

BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICER

LOCAL 964

--STAFF--

STEPHAN G. FUGATE -- TOM NOSEK

By and For the Professional Fire Officer

IN UNION
THERE IS STRENGTH

Volume , Issue

October/November 2006

From the Desk of the President

By Stephan G. Fugate

September Revisited

Having previously written of the significance of the month of February in the history of our Department and Union Local, I find myself in something of a dilemma as I write with the month of September coming to an end. While February surely warrants special note for events of great tragedy and triumph, September has surely earned its place in our hearts and minds, particularly in more recent historical terms.

I seriously doubt that any of us will ever again turn our calendar to the month of September without immediately recalling that beautiful Tuesday morning five years ago when the world as we knew it changed forever. The coming of that fateful anniversary was met locally once again with the Annual Run To Remember in downtown Baltimore and a fitting Memorial Service at our War Memorial Building at 0846 hrs. the morning of 9-11.

In New York City, a magnificent, bronze Memorial now graces the wall of "10 House", the station of Engine 10 & Ladder 10 at 124 Liberty Street across the street from the site of the World Trade Center. "*Dedicated to those who fell and to those who carry on – May we never forget*", the Memorial is a must see should you have the occasion to visit New York City in the future. Also, by action of the 48th Convention of the Inter-

national Association of Fire Fighters, September 11th has been declared a Day of Remembrance and will be so viewed for generations to come. Much of the solemn anniversary as well as FDNY and IAFF observances can be viewed and read about at www.iaff.org and I highly recommend that you visit the site.

September, very coincidental to 9-11, is also the month when the IAFF conducts its Fallen Heroes Observance on the site of the IAFF Fallen Heroes Memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and it was my honor to accompany the family of Lieutenant Brian R. Conner to this year's vigil. This year was the twentieth such observance and while Colorado Springs is surely more than a fairly easy drive to New York City, if you are ever in the Denver or Pueblo Colorado area, you will always cherish a trip to Colorado Springs to visit the Memorial.

Tucked in a highly visible corner of what is now known as Memorial Park just outside of the Colorado Springs business district, the Memorial itself is a striking sculpture flanked by two black granite walls. Engraved in those walls are the names of our fallen Brothers and Sisters along with their State and Union Local number. With Pike's Peak visible in the distance, it's a fitting Memorial to IAFF Members who have made the ultimate sacrifice and it's another "must see" at some point.

And finally, September 16th marked the eleventh anniversary of the Clipper Mill Industrial Park Fire that claimed the life of Fire Fighter Eric Schaefer, Rescue 1. Though no more or less a loss than any of the more than one hundred line of duty deaths since the organization of the BCFD, Eric's youth and the circumstances surrounding his death

made it a particularly difficult tragedy. Those of us who were there in '95 might find it hard to believe that it's been eleven years, but indeed it has, though the passage of time has not dulled our sense of loss.

May we never again suffer the loss of a member under any circumstance and may we never add another name to that Memorial wall in Colorado Springs.

IAFF Fallen Heroes Observance

As mentioned above, I had the honor to accompany the Conner family to Colorado Springs in mid-September on the occasion of the twentieth Fallen Heroes Observance and once again the IAFF demonstrated the class and dignity our members and their families deserve. The annual event is hosted by Colorado Springs Local 5 and from your arrival at the airport until your departure you are warmly welcomed, catered to, and accommodated by a Local 5 member. There is absolutely nothing that the Local representatives will not do for the family members during their stay in Colorado Springs, and everyone is made to feel like part of the IAFF family which, of course, they are.

The Memorial Service itself is a moving tribute to those members lost during the preceding year with a focus on the family members present. Though it is called a Memorial Service, it is more of a celebration of lives lived rather than lives lost and is a source of continuing inspiration for all who attend. Imagine a corps of one hundred-fifty pipes and drums leading a color guard numbering nearly four-hundred and fifty under the

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From the President's Desk.....

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blue sky of the Colorado foothills. As I have said previously, it's difficult to describe the scene but take any Fire Department line-of-duty funeral and multiply it by one-hundred and you have some sense of the magnitude and majesty.

DROP-2 Is Coming

With the approach of this year's General Election, we are also moving ever closer to the next step in the legislative process of revising the benefit provisions of our DROP. The current provisions, in place since 1996, have proven to exceed the original cost estimates which triggered the actuarial review as part of the original enabling legislation.

The specifics of "DROP-2" have been outlined several times in these pages and the point of this mention is to encourage those who would be subject to the new provisions to take part in the City Council Hearing process, currently scheduled for November 9, 2006 at 1000 hrs. in the City Council Chambers. City Councilman Keiffer Mitchell, Chairman of the Council's Taxation and Finance Committee, will conduct the Hearing which is open to the public and anyone with an interest is permitted to testify for or against the proposed changes.

The process to follow will be the Committee Hearing on November 9th and, assuming that all of the testimony can be heard in a single session, the Committee will report its finding and recommendation to the entire council for a Second and Third Reading at subsequent Council Meetings. Public comment is permitted at the Committee Hearing ONLY, so please make every effort to be present if you wish to be heard. The entire text of the original Council legislation (CC06-0370) can be found on the "NEWS" section of our website. It is twenty-two pages of text which prohibits our reprinting it here but can be viewed and printed from our site via the links provided.

Retiree Health Care Benefits

On August 18th, the President signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (also known as Retiree

HELPS Bill) which contained several major changes that will affect both public and private pension plans. The most significant change for our retired members is the exclusion from taxation a portion of premiums paid for health or long term care.

Inasmuch as such provisions are often mired in fine print and applicable rules for implementation by the IRS and other governing entities I am somewhat averse to offering my own interpretation of the law. I will defer, therefore, to the precise language provided by the National Conference on Public Employees Retirement Systems (NCPERS). NCPERS is arguably the premier organization of its kind in the Nation and I am very comfortable with the accuracy of their analysis.

"The bill allows for pre-tax distribution of up to \$3,000 from governmental pension plans to be used to purchase retiree health care or long term care insurance by public safety employees. In order to take advantage of this provision, eligible participants must be separated from service due to disability or attainment of normal retirement age. Additionally, the employee must be separated from the employer who maintains the eligible retirement plan. Premiums, in order to be excluded from income, would need to be deducted from the distributions from the eligible retirement plan and paid directly to the insurer."

The Baltimore Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System IS a qualifying Plan and it **IS** believed that all retired members will be eligible notwithstanding the "normal retirement age" provision. The implementation date for the change described above is "after December 31, 2006" which would suggest a start date of January 1, 2007 though that has not yet been determined in any official manner. Finally, whether or not beneficiaries (widows, for the most part) are to be included is another yet to be determined matter.

These three issues and possibly other vagaries will be resolved in pending IRS rulings that we can only hope will be issued prior to January 1, 2007. You can, however, be absolutely certain that our F & P System will be in full compliance by the effective date and that any

benefit to which you are entitled will be received in a timely manner. It will not be helpful to contact the Retirement System at this point, however, as accurate information is not yet available; however it will be made available to all of our retired members and beneficiaries directly as soon as it is.

Negotiations

In the final year of a three year agreement with the Mayor and City Council, the Fire Locals are gearing-up for our first open contract negotiations in three years and to say that it's likely to be an unusual process would be a major understatement. For starters, we cannot even be certain, at this point, with whom we will be negotiating because of the now uncertain outcome of the General Election on November 7th. I suppose that everyone has their own opinion of what's to come, but even the most educated opinion is not a certainty.

Should our Mayor prevail, he will be inaugurated as Governor on January 17th and it is expected that the period of time between disclosure of the election results and inauguration will be completely occupied by transitional activities in both Baltimore and Annapolis. Obviously, Council President Dixon will then assume the role of Mayor and we will be negotiating with her designees, hopefully beginning at some point in mid January. Who the designee(s) might be and whether or not there would be any "hold-over" from the current Administration is uncertain though we will be well prepared in any event.

Our previous experience through several Administrations suggests that there would be ample time to complete negotiations by the traditional deadline even with a somewhat delayed start and the Fire Locals have already met to discuss our agenda and establish our goals and priorities.

Should our Mayor not prevail, however, it will be "business as usual" with the backdrop of yet another election looming in the fall of next year. Keep in mind that Baltimore's Mayoral Election returns to the previous cycle that follows the Gubernatorial Election Cycle in the odd years **AND** before the National Election.

I will refrain from any personal speculation beyond the obvious, but one need not be a political strategist to understand and appreciate the dynamics of the election in November of this year AND the one to follow in '07. Suffice it to say that it will be interesting at the least and it's anyone's guess as to whether we can anticipate any advantage or disadvantage whatever the outcome.

I have, by the way, asked Mike Campbell to Chair the Negotiations Committee for FY'08 and you can direct any comments or suggestions directly to him or to any other Board member for appropriate consideration.

Question "K"

Speaking of elections, for the first time in nearly thirty years, the Fire Locals will have a Ballot Initiative for consideration by Baltimore voters that, if approved, would help to eliminate the longstanding concern over multi-year contractual agreements between the Unions and the City. To appear as "Question K" as a proposed Charter Amendment, it would help codify as legally binding, multi-year agreements and remove the potential threat of the City failing to honor the terms of a mutual agreement beyond the scope of a single fiscal year.

If approved by the voters of Baltimore City, "Question K" would allow as legally binding agreements of up to four years in length but would not allow for such agreements to carry-over beyond the term of an incumbent Mayor. Ironically, the Charter Amendment designed to address this decades old dilemma will be of no use or consequence in our next round of negotiations in that there will be a Mayoral Election to follow, and whoever becomes or remains Mayor in January cannot bargain for an agreement that would extend beyond the next fiscal year (FY'08).

It is anticipated that the Locals will be doing some sort of polling for support of "Question K" and we will be asking for your help in our efforts at some point leading up to Election Day.

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

By Michael Waldner

Let me start with the most important item on the agenda first. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see notices of elections to be conducted this fall. We need more of you Brothers to take an active part in **your** Local. At this writing, there appear to be several contested positions on the Executive Board this election period. Please take the time to read the literature and listen to the candidates when they address the issues so you can make an informed decision. **Most of all you need to vote!** In the past, ballot returns have been lackluster for something so important. Attendance at meetings has also diminished and needs to become a priority just one night a month. After all, it is your Union, take an interest in it and make sure it reflects your views by attending meetings and voting for candidates that will represent your views.

I, along with Bob Williams, recently attended the 50th Anniversary of the Baltimore County Coffee Wagon as representatives of our Local. The folks there were very appreciative that we acknowledged their long years of service and dedication to the Fire Service. They sometimes serve our members filling in for our own Coffee Wagon crew when they are occupied elsewhere or are unavailable for some reason. These units are invaluable resources and deserve a word of thanks and monetary support every chance you have to repay them for their sacrifice for you.

I also represented the Local, along with the entire Executive Board, at the IAFF biennial convention in Toronto in late August. The tribute to our fallen brothers since the last convention was very moving. The list was too long for only a two year period and news came even as we convened, that two New York members were killed in the line of duty during our session. This means that there will be at least two more to honor at the next convention. We all hope the roster will not grow any further, but this

is the unfortunate reality of the dangerous job we perform every day. The Union's agenda is expanding through the creation of more helpful programs daily, it seems. Our scope of influence in the political world is also ever expanding and noticed by the movers and shakers of this country. We are a force to be reckoned with through unity and brotherhood.

The softball tournament went well enough with a limited roster. We were the last Baltimore team eliminated from competition and managed to play into Sunday morning. We finished tied for 9th in the "Forty and over" bracket. I would like to thank all those that played and invite anyone else who turns forty next year to join us.

We are trying to continue our work with Union Memorial Hospital with the heart/lung scans results. They have proven to be a life saving revelation to many of our Brothers. I am still waiting, as I write, for a new set of dates for the Fall to continue with our active membership. I will be sending out a mailing as soon as the dates are provided to me. They are working to arrange an overtime schedule for the techs that work the Sundays to accommodate us. Please consider taking advantage of this important opportunity when the notice arrives.

As always, I will mention again about the Community Outreach Program conducted by Union Memorial Hospital offering the heart/lung scans on Saturdays to the general public at **the discount rate of \$75 each**. The phone # is **1-877-744-3278**. *Getting both for a combined \$150 is a great bargain.* There was a mailing that I received from Upper Chesapeake Hospital that offered a heart scan only for a \$799 fee. The Union Memorial program is much more reasonable and should not be ignored. Our retirees can take advantage of this program until we complete the active members. It is open to the general public (your spouses, parents, siblings are eligible in this program) but it is also only on Saturdays. The wait is not as bad as it had been due to the openings at Franklin Square taking some of the crush off the schedule at Union. If Union Memorial is

**Exercise Your Right To Vote
on November 7th!**

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not convenient you can contact Franklin Square Hospital (sister to Union Memorial in the same Health group). They have a scan machine and are currently doing heart scans only (no lung scans available yet) at its own Community Outreach Program. Check with them on pricing, but it should be similar. **The number for Franklin Square is 443-777-7900.**

I found the following worth including in my article, this notice is reprinted from an ad in the newspaper about vascular disease:

The aches and pains in your leg muscles and feet that you dismissed as old football injuries may be more serious than you thought; they may even be the first signs of an aneurysm.

One of the common symptoms of peripheral arterial disease is pain in the leg muscles and feet when you walk that immediately subsides when you stop, said Karen Wittemore, an assistant with the Vascular Center at Mercy Hospital.

More than 5 million adults in the U.S. are affected by the disease – a buildup of fatty deposits in the arteries outside of the heart, restricting blood and oxygen flow to the legs and feet. Countless others are unaware that they have it. Dr. Luis Queral and his staff at the Vascular Center at Mercy Hospital are on a campaign to educate the general public about this disease. Queral offers \$300 screenings for free at the Vascular Center and even travels to company sites. He and his team educate men and women over 50 with a history of high blood pressure, strokes and PAD about the symptoms of the disease and how they can prevent them.

Stay safe, attend a meeting and remember this is your Union and your vote counts! I can be contacted for any questions or answers at (C) 410-908-2179, (H) 410-879-4545, or (W) 443-984-1737.

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

By Mike Campbell

Congratulations to all of our new members upon their promotions and to our internal promotions as well. The Fire Officers meet on the first and third Monday of each month with the exception of July and August. We are only as good as our membership's involvement. Make sure to attend a meeting to get the facts. Don't rely on the fire house lawyers to be the basis of what's going on in **your Union!**

I would like to first get into this EMS integration with Suppression initiative that is going on. The Chief of Dept. has mandated that the BCFD will no longer be a Fire Dept, but rather an EMS based Dept. It is my opinion that they are going along with no end game in sight. They either haven't asked or have chosen not to accept advice from their own EMS personnel who are much more qualified to handle this task. The abolishment of the EMS 1 position was truly a ridiculous knee-jerk reaction that has now produced some mind boggling decisions that are without much thought or clarity.

There has been some Federal Legislation passed that is beneficial to our retirees. Beginning January 1, 2007 all current and future public safety retirees will receive a \$3,000 tax credit toward the cost of health insurance or long-term care insurance premiums. Depending upon a retiree's tax bracket, this will mean tax savings of between \$540 and \$870 per year. I have inquired of Steve as to how the F&P will be handling this disbursement and he tells me that the Retirement System is looking into this matter. Also included is language eliminating the 10% penalty for withdrawing money from DROP accounts prior to age 59 1/2. Beginning January 1, 2007 retirees will be able to access DROP money at age 50 without a penalty. Bob Jordan and I attended the 1st Annual NCPERS Public Sector Health Care Symposium recently and came away with important information with regards to Health Care, The HELPS Legislation

(which is mentioned above) along with information on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and how it could effect Governments and their reporting of their unfunded liabilities. What I found to be most helpful were the many speakers who talked about Retirees Health Care and how we should begin thinking of paying for it from our first day on the job, not when you are ready to retire. I will be more than happy to discuss some of these options to those members who give me a call. This Newsletter isn't large enough.

Contract negotiations with the City will begin around January 2007. President Fugate has appointed me this year's Chairman. We will be meeting as an Executive Board and with 734 to begin to develop our agenda. If you have any issues you would like to see on the plate, don't hesitate to contact me.

Division Chief Ed Cooper attended both Union meetings in September. His main points were that the company officers will be asked to take more of a hands-on role concerning FPA's that are assigned to them. Contact Captain Terry Horrocks at the Fire Academy with any questions. All out of state members will be required to have the EVOC course by 2007. **If you were an out-of-state resident prior to 10/1/03 or if you have a license in your state of residence that is equivalent to a MD Class A (non-commercial) or higher then you do not have to take the EVOC course.** Contact the Academy at fire.academy@baltimorecity.gov with any questions concerning these subjects.

The Memorial Service, whereby we pay homage to our Brothers and Sisters who have passed on this past year, will be coupled with Medals Day as a Day of Remembrance on October 14, 2006 @1300 hrs. in Archbishop Curley High School's Chapel, 6701 Sinclair Lane. The reason for having both events on the same day is due to the lack of attendance by our members. Steve Fugate and I have attended every meeting on this over the last two years and have fought like hell to keep the Memorial Service separate; but after last year's embarrassing turnout, we no longer could defend our position. I see a lot of ranting on our Forum and the

SUPPORT YOUR UNION!

Watchdesk about **Tradition**. The Memorial Service is the epitome of tradition, and we can't seem to get our people to support it. So don't blame this one on the FD or City Administration. **We** are the cause for this lapse in Tradition just like the 50/50 drawing. For those too young to remember the 50/50 ask an FOG! With that said, let's fill the chapel on 10/14/06 and see if we can get this back to where it should be -- its own day to memorialize those who have served the BCFD with pride!

I would like to thank Tom Nosek, our Entertainment Chairman for another great job on our Crab Feasts. Good to see the old crowd along with our newer members. As you already may or may not know Tom does an outstanding job providing our members with entertainment and the raising of funds for our VEBA Fund, which benefits our widows and orphans. He is constantly looking for additional ways to enhance both of these difficult tasks. Give him a call with any suggestions. Please check the web site for up to the minute information on various issues and events. The web address is www.iafflocal964.org.

Health Care

This year's open enrollment for the City of Baltimore will have an entirely new look! **This year's enrollment takes place from Wednesday, November 8, 2006 through Friday, November 24, 2006.**

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2007

All active employees will be able to enroll online.

You must sign on to the employee benefits website to make changes to benefit plans for 2007 and to add, change or delete dependents. The website has been designed to be secure and user friendly. You may make changes on the website as often as you like during open enrollment. The site will be open 24 hours/day and 7 days/week during the open enrollment period. **Retirees will be able to enroll online or by phone**

Open enrollment material will be mailed to your home address.

Be sure that your home address is current in order to receive the personalized enrollment material containing your website ID number and PIN number. Your material will include a personalized enrollment worksheet showing your benefit options and cost for 2007.

Log onto the open enrollment website.

Find useful information online. Link to health plans, provider directories, visit the Forms Library, and view your dependent information.

WHAT'S NOT NEW

There are no new plans.

If you do not need to make changes to your benefits, you will retain your current plans in 2007 at the new rates. However -- you must enroll for certain coverage each year. This includes: waiver credits, dependent care FSA, and certifying college students. All employees will receive a confirmation statement in early December confirming 2007 benefits, dependent information and 2007 costs.

Help is still available.

The City will hold two days of Health Fairs for active employees at the War Memorial Building on **November 9, 2006** from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on **November 10, 2006** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Computer access will be available at the fair if you need to enroll there.

Employee Benefits Division is there to help.

Can't find a computer? Need help logging on? Computers are always available at your local library or stop by the Employee Benefits Division located at 201 E. Baltimore Street, Suite 500. Staff of the Employee Benefits Division will be available to provide computer assistance and/or answer questions.

When I get the web address I will provide it on our Web Site!

Safety and Health

•TB/FLU shots will begin in October.
•Work should begin soon on the follow-

ing roofs: E-27, E-55, E-4 & SQ-47.

- E-29's house has been adopted by Home Depot with the following work being done: Paint of the following rooms, the office, officer's bunkroom, main bunkroom, weight room, bathroom, TV room, and bathroom and finish kitchen. 2 new showers are to be installed in the bathroom along with 3 new toilets, a new floor for the toilets, 4 new sinks, a new work sink, a wall and door along with window dressings for all second floor windows. In addition the house is to receive: 2 new stainless steel covered refrigerators, 1 new stainless steel covered dishwasher, 1 new microwave oven, a new stove and new kitchen cabinets. Kudos go out to Lt. Kyle Caldwell for his initial legwork in getting this ball rolling.
- The lead abatement process has been completed at E-36 and they have a new drop ceiling in their kitchen and are awaiting new cabinets and countertop.
- T-15 parking has become a little safer with the addition of a fence and gate.
- E-14 will begin painting their house and have new windows.
- E-35 will be getting new bay doors along with new lighting and new HVAC unit.
- E-8, E-21 & E-13 members have been rehabbing their houses with materials supplied by the City. This is the quickest way to get cosmetic work done in your house. Jim Bellamy has stated that he can get the material if the members are willing to do the work. I think Jim has done a great job with these house improvements.
- Custom Energy has been around different fire houses and the Academy updating them to make them more energy efficient. Types of repairs are new lights, roll-up doors, windows and air conditioning.
- The FD has made it known that they will be cracking down on members who are not wearing their seat belts. **Wear Your Seat Belts!** It is for your own protection.
- The next Safety & Health meeting will be 10/19/06. Call me with any concerns.

President's Club

The Presidents Club shirts for 2006 are in and I have distributed most of the

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first order. If you are due a shirt, please contact me. The 2nd order is in and the shirt company made a mistake and sent long sleeve instead of short sleeve for the 2nd order. I will be calling those who I owe shirts to, to see if you would like a L/S or S/S before I have the company make the corrections. Currently we have 81 members who are contributing to our PAC Fund. Of those, we have 78 President Club members. The PAC Fund is our most important tool to have the **local** politicians listen to our concerns. If you contribute \$4.00 or more a pay you are automatically included in the Presidents Club. Thanks to those who have contributed and to those who haven't, contact me if you need a dues deduction card.

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 – 410-396-5773

E-mail: capttain16@hotmail.com

Words to twirl by...

God save the child who rings that bell
It may have one good ring baby, you
can't tell

One watch by night, one watch by day
If you get confused listen to the music
play!

--Grateful Dead

**From the Desk of
the Secretary-Treasurer**

By Bob Jordan

IAFF Convention

As I am sure that you know from reading other articles before mine, the Executive Board attended the IAFF Convention in Toronto Canada at the end of August.

This is when the IAFF Executive Board puts resolutions on the floor that increases our per capita cost to run the International and the programs that benefit our members. This year was the

highest increase I have seen in 10 years of attending this convention.

The per capita was increased by 80 cents, which means that we now pay the International Association of Fire Fighters \$9.95 per active member, and \$ 4.97 per retired member. What this translates into is an increase of about \$420.00 per month for the Union in per capita increase to the International.

It was also passed that on September 1st, 2007, the increase would be based on the CPI, but no more than a 4.5% increase. This is because the IAFF Conventions are every two years.

Building Update

Construction has started on the renovations to the building. The two occupants on the first floor will be the Daily Grind, a coffee shop, on the north side and Advance Realty on the south side of the first floor. This will supply us with an income to maintain our building for the future.

So far, the construction company has removed the old HVAC units from the roof, and the roofing company is tearing off the old roof, down to the wood, and replacing it with a new roof. The first floor walls have been torn out, opening back to the original fire house doors, which will be the new entrances for the two occupants. Next will be the new HVAC units mounted on the roof. I will keep everyone up to date as the progress goes along.

So remember, when coming to the meeting; enter by the side door on the south side of the building, to the second floor.

Crab Feast

If you didn't make it to one of the two crab feasts, you missed some great food and a good time.

I want to thank Tom Nosek for arranging the hall, and the caterer. Due to the construction, we could not have it in our own hall, and Tom did a great job in finding a place to have this affair.

**Thanks to everyone who helped
us to put on a fine affair.**

**From the Desk of
the Recording Secretary**

By Tom Nosek

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer as regular Union meetings are now being held again every 1st and 3rd Monday.

We just finished cleaning up our annual crab feasts. If you didn't make it, you missed the best deal in town, plus some MONSTER crabs!!! I would like to thank Fr. Ross Syracuse OFM Conv. for letting us use the lower hall at St. Casmir's Church. Special thanks go to Pres. Fugate, Mike Waldner, Mike Campbell, Bob Jordan (the crab man), Art Turner, Frank Schlosser and Bob Salefski for all their work. THANKS BROTHERS.

In three short months, we will begin negotiations for FY 08'. Anyone having requests or ideas, please contact Mike Campbell our Negotiation Chairman.

August 28 thru September 1 found the Executive Boards of both Local 964 and 734 along with the other IAFF Locals in Maryland in attendance at the 48th Biennial Convention of the IAFF in Toronto, Canada. I found that firehouses in Canada are called "halls" and that our Brothers and Sisters in Louisiana and Florida are still recovering from last years horrific hurricanes, PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS. The convention gave me a glimpse of how vast our International is, what it provides us as members and how our General President Harold Schaitberger and his Executive Board fights for our causes and rights in the workplace. We here in Baltimore are even better off, having our own Bill Taylor (former 734 President) as our own Fourth District Vice President. Bill is a book of vast knowledge on our benefits and needs. The two important items that I would like to mention are -- one, the IAFF Financial Corporation that is available to all members of the IAFF, which gives members availability to mortgages, life, car, disability insurance and other financial products. All such information is available on the IAFF website. Second is the RESOLUTION introduced and (passed by the con-

vention body) by our State Assoc. President Leroy Wilkison along with Massachusetts and Ohio professional FF's on creating presumptive disability database on FF's with heart disease, lung disease, cancer and infectious diseases.

This database will help the IAFF and local Unions to track, how, why and who has contacted such diseases, so we can prevail for our Brother and Sisters injured on the job!!!

Fill the boot for the MDA was again a great success. Total collected was \$40,025.00 -- top company was E43 with \$2560.66. I would like to thank the following people who made the event a success: George Kosta of E43 who stepped up to help the entire weekend; Chief Goodwin, who allowed us to collect one extra day, due to the heavy rain encountered over the weekend. I want to thank all who helped in counting the

money and other deeds which made the event successful: 734 members Cox, Robusto, Schulterberg and Sledjeski and 964 members Fugate and Campbell. Rod Devilbiss for his auction idea and help during the weekend. Both locals are asking anyone who wants to be on the MDA Committee to contact me, so we can make next year bigger and better.

In closing, AGAIN I am asking anyone interested in helping on the Entertainment Committee feel free to call me at Truck 3, C shift or on my cell 410.499.5441. No one is turned away and help is always needed. Get involved in your Union!!! The committee serves the membership in the following areas plus more:

CRAB FEASTS, SOCIAL NIGHT, RETIREE'S DINNER DANCE, PICNIC, SPORTING EVENTS ETC.

Box 414

By Walt Lemmon

It did not take long for the 2nd wagon, Car 416, to be put to the test. Five alarms were pulled for the 300 blk E 20th St which required both wagons. We had the fire covered from both ends of the block. The weather was hot and the fire fighters had to only go a short distance for that cold drink, food and a cold towel. The Club was proud to have met the needs of the Fire Department that day.

The dedication of Car 416 was held on September 17, 2006. Fire Department Captain Father Ross blessed the wagon.

Box 414 will cater the Memorial Service and Metals Day Ceremony at Archbishop Curley High School Saturday, October 14, 2006 at 1 P.M.

Sick & Injured

By Bob Hatoff

Russ Hassell is starting chemo for prostate cancer. 7/9

Harry Stone is home recuperating from his hospital stay. 7/17

Fil Wetzelburger is continuing treatment for her cancer. 8/20

Ken Schultz has gained back the 40 pounds he lost and is doing good. 8/13

Fred Baber has a form of leukemia, but is home from the hospital and doing good. 8/5

Don Gow had back surgery and is home recuperating. 8/26

Tony Herr has an apartment at Mercy Ridge (Stella Maris). He is doing good and is 90 years old. 9/10

Ed Dalton fell and broke his hip. He's in rehab at Stella Maris. 9/10

Don Taylor had a recurrence of cancer in his pelvis and hip. He's weighing different treatments with his doctors. 9/20



4th Battalion
Retirement Party
 Friday, November 3, 2006
 Parkville Heritage Gardens
 7p.m. - 11p.m.

Honoring
 B.C. Gregory Dahlem
 Capt. Edwin McCartney E21
 Lt. David Baker T30
 Lt. Adam Watkowski T29
 Lt. Jeffrey Zablocki T30
 EVD Paul Moeller T30
 FF Steve Dahlem T29
 FF Martin Lang E56
 FF Joseph Pack T25
 FF Eugene Palese Jr. SQ54
 FF Mike Temple T30

Hot and Cold Buffet, Open Bar, DJ
 Tickets \$35.00

Contact :
 Paul Prugar 410-396-9254 (D Shift)
 410-971-6894
 Diane Way 410-396-6256 (D Shift)
 410-254-0617

Tired and Retired

by Bob Hatoff

I remember how I felt when John Wayne died. I was stunned and had trouble accepting it. He had cleared the west of all the cattle rustlers, gunslingers and wild Indians. In addition he won World War II almost single handedly. How could he be dead? This is kind of how I felt when I heard Charney Harris died. He had been a union president of Local 734. Every time you saw or heard something about 6 Engine, Charney was always involved. He helped start the Retreat and the Emerald Society. When we needed him he assumed the presidency of the retirees. He was always there and now suddenly he was gone. I was really feeling low. The day before his funeral we got the word that Fred Schwartz had died. Now I was really depressed. In 1967 I was promoted to pump operator at Engine 20. Fred was a Lieutenant there. His easy going demeanor and ever present smile, made it impossible not to like him. He worked his way up through the ranks to Battalion Commander. For the last 10 years or so I worked on "D" shift with him and Charney. Fred and I served together on 964's Board of Directors and the 3 of us served together on the retirees Board of Directors. I think the best thing I can say is in all the years I knew him he never changed one iota. What you saw was what you got and everything you got was good! I thank God for the privilege of knowing and working with these 2 fine men.

The next thing I have to report is about a spectacular five alarm fire on E. 20th St. Chief Goodwin was in charge and all 10 Division Chiefs were there. There was one chief for each of the 18 dwellings that were involved. In addition there was a chief in charge of medical rehab, safety, public information, staging and the coffee wagon. Finally there was a chief in charge of determining how many chiefs were there and another to figure out where they all came from. This is the first time in the history of the Fire Department there were more chiefs than pumpers at a fire. Chief Goodwin was surrounded by so many white hats and white coats he was transported to the Wilmer eye clinic at Hopkins. Their diagnosis was he was suffering from temporary snow blindness. He has recovered and had his helmet shield tinted to prevent a recurrence. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the present personnel sure require a lot of supervision!

Well the summer is over and the Orioles have clinched 4th place for the ninth year in a row. There is a ray of hope on the horizon. The Ravens are showing signs of being a contender again. I think the only thing that can stop them from making the playoffs is if Peter Angelos buys the team.

As always you can reach me at 1805 Greencastle Dr., Balto 21237 or 410-866-3235. Don't try to call my psychiatrist he won't release my files.

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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