The first caller said that my e-mail had been forwarded to him with advice that there might be a need for a correction to the original story. I was taken aback, though pleasantly surprised by the seemingly genuine concern for accuracy, and chuckled a bit in saying that I'd only intended for my letter to appear

as a counter to the inaccuracy for our own (the Union's) purposes. I went on to say that newspaper articles are often presented as "proof" of a claim in potential litigation, and that while the printed statement was indeed false, I did not want to even possibly impugn the reporter whose by-line appeared with the article. All that I wanted was for the letter to appear in a future edition to mitigate the inaccuracy without causing anyone any harm. This gentleman was very cordial, seemed very understanding of my concern, and (so I thought) receptive to my position and I believed that to be the end of that.

Later in the afternoon, however, I received a second call from someone presumably higher in the food-chain at the Sun who advised me that he had spoken with the gentleman that I spoke with earlier in the day and it was now understood, and agreed to by me, that the article was indeed accurate, that somehow my letter was in error and that the matter was closed. I went through the entire scenario again with gentleman number two whose lofty position at the Sun apparently obviated any need for cordial discourse, but after several minutes of me talking and him listening, he simply said "we're sticking with our story" and *THAT* now appears to be the end of *THAT*.

I couldn't help but think of that man who long ago walked up and down Calvert Street for years and wondered what awful thing must have been written to provoke his relentless protest. Then I recalled the genuine magic of another era when the father of a little girl in New York urged her to pose the inevitably doubting question of nearly all children to the New York Sun, telling her; "*If you read it in the Sun, it's so*". The *New York Sun* Editorial in response to eight year old Virginia O'Hanlon's question was the classic "*Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus*".

Now, you won't see me walking up and down Calvert Street with a sign to advertise the obvious, and I know the difference between a *New York Sun* editorial of the late 1890's and the news of today appearing in the pages of The Baltimore Sun; but that we could believe it all....

Retirement Planning Seminars

There is likely a more pronounced notice elsewhere in this newsletter, but it bears repeating and some additional information. What used to be called "Pre-Retirement Seminars" will now, and in the future, be referred to as "Retirement Planning Seminars" and there's more to the change than the semantics.

The time has come and is indeed long overdue to consider our retirement planning before we've made the decision to retire and, quite frankly, it is NEVER to soon to start. While I am not convinced that this Local is or even should be the only source of such information, we have made our resources available in the past, but targeting only those at or very close to retirement.

To make matters worse, the advent of DROP in '96 caused what had been a very predictable number of annual retirements to all but cease in the early years, and dramatically spike during benchmark years. In addition, the advent of DROP practically forced our members to seek outside, professional assistance with financial planning and the apparent need for our Local's assistance practically disappeared.

The last series of seminars we'd planned attracted less than a dozen participants over two days and were simply cancelled due to the lack of interest. Well, we're trying it again with an emphasis on the need for long-term, recurring education and updates with subject matter of value to even our youngest members. Simply stated, it's NEVER too early to plan for retirement, particularly in our profession, and we sincerely hope that this revised approach will be well received and continued annually at the very least.

The dates will be April 27th and 28th starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at around 3:00 p.m. at the Fire Officers Union Hall with a full program that is still being developed. Some of what was contained in previous seminars will be eliminated and new subject matter will be added, and the program will be updated and (hopefully) improved along the way. If you

plan to attend, you MUST pre-register by calling 410.256.8485 to leave your name and a contact number; if you do NOT register, we will NOT be able to accommodate your attendance and the cut-off date for register is Monday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

By Michael Waldner

March winds are still blowing here in the BCFD. We are being pounded by torrential rain, and it seems our way of life is submerged in the floodwaters never to be the same again. I had prepared an elaborate analogy comparing our once proud Department to the once proud franchise of our formerly beloved Orioles. Just when the lack of movement to improve the plight of a once proud and competitive team seemed doomed to another lackluster season and a continued downward spiral, they win convincingly on this opening day of the 2005 season. Maybe there is hope after all. No, let's wait till we see how they fair against the Yankees and Boston to make a more accurate assessment. Similarly, I will hold off on my analogy until all the vile rumors and unbelievable possibilities are actually in place and become reality. Then we can make the full comparison in all its spooky similarities. Next issue will be soon enough to make the comparisons.

It seems the Command staff changes weekly with a revolving door and further erosion of experience at the top. Upheaval seems to be the norm. The same people are called in to maintain operational stability, only to be overlooked when replaced with less experience in the permanent resolve.

With this notion in mind, we bid farewell to Chief Tony Thomas to greet the New Year. I served on several committees and sat in meetings with him and respect the job he was trying to accomplish. I think he was adjusting and working hard to do a good job. I don't know

1st Vice President *continued...*

what precipitated his abrupt departure, but I wish him well in retirement. Best of health and luck in whatever he chooses to embark upon for the future.

We also apparently will be looking for a new Fire Marshall. Ted Saunders also abruptly departed last week and will be sorely missed, especially at the all-important CITISTAT inquisitions. Ted is another fellow FOG who I have worked with over many years and will be sorely missed and likely hard to replace. I wish Ted all of the best in every way for the future. The times, they are a changing!

Softball season opens on May 2nd in Perry Hall on Monday nights. We play double headers and are sponsored by Firehouse Tavern and we are entered in our IAFF tournament in September. Perry Hall is an open age league and the IAFF entry is for "Forty and Over". If you are interested in playing contact me at BC6 on C shift or better yet, if you really want to get in touch with me use the cell # 410-908-2179. There are much better odds of actually getting me on the cell, if you really know me at all these days.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Attended the ground breaking of the refurbishing at E41. Projected reopening is mid summer.
2. Still working on written confirmation system for apparatus repair reports and completion of work reports.
3. Send any Big Ed lights or batteries to shop for repair or replacement.
4. Any air mask failures are to be turned over intact to Safety Officer on scene **as is** for investigation and repair. Specials need to be forwarded as written documentation of failure for tracking purposes.
5. RIT bags and hoses are in purchase mode. Also looking favorably at including a respirator/regulator with quick connect that we now use to connect face piece to be included on RIT bag airmask.
6. New RIT stickers applied to compartments hosing RIT bag. They are huge and cannot be missed.
7. Emails to report repair needs to shop go to FDSHOP.BALTIMORECITY.GOV but be sure to leave name and company, and print out a hard copy for your records.
8. New type glove in the field for testing.
9. Heaters for tiller cabs are being installed as trucks come down to shop for other repairs.
10. Working on a grant for exercise equipment for stations
11. Officers of companies with Medic units assigned are responsible for cleanliness of units and bays. They are under your command and are responsible to you.
12. Training on new type litters is recommended and advised to avoid injuries.
13. TB testing concluded.
14. Use the plymovent systems that are in place. We fought long and hard to get them. We are trying to expand coverage to red medics and reserve pieces, but it is a tough sell when the Administration sees units not being utilized.
15. Budget for station repairs will only cover roof work due to high estimates.
16. Working on cancer research with Hopkins and BCFD.
17. All truck companies should have 4 (four) power saws now (two circular, two chain), contact supply if you are short.
18. Portable radios for each seat (like hand lights) are on order.
19. Make sure to write "P" number on all PSI slips for follow up visits to protect your members rights with LOD injuries.

REMINDERS

Next meeting is April 17th after this publication, so for an update come to a Union meeting. Contact me with items for agenda for June. If any issue is of an emergency or urgent nature, I will get in contact with Chief Heinbuch immediately to try and abate any problem.

Stay safe, and try to attend meetings to voice your opinion and be informed of the facts rather than listen to rumors!

Support Your Union

**ATTEND
UNION MEETINGS**

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

By Ben Alder

PSI: At this time, we have put the PSI Grievance on hold. It is NOT going away, it is ONLY on hold. With the help of Jerry Robusto (Local 734), we have started moving things in the right direction. Random Alcohol testing when you are on a follow-up visit CANNOT be done by PSI without the approval of one of the following: Chiefs Goodwin, Curbeam or Heinbuch. Chief Goodwin would also like to resurrect the Drug and Alcohol Committee to possibly rework the Alcohol section of the policy. Jerry Robusto also has been given the authority to intervene when and if your attending Physician wants you off for an additional week or two. If you have any problems or questions, contact Jerry Robusto @443 992 1545(c) or Ben Alder @410 908 0183(c). Remember Brothers and Sisters, when you know you have a PSI appointment the next day don't give them ANY reason to test you.

Grievances: We have been working with the Department to try and resolve many of our outstanding Grievances. We attended two very productive meetings in March where four of the grievances were removed from the table, three were put on hold and the rest of them will be moving forward to the Labor Commissioner.

Metro Burn Fund: We will be hosting World Burn Congress Conference in August 2005 at the Marriott Waterfront. This conference is for burn survivors and their families from around the country. We are expecting about 600/700 in attendance for the conference. If you would be interested in volunteering a few hours one or two days during the conference please contact Ben Alder @ 410 908 0183 or Tom McLhinney @ 410 935 9075. Your help we be appreciated.

Building: We have signed a five-year deal (effective April 1, 2005) with Mr.

David Key of the Daily Grind to lease the first floor. All Union operations will be moving to the second floor in the very near future. We have a lot of work to do to bring the building back to where it should be, a place of prominence in the Canton community. Some of the plans on the table for the building and the second floor are NEW ROOF, overhaul the HVAC system, replace the kitchen, move the bar, install an elevator, possibly new windows and remove the Hose Tower.

AFL-CIO: The Mayor of Baltimore was at the AFL-CIO meeting Tuesday night (3/22/05) and to hear him speak, one would think he is the SAVIOR of labor in the City and State. Mr. Mayor, if the words you speak are true, why have you and your staff tried everything possible to DESTROY, DISMANTLE and DISHONOR our contract and our profession!?!? At last night's meeting, it was the Mayor of Baltimore talking the talk, but it is Doug Duncan, County Executive for Montgomery County who WALKS the WALK and that is a fact!!!! **Duncan for GOVERNOR!**

Legislative Conference: We attended the conference in Washington D.C. March 13th through the 16th and once again it was another good meeting. It's good to say that ALL of the Maryland Legislators are on board with our Bills in Congress. I had the opportunity to take a tour of the IAFF office in Washington, and it is a very professional and impressive operation from top to bottom. After taking the tour, speaking with many of our representatives and seeing some of the behind the scenes operations that the IAFF does for us on our behalf, I believe it is well worth the per-captia that we pay. **GREAT JOB!**

Remember, if you are in one form or another getting rid of an automobile, motorcycle or truck and it has an IAFF sticker on it, PLEASE remove it.

Last but not least,

CONGRATULATIONS

to our recently retired Brothers and our newly promoted members. Make your presence known; attend YOUR Union Meetings!

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

By Bob Jordan

Golf Tournament: The John L. Seiss Memorial Golf Tournament, to benefit the V.E.B.A. Fund, will be held on Friday, May 13, 2005, at the Woodlands Golf Course in Woodlawn, Maryland, off Dogwood Road. This is our major fund raiser for the VEBA Fund.

It includes a chance to win a new Nissan from Scheehy Nissan, of Glen Burnie, and other great hole-in-one prizes. There will be other prizes including trips, weekend stays at downtown hotels, and dinner certificates at major restaurants. Catering is by Michael's 8th Avenue with a full continental breakfast, food on the course, and a great gourmet dinner buffet after the tournament. Beverages will be supplied on the course and after golf at the dinner buffet.

The cost is \$100 per player, and four-somes and/or individuals are encouraged to join us for this worthwhile event. For more information or team applications, call me at 410-908-2434. We need the support of the membership and their friends to make this tournament a huge success and to raise money for our VEBA Fund.

Bingo at the Rink: Just a reminder that the Baltimore Fire Officer's, Local 964 sponsors two nights of bingo at the Rink Bingo Hall at 25 Eastern Blvd. in Essex, on Monday and Friday nights. Bingo starts at 7pm each of those nights.

All profits from the Bingo receipts go to our VEBA Fund, which pays for the death benefits of our retired and active members and other VEBA activities, including our picnics, social night and our new dinner affair honoring our retirees of the previously year.

So, if you know anyone who enjoys playing bingo, please let them know that we sponsor these two nights and that the proceeds are going to help our members.

Secretary-Treasurer *continued...*

Local 964 Officer's Tags: I know we have had a few new members promoted and congratulations to them. I just want to let them know, and also to our membership, that if you want or need Fire Officers automobile tags, you can contact me at 410-908-2434, or by e-mail at K9118@aol.com, and I will send you out the application. The cost for the tags is a one time fee to MVA of \$25, and a contribution to our PAC Fund of \$5.

As for the motorcycle tags, we still need 3 more members to give us 25 to apply for Local 964 plates for motorcycles to MVA. So, if any new members are interested, or if any members just purchased a motorcycle, let me know if you are interested in applying for motorcycle tags.

**From the Desk of
the Recording Secretary**

By Mike Campbell

I would like to begin this article by wishing a well-deserved retirement to Division Chief Theodore Saunders. I realize Teddy is not a member of this Local, but he has been a classy and professional supervisor to me for the last year. Ted did not allow others to cloud his judgment when I was assigned to the Safety Office. He told me that he would judge me by my performance. While others in the Administration couldn't separate my Union role and my Fire Dept. role, Ted was there to encourage me to do the job to the best of my ability for as long as I would be there. For this I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude. Good luck Ted, you have integrity, class and character. In my eyes, the Fire Department chose obstructionism over progress.

I would like to venture into the world of the Company Officer. I have been an officer, in various capacities, for over a dozen years. One thing that I hold dear is that when you take the plunge to become an officer, you are accepting the responsibility of a group of people along

with representing the Fire Department's interests. We, as officers, must strive to teach and to also create an environment where everyone is comfortable coming to work. The majority of those that we are tasked to lead want strong, effective and unwavering leadership. Here's where I open myself up to criticism from those that believe it is Officers who create all of the animosity that is in the firehouses. We have had recent issues where officers did not act when faced with insubordination, making false claims or some other infraction of the rules. If you allow serious charges such as these to go unchecked, you have created an atmosphere where everyone else believes that this is tolerable. It is not! As an officer, your job is not to treat everyone alike. Your job is to treat everyone **fairly**. By refusing to act, you are condoning this behavior and that can only lead to problems further down the road. I can't stress enough this next point. When you have to talk, discipline or take someone into the office, **DO NOT DO IT ALONE!!!** Have someone with you to act as a witness. Don't ask why, just thank me later. It's a shame that it has come to this, but these are the cards that have been dealt and we must play'em.

I would like to thank President Fugate for allowing me to take a more active role in handling issues with regards to our members. I have had many discussions with Chief Heinbuch recently and am cautiously, I repeat, cautiously optimistic that some if not most of our issues could be worked out without filing a grievance. I believe that the Fire Department is at the proverbial fork in the road. As a Local, we have been repeatedly harmed by this Administration and we have taken each issue and defended it to the best of our abilities. Recently, the Administration has attempted a dialogue. So what do we do now? I first believed that we could come to a resolve on some of these issues without the usual animosity and theatrics that have been prevalent in the past. After recent events concerning the Command Staff, I am not so sure. What I would like to see is all of the extracurricular bull**** cease on both sides. We have some very important issues that need to be dealt

with and they cannot be dealt with when we allow personalities to muddy the waters. Mike, you may ask, how can you possibly advocate decency when you were shown none when you were obviously given an assignment as retribution for your Union views. The answer is rather simple. The Union is bigger than any one individual. I am here to represent the interests of all, not just a select few. Having said that, let me make it excruciatingly clear. I will never give up my Union views and will fight until the end if I feel that one of our members has been harmed. What I am hoping to see is if the Administration really is looking for a partnership or just blowing smoke. We will always represent the membership to the best of our abilities. Stay tuned!

Health Care: If you have any questions do not hesitate to call.

President's Club: We are in the middle of our 2005 President's Club campaign. The President's Club is an integral part of our Pac-Fund and takes the monies that are collected and utilizes them to support the politicians who support us. Tom Nosek and I recently met with the good people of the payroll division in regards to obtaining a payroll deduction slot for our Pac-Fund donations. I am optimistic that we will achieve this in the near future. We need your help so our voice will be heard! At the present time we have 27 members of the President's Club. I would like to thank everyone who stepped up and contributed to our Pac-Fund. We couldn't do it without you!

As always, keep your Beneficiaries up to date and don't hesitate to call or e-mail me at any time.

Cell – 443-629-0216
Work - 410-396-5161
E-mail: capttain16@hotmail.com

Words to twirl by...

And the politicians throwin' stones,
So the kids they dance
And shake their bones,
And it's all too clear we're on our own.
Singing ashes, ashes, all fall
down. Ashes, ashes, all fall down.

-Grateful Dead

Tired and Retired

by Bob Hatoff

Let me start by getting the bad news out of the way. The first week in February we lost Chief Marty McMahon. Marty's been one of my heroes since 1958. He taught first aid to my class at the Fire Academy. His sense of humor, knowledge and pleasant manner, made him a hit with me right from the start. If there was a Fire Department Hall of Fame, he would have been the first inductee. Through his career, he ran the ambulance service and made it the best in the country. He helped develop the mouth-to-mouth airway and the closed chest heart pump. He also designed the box type ambulances. Through all his promotions and the notoriety of his successes, he remained the same old Marty I met 46 years ago. He was a cherished friend and mentor. I will miss him, but I will never forget him. Goodbye Marty and may God bless and welcome your soul.

Several of you have asked about the Retirees newsletter. I spoke with President Harris about it. Charney feels since Walt Ward is writing a column in 734 and I'm writing one for 964 it would be easier to give us whatever info he wants to get out to the retirees. So we will be keeping you up to date on what's happening. Of course, the news may come

a little off center, due to my tilted brain. In that regard I called Charney to see if he had any news. However, Ginny said nobody's seen him since St. Patrick's Day. So I've got people checking all the Irish bars. Hopefully we'll find him before the next newsletter.

Spring is here and the baseball season is warming up. I can tell because I see the best players appearing before Congress to talk about steroids. Sidney Ponson has been in 2 fights, arrested for speeding and DUI, as was Eric Dubose. Poor Barry Bonds has been broken by the press and big Mark McGuire has been brought to tears. Someone even said some players were playing baseball. The crowds should be bigger this year because there are a lot of hockey players with nothing to do. I can't understand why people think professional athletes have it so easy.

Well I'm going to wrap it up for now. I'd tell you what's happening in the Fire Dept., but I've never been good at writing science fiction. If you've got some special event coming up, let me know and I'll tell everybody. You can reach me at 1805 Greencastle Dr., Balto., MD 21237 or 410-866-3235.

Sick and Injured

by Bob Hatoff

Charlie Mueller is being treated for prostrat cancer. 2/14

Bill Shives has successfully finished treatment for prostrate cancer. 3/9

Bill Schehlein got banged up in an auto accident including a broken foot. He's home healing. 2/20

Gil Wurzbacher had both knees replaced again. He's rehabbing in a Veteran's Hospital in Charlotte, MD 3/9

Junior Canavan has completed chemo and is taking lung pills. 3/28

Joe McCarthy is scheduled for bypass surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital on 3/30.

Mike Hine line had a cancerous colon removed. He's had a couple of setbacks and is scheduled to go home on 3/28.

Don Gow needs a bypass in his right leg. 3/7

Frank Giotis needs more surgery for a cyst on his spine. 2/22

Bill Martin had a defibrillator put in. 3/29

From the Entertainment Chairman

By Tom Nosek

Retirees Dinner/Dance honoring 26 members retiring in 2004. Open bar and hot food April 28, 2005, Cost \$30. Need tickets? Call Tom Nosek at home: 410-638-2231 or work: 410-396-9205.

CORRECTION: Lt. Ernie Banse retired from **ENGINE 20**. Ernie spent almost his entire career at the Walbrook Station. Ernie hope to see you on the 28th. Sorry Ernie about the typo!!

Raffle tickets returns coming in are fantastic. THANK YOU to the retirees. The retirees are returning their tickets 4 to 1 compared to the active members. Sacrificoe the callback money!!! Fond Hello's from J. Griffith, C. Redmond, Earl Ryer, G. McKnight.

WHERE ARE YOU?

We are looking for the following retirees!!

ROBERT HARRIS, RAY GOURLAY, RAY WITT, RALPH HALL, BERTHA BUTLER, CHARLES MUTH, ED COLLIC, BILL DONOHUE, JR. ED BELL, E. EATON, TOM PRICE, JOHN REAGAN. Tom: 410-638-2231 or work: 410-396-9205

We've recently lost the following members.

Gone but not forgotten.

Marty McMahon
James K. Eckhart
Herbert C. Small
Daniel Long
Anthony C. Sim
Tom Chambers
Robert W. Dudley
Catherine Paulus, (wife of
Chief Joseph Paulus)

BOX 414

by Walt Lemmon

It was a long and cold winter for the members of the Department. The Coffee Wagon was on the scene of the many working fires and additional alarms. The Club hopes we made a difference physically as well as psychologically.

We were thankful to have been a part of the 50 year anniversary of the TruFit fire. There were over 200 people at the Museum after the activities that took place at the site of the fire. Box 414 welcomes anyone interested in touring the Museum to call 410-727-2414 to arrange an appointment.

The plaque has been placed on the outside of the New Coffee Wagon which lists the many large contributors that helped pay for the truck. The dedication of the plaque will be on Sunday, April 17th at 1 pm at Old Town Station.

Just a reminder!

This is the time of the year when we make our annual appeal for money to operate the Coffee Wagon. Do you know that the insurance for Car 414 and utility 415 is over \$6000 a year. We also pay about \$1000 for maintenance on the generator in a year. You know about the many fires we go to but how about the funerals of active members and line (funerals. There are also training exercises that also use our vices. Think about this WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS! We need your financial support.



THE BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICERS

Local No. 964

Meetings -- 1st & 3rd Monday
1030 S. Linwood Avenue
Baltimore, MD. 21224
PHONE: 410-276-6964

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Change of Address -- Cut out and return to the Secretary, Local #964

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