

BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICER

LOCAL 964

--STAFF--

STEPHAN G. FUGATE -- TOM NOSEK

By and For the Professional Fire Officer

IN UNION

THERE IS STRENGTH

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From the Desk of the President

By Stephan G. Fugate

964's Golf Tournament

I've seldom taken the time or space in this newsletter to write about our Annual John L. Seiss Memorial Golf Tournament, but there are two somewhat connected issues well deserving of special note this year in particular. As you may know, what started as the "964 Annual Golf Tournament in the mid '80's was formally renamed in honor of immediate past-president John L. Seiss in 2001 and along with that designation, an annual award was also created to commemorate not only John's memory, but that quality he was most remembered for by those both inside and outside of the Fire Service.

Though John's many qualities could hardly be summed-up in a single word, the word most commonly used by virtually all of those that he encountered was "gentleman". That characterization, by the way, was aptly descriptive as both a noun and a conjunctive as he was not only a *gentleman*, but a *gentle man* as well. And so it was that the Annual John L. Seiss Gentleman's Award was conceived and presented to a deserving candidate every year since.

Every such award has a starting point and the inaugural John L. Seiss Gentleman's Award went to John's son, John, Jr. on behalf of the Seiss family. Since 2001, the annual award has gone to a deserving recipient either inside or outside of the Fire Service, all with the common thread of a positive influence

or impact upon Local 964 and our members as well as the founding standard of a gentlemanly demeanor.

The second and heretofore unrelated issue is that for nearly as long as the conduct of the John L. Seiss Memorial Golf Tournament, the Local has been fortunate in having a rather significant prize to raffle off as part of the tournament with 100% of all monies collected going to our VEBA (Widows & Orphans) Fund which is also the beneficiary Fund of the proceeds from the entire event as well. Notwithstanding the very generous support we receive annually from our many friends and supporters, it is this particular raffle that has proven to be the highest single source of revenue. The prize itself is a week-long vacation for two in St. Croix, Virgin Islands which covers everything but air fare and includes lodging, meals and gifts valued at well over \$4,000.

Though the prize itself has become well known and something of a highlight at the annual tournament, what might not be well known is that the donor of the entire package at NO cost to the Local is Chief Raymond O. "ROD" Devilbiss a former 964 Executive Board member and principle advocate of the concept for renaming the annual tournament in honor of John. ROD and his wife Cathy have a time-share arrangement in St. Croix and every year they take the time and effort to secure accommodations, restaurant and gift certificates to provide this headline raffle item for the tournament.

As something of an aside, and perhaps for the very first time "publicly", I'd like to personally "THANK" ROD and Cathy for their kindness and support and repeat what I often say of such an effort;

ROD continues to do more for our Local and our members by accident than some do by design or intent and we are VERY grateful.

But to the point. The recipient of the John L. Seiss Award for 2008 was former Assistant Chief Michael E. Dalton. Chief Dalton was selected for no other reason than the true intent of the award in that he is and always has been a true gentleman. Yes, Chief Dalton served for many years in the Administration of OUR Department and was occasionally at odds with the Local and/or its members. All the while, however, he was never vindictive, unfairly punitive or abusive of his authority. And even in the worst of times, he (much like his Dad) was truly a gentleman.

I'll not belabor the issue, but many may know that Chief Dalton has been battling cancer for more than a year and there was some concern that he may not have been able to make it to the tournament on July 11, 2008 to personally receive the award. Originally scheduled for May 9, 2008 the tournament was rescheduled due to rain and the continuing treatments may have presented a problem. Alas, however, Chief Dalton and his wife Marsha were indeed able to attend the post-play luncheon and with a full house of friends and former colleagues, Chief Dalton graciously accepted his award with a very touching and "from the heart" commentary that was received with a well-deserved standing ovation. Luncheons and/or dinners held after a day on the golf course are usually not a most likely venue for a true showing of caring, support and appreciation, but July 11 will long be remembered as such for Chief Dalton's pres-

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From the President's Desk.....

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ence and humanity alone but the best was yet to come.

As you might imagine with the value of the prize alone, the raffle drawing for the trip to St. Croix is the collective climax of the events of the day and the last minute sale of tickets often draws more enthusiasm than the tournament itself. One ticket is drawn and the winner is almost always present and quite happy to walk away with a prize worthy of IRS scrutiny. A single ticket was drawn and the winner of the trip to St. Croix was Mr. Ernest J. Glinka.

You may not recognize the name, but Mr. Glinka is another of those iconic figures in Baltimore governmental service having been a former Executive Director of the Retirement Systems of Baltimore City (including the Fire & Police) and he continues to serve in several capacities to this day. In retirement from his pension fund administration duties, Mr. Glinka is the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of MECU and a Trustee of the Employee Retirement System (ERS) as well as the Elected Officials Retirement System (EOS).

With his winning ticker in hand, Mr. Glinka strode to the front to receive the large packet of information, instructions and certificates and without skipping a beat, turned around and handed the envelope to Mike Dalton and his wife Marsha. I do not believe that I have ever witnessed such a spontaneous act of kindness as that in my life and I think it's fair to say that everyone there to witness it along with me walked away a better person for it. Words can simply not express how happy I am to have been there and how honored I am to say that I know Mr. Ernie Glinka and count him as a friend.

To Ernie, THANK YOU and God Bless. To Mike and Marsha Dalton, THANKS so much for being there and sharing not only the day, but your lives with us as well. To ROD and Cathy Devilbiss, THANKS for ALL you do. And last but certainly not least, THANKS to ALL of our members who make the annual golf tournament work and while I trust the entire committee is acknowledged elsewhere in this newsletter, I do

want to extend a very special THANKS to our own Bob Jordan for his endless and selfless devotion to the Local and our members. God Bless, Brother!

The players are now in place

By now, everyone should know that Chief Clack has selected his command staff which now includes two Assistant Chiefs and ten Deputy Chiefs. To be clear, the two "Assistant Chiefs" are the very recently former Deputy Chiefs and the ten "Deputy Chiefs" are the very recently former Shift Commanders and Division Chiefs.

For the record, the level of Union Local inclusiveness in the selection process was unprecedented in that we were directly involved in the selection and submission of the "short list" for both Assistant Chief positions and were allowed to participate in the Deputy Chief interviews without, however, having any vote in the process. I won't speculate as to why the Local did not have a vote in the "second tier" selection process but it ended-up being just as well because I was unable to attend all five days of interviews and I think it incredibly important to maintain continuity amongst the interview panel members.

Believe me when I tell you that the interview process utilized for both Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief selection was VERY consequential. More than one long-time, very competent member fell victim to a "bad" interview and certainly more than one who might have otherwise been viewed as an "also-ran" apparently wowed the interview panel and made the final cut. For such a process to work well and be effective, continuity amongst panel members is simply NOT optional.

Now that the Chief's Command Staff has been selected and will be in place shortly, the next level of concern is that of Battalion Commander. The Battalion Commander position has somehow been extended to several of our Bureaus and it would appear that, in addition to the six suppression Battalions, we also have (or have had) as many as four other Battalion Commanders in Bureaus.

Battalion Commander positions as they currently exist are "MAPS" positions and the Local has NO influence or control over how, if, or when such positions are filled. Should Chief Clack de-

cide NOT to fill or to reclassify those positions, he has the unfettered right to do as he will. I do believe, however, that Chief Clack is more than willing to listen to and consider the Local's position and here it is. We believe that the suppression "Battalion Commander" positions (whatever the title and whatever the pay scale) should remain Local 964 members. We also believe that seniority should prevail absent some egregious shortcoming of a senior member that is clearly articulated and documented.

It would appear that the jury is still out with regard to the Battalion Commander positions but the "good news" is that Chief Clack is certainly accommodating of our opinions and concerns. I'm not sure that there is any "bad news" unless one had planned to once again circumvent promotion the old-fashioned way.

IAFF Convention

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Executive Board might already be at the 49th. Bi Annual Convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters. Among those issues for consideration is the election of the principle officers, the entire Executive Board and the three Regional Trustees. In addition, the monthly per-capita which is the monthly "dues" the Local pays to the International for each active and retired member is subject to escalation if only due to indexing through inflation, not to mention any new initiatives (and costs) that might be adopted.

Most interesting, however, is that the IAFF is poised to endorse yet another candidate for President of The United States and though I can only speak for myself, I have some genuine reservations for what seems to be the inevitable. Keeping in mind that we initially endorsed a Presidential candidate (Senator Chris Dodd) who didn't make it out of Iowa because HE was most supportive of our interests BASED UPON HIS RECORD, it is somewhat troubling to me that we would now endorse a candidate WITHOUT a record.

I'm not doubting or questioning our leadership in Washington whom I do believe have looked out for our best interests, but I am hoping that the members of OUR Local will pay attention to

the developments at the Convention and come to their own conclusions. Whatever happens at the Convention, I want our members to know that we are doing what we believe a majority of our members would want and if that is contrary to the direction of the IAFF leadership, so be it.

Local 964 Elections

I'm certain it will be mentioned elsewhere, but it's important enough to repeat so I will. Nominations for Union Local Officers will be held at the September meetings for the positions of: President, 2nd. Vice-President, Trustee (1), and the entire Board of Directors. This is YOUR Union Local and it is no better or worse than the members YOU elect to represent YOUR interests. All of the positions up for election are for a three-year term so PLEASE make sure you're involved in the process.

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

By Michael Waldner

The John L. Seiss Golf Tournament was finally held on a beautiful sunny day on July 11th and turned out to be another great success. The Seiss Award was presented to Mike Dalton this year, congratulations to him for earning it through his "gentlemanly" dealing with our Local over the years. He was also presented the Grand Prize in the vacation raffle by the lucky winner, who gave the prize to Mike and Marsha to use for a deserved respite from his health issues. This gesture was one of the most remarkable generousities that I have ever witnessed in person. I heartily salute you for your kindness!

Thanks go out to Tom Nosek and his Entertainment Committee for another fabulous picnic. The weather was beautiful right up to the end. Luckily, we just did get in the 1st Annual Iron Man Contest. Thanks go out to all who participated and congrats to the winner, Steve "Hooter" Gibson.

Another thank you goes to Tom Nosek for arranging the annual Ironbirds "Night at the Ball Park" game in lovely

downtown Aberdeen. All who attended had a great time and will surely look forward to next year's game.

These three events took place within roughly a two week period of socializing and bonding of our members and their families. These opportunities are not to be missed if you want to enjoy yourselves and get a full return on the Union dues you pay all year. The value is unmatched and the camaraderie not to be forgotten for quite some time.

Softball season has concluded for the Firehouse Tavern team, but I am always recruiting for the IAFF/MDA September Tournament "40 and over" Team. Our first game will be on Friday morning (9/5) at 1100 hours on field # 2 at the Watkins Regional Park in Kettering, PG County, MD and win or lose continuing to the close of the tournament through Sunday 9/7. If you want to play or need more info contact me for this event.

Congratulations to all those promoted within and outside of our Local, now that promotions have begun again. Perhaps, this will all lead to progress and a brighter future for our Department

Heart/Lung Scans and Physical Assessments

In the near future all members active and retired will receive a questionnaire from Union Memorial to inquire about your participation in or avoidance of our Heart / Lung Scan program. Please take the time to answer the several questions and put the form back in the self addressed envelope for return directly to Union Memorial. They are trying to keep the Program going and are looking for advice on what works and what could be improved upon, as well as what they can do to get those of you who have not participated interested.

As always participation has slacked off in the summer months. Please try to remember to make an appointment in the Fall, when things return to normal schedules following the vacation months. **We are in danger of this program ending due to lack of participation.**

This program is by appointment on every Tuesday and Thursday between 1200 – 1300 hours at the Fitness/Rehab Center and will include a wellness background questionnaire screening and

blood test panel. **You can choose to do either or both programs.** There is also a cardio evaluation performed on a stationary bike. These programs (Assessments and heart/lung scans) at Union Memorial are now offered to **ALL** interested members, **active and retired of both Locals (734 & 964) and their spouses and widows.** The results will be available only to you or a Doctor you designate. **There will still be a fee of approximately \$150 for the scans but the assessment is free.** The entire program including the heart/lung scan will take less than 1 hour of your time and both will be done on the same designated days (Tuesday and Thursday) assigned to us. It will be worth it just to get all the rest of our active and retired members and their spouses through the heart/lung scans. Please take advantage of it. You are never too young or too old to monitor your health. **Again, these are open to active and retired members of both Locals (734 & 964), their spouses and widows.** Please take advantage of these appointments while they last. We need to keep the schedule full until all interested parties avail themselves of this unique opportunity. Union Memorial will only staff these programs if we use them.

Anyone who has participated and received his or her report is encouraged to email or call me (captal@aol.com or 410-879-4545) with any feedback, especially on the physical assessments. Please let me know good or bad features so we can adapt and improve this program.

Below are the directions, instructions and contact information to schedule appointments for the Assessment and heart/lung scans. You will have to contact the heart/lung phone # to coordinate your appointments for the same Tuesday or Thursday that you do the assessment.

FITNESS ASSESSMENT PRETEST INSTRUCTIONS

Guidelines recommended for the most accurate test results:

- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. Sneakers preferred.
- Avoid food, tobacco, and caffeine for at least 3-4 hours before testing.

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-Abstain from alcohol consumption within 48 hours of the assessment.

-Avoid moderate or vigorous physical activity within 12 hours of the assessment.

-Ingest no diuretic agents, including caffeine, prior to the assessment.

-Get an adequate amount of sleep (6 to 8 hours) the night before the test.

-Drink plenty of fluids over the 24-hour period preceding the test to ensure normal hydration prior to the testing.

Directions to Fitness Center

Park in garage A (1st garage on your left) and take elevator to main lobby. Walk across bridge to security desk. Sign-in at desk. Go to 33rd Street Building which is straight ahead down the hallway past the pharmacy and to your left. Walk down the ramp past the Conference Center. Elevators will be on your left. Take elevator to 2nd Floor and turn left and proceed down the hallway to the Fitness Center. You will receive a voucher to cover the parking fee.

For questions regarding the assessment test and scheduling contact:

Rebecca Winch at 410-554-2167

(Please note that this is a new number)

She will refer you to 1-877-744-3278 to set up the coordinated heart/lung scan. Let them know you are a Firefighter and need a Tuesday/Thursday appointment to coincide with your assessment.

As always, I will mention again about the Community Outreach Program (parents/siblings, friends etc.) conducted by Union Memorial Hospital offering the heart/lung scans to the general public only on Saturdays at **the rate of \$75 each**. The phone # is **1-877-744-3278**. **Getting both for a combined \$150 is a great bargain.** If Union Memorial is not convenient for you, contact Franklin Square Hospital (sister hospital to Union Memorial in the same Health group). They have a scan machine and are doing heart scans through their own Community Outreach Program. Check with them on pricing, but it should be similar. **The number for Franklin Square is 443-777-7900. These are also open to the general public**

Everyone needs to try to attend our monthly meetings in September when we will be holding nominations for the next round of three year terms for President, 2nd VP, a Trustee and the entire Board of Directors. Attendance is vital so you know the facts and not the rumors. Help us keep you educated on the goings on of **your** Department and **your** Union.

Stay hydrated in these hot summer months and most of all stay safe. Remember, if I am your second due Chief, I am your Safety Officer and I will have your back. I'll look out for you, but most importantly you look out for you. Remember too, this is your Union. I can be contacted to answer any questions or try to help with any problems at (C) 410-908-2179, (H) 410-879-4545, or (W) 443-984-1737 or email at captal@aol.com.

**From the Desk of
the 2nd Vice President**

By Mike Campbell

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! The Fire Officers had three very successful events since our last Newsletter. First, I would like to thank Bob Jordan and his Committee for a fantastic John L. Seiss Memorial Golf Tournament. It was a beautiful day and I'm sure the hackers had a good time. Congratulations to Mike Dalton for being honored with the John L. Seiss Award. Mike and Marsha were also the recipients of the vacation raffle thanks to an anonymous donor. Truly an amazing gesture! The golf tournament is the 2nd leading fundraiser that benefits our VEBA Fund, which goes to our Widows and Orphans. Second, the Fire Officers Picnic was a huge success thanks to Tom Nosek and his Entertainment Committee. Great food, great weather and good friends equaled a splendid time at Cascade Lake. We had roughly 30 more members than last year. Thanks also to Mike Stacharowski and his wife Marie who kept the kids entertained once again! Hoot Gibson was the winner of the inaugural Iron Man's competition. I

think the Hooter is chiseled more than Donnie Schafer! The photos from these affairs can be found on the Officers website in the Photo Gallery. Last but not least was the Annual Fire Officers Night at the Ballpark featuring the Aberdeen Ironbirds. This again is a Tom Nosek production and all of the tickets were sold and the Ironbirds treated us to a 2-1 nail biting win. Much to my surprise Box 414 had their group there as well and were sitting directly behind us. It was Walt Lemmon's 70th birthday. Congratulations Walter! Thanks to you and all of the members of 414 who serve our members selflessly! Please keep Bob Hatoff in your prayers. Bob just had successful knee surgery and is resting at home. I wish to thank Retired Lieutenant Dave Franz who mounted and framed a 9/11 flag for the Fire Officers Union Hall. If you are not familiar with the flag it is the U.S. flag with all of the names of the Fire Fighters and Police who died on 9/11. It will be hung in a prominent place for all to see. Thanks Dave! Thanks as well to Tom Nosek who generously donated the flag.

I would like to discuss the recent appointments by Chief Clack and the effect they may or may not have on promotions within Local 964. G.O. 53-08 lists the newly appointed members of Chief Clack's Top Management Team. The current Battalion Chief list expires on 10/19/08 and I am fully aware of the angst of the remaining members at the top of that list and I do empathize with their situations, but unless we are given more BC positions than we currently have we will not see a BC promotion from these appointments. We currently have 30 Battalion Chief positions, (grade 344) of which there are 26 Suppression Battalion Chiefs and 8 of those are "Floating" positions. Two of the current Battalion Commanders will be moving out of their battalions and into other Command positions which will only have the effect of 2 Floating Chiefs transferring into those Battalions and becoming permanent BC's. We are still maintaining 26 Suppression BC's and a total of 30 BC's. To clear that up, we will end up with 20 permanent Suppression BC's and 6 Floaters. Now if they were to give us more BC positions we would welcome them with open arms! As far

as the current Battalion Commanders positions and what is to become of them, I do not have that info. We will be owed 1 Suppression Captain and Lieutenant for Ct. O' Brocki's spot once Bob Doedderlein retires and 1 Lieutenant position for Wally Connell's retirement. Within EMS, I am waiting to hear from Chief Clack how he will handle Dickson Henry's spot. The only EMS Officer on their time currently is EMS Lieutenant Rick Sarudy whose time runs out much later. We will also be owed a Port Engineer spot for Ken Robinson's retirement. We have not been told what will become of Bo Lehr's spot either. I have the lists for all of the above, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. By now, all of the EMS Officers who were due the ALS stipend retro to 2003 are in receipt of their monies. This brings to a close all of our members who were due that retro money. I would like to thank Mike Maneiri for his efforts and keeping me abreast of what was happening along with allowing me to hound him on this and many other pay issues. If you have a pay issue please let me know and also e-mail the Dept. at BCFD.Etime. I am handling the Fire Officer organizational automobile/motorcycle tag applications. I received the demo motorcycle tag from the MVA and have approved of its design. It will take about 4 weeks to get the tags in. The initial batch will consist of # s0001 – 0050. If you want a specific number please contact me ASAP. First come, first served! Once I receive a call from the MVA that the tags are in I will post on the Forum that you can take your application and pick up your specified number at Glen Burnie or mail in the application if you don't care what number you get. If you need applications for either auto or motorcycle, drop me a line. I am currently working with Central Payroll to get Box 414 Association a payroll deduction slot in some form or fashion. Please keep abreast by logging on the Fire Officers website at www.iafflocal964.org.

The Union does not meet in the months of July and August for membership meetings. Look forward to seeing everyone at the Crab Feasts! Look for dates in Tom Nosek's article. We are accepting nominations for President, 2nd V.P. and (1) Trustee

spot along with all of the Board of Directors at the September meetings. These are 3 year terms that take office on 1/1/09. Our first meeting of the Fall session will be Wednesday, 9/3/08 because of the Labor Day holiday. This will also be a Board of Director meeting. I will get in touch with the Board of Directors about the time.

Health Care

Open Enrollment will begin in November. Keep an eye on the U.S mail. The City is currently looking over their HMO and POS (Point Of Service) healthcare providers for another two year contract. I will keep you informed who they choose and if they decide to add or drop a provider. CareFirst PPN is not up for renewal. I would like to remind those members who wish to drop the City's health care and receive the \$650.00 that this can only be accomplished during Open Enrollment. It cannot be done throughout the year. A reminder to Active and Retired members, if you have alternative health care and lose it, you can apply for the City's coverage as long as you show proof of loss to the City within 60 days of that loss in coverage. Retirees may also drop the City's health care at anytime. Also, Kaiser, Optimum Choice and UHC allow physicals every year, whereas CareFirst limits these exams to once every 36 months. Please be advised that, upon retirement, if you are covered by an out-of-state Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan (either PPN or Traditional), you no longer have Dental Coverage as part of your benefit package. You will need to seek out your own dental coverage and will **NOT** be reimbursed for such expenses. If you remain in Maryland, however, you will still have access to The Dental Network. Once you reach the age of 65 years and qualify for Medicare you are converted to BC/BS Traditional coverage and are no longer eligible for dental coverage. I have included the Baltimore City Vision Program on the Fire Officers website. It can be found under the Health and Safety icon and is titled "Vision Program". You can access Employee Benefits online at <https://www.baltimorecity.essbenefits.com> or by calling 410-396-5830.

Safety and Health

The Safety & Health meeting was held on 7/17/08 at Pimlico Middle School which will be housing our EMS Training Division of the Fire Academy. This was due to the numerous concerns our members have who will be moving in August. We are being told that this is temporary and that the long-range goal is to build an entirely new Public Safety Training Academy at the site of the BCFD Academy and the auto impound lot next door. In attendance were a member of Mayor Dixon's staff and two members of General Services. The following environmental concerns with the school were discussed: Fuel oil tanks will be replaced. The water is currently being tested for lead and bottled water is being provided. The asbestos issues were dealt with by either encapsulation or wrapping. Many of the lower pipes have metal padding to prevent damage to the insulation. I fully understand our members' trepidation with this move and can assure them that we will continue to monitor the Safety/Health concerns that they have with this building. Another topic of discussion was Station Building Repairs. I e-mailed Mr. Ed Gallagher who is the City's Finance Director and have been informed that the Fire Department is still under a Budgetary Freeze (except hiring) until November and there will be a review to see whether to lift it or not. Jim Bellamy is now down to himself and two other gentlemen from General Services who have one truck to carry out our daily station repairs. With that bit of positive news is it any wonder that we see any improvements in our stations! And yet there are a couple of issues that are either completed or are in the works:

- Apparatus floor repairs at E-55/T-23 are done. Still working on lead paint issue.

- Apparatus floor repairs @ E-21 – Looking for a contractor.

- The Community Association is working with the Department and Councilwoman Middleton to make some improvements to E-44/T-25.

- Bunkroom/PM Office @ SQ54/T30 – an electrician was out and when the electrical work is completed the drywall will be installed along with the ceiling tiles.

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2nd V.P.*...continued from page 5*

E42 – contractor will be looking at possible asbestos issue in boiler room and also their internal communications problem.

E30/T8 – water has been tested by the City and we are awaiting results

Some of these issues I was made aware of by an Officer in the house and others by Jim Bellamy. Others I knew nothing about. I would ask that if you have any house repairs, that you send in a Special Report along with calling Ms. Hendricks and please send me an e-mail. If it is a Safety/Health problem, then e-mail the Safety Office as well. I cannot help if I don't know. The joint Locals drafted a letter to the Chief of Fire Department concerning the new SCBA brackets that are currently in place on some apparatus. The committee does not feel that these brackets are sufficient and that in fact they are a step backwards. With the assistance of Lieutenant George Jones, I was shown a different bracket at the Firehouse Expo that could be used to replace the inadequate brackets. Stay tuned! Make sure that you e-mail the Safety Office at (FDSO@baltimorecity.gov) if you have any safety related issues along with contacting me. If you are e-mailing Health and Safety Officer Bill Jones, you must e-mail William H. Jones, not William Jones! You must also continue sending in Special Reports as is policy. The next meeting is scheduled for 8/21/08. Contact me with any issues. **BE SAFE!**

President's Club

The 2008 PAC FUND campaign is the largest to date. Currently we have 158 members who are contributing to our PAC Fund. Retirees cannot contribute by way of dues deduction, but can still donate the full amount of \$100.00 by way of cash or check to be included in the Presidents Club! Please make checks out to: Local 964 PAC Fund! The PAC Fund is our most important tool to have the **local** politicians listen to our concerns. The Fund can **only** be used for Local and State politicians and **cannot and will never be used** for Federal politicians, (President, Senator, etc.) If you contribute \$4.00 or more a pay, you are automatically included in the

President's 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: captain16@hotmail.com

Worlds to twirl by...

When they come to take you down
When they bring that wagon 'round
When they come to call on you
And drag your poor body down
Just one thing I ask of you
Just one thing for me
Please forget you knew my name
My darling Sugaree

Grateful Dead

**From the Desk of
the Recording Secretary**

By Tom Nosek

My article is short, just the basics.

The annual picnic held a Lake Cascade in Hampstead, Md. was a great family event with close to 200 people attending. Thanks to the following members for minding the grills, picking up food, ice, beer etc. Thanks to John Boblits, Jake Van Gelder, Jim Murray, George Jones, Frank Schlosser, Mike Campbell, and Anita Hatoff. Special thanks to Mike and Marie Stacharowski again shopping for the gifts and conducting the games.

Congratulations to Captain "Hoot" Gibson for winning the inaugural Iron Man contest.

Annual crab feasts this year will be held at the UAW hall, located at O'Donnell and Oldham Sts. The dates are September 18 and 23, 7-11 pm, cost is \$15. YOU WILL NEED tickets this year. To obtain tickets contact a member of the Eboard or your battalion steward.

MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) fill the boot dates will be August 27-30. Let's beat last year's total of \$52,000. Thanks in advance to all

Company Officers for spear heading this charitable effort.

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, see everyone at the first Union meeting on September 3 @7pm.

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

By Anita Hatoff

The second attempt at hosting the annual golf tournament went off without a hitch. The weather was great. The golfing was great. The food and drink were great. My absolute favorite part was after everyone had completed their 18 holes and had eaten. Chief Michael Dalton was gracious enough to honor us with his presence. He is a true gentleman. There is a raffle each year for a chance to win a trip to St Croix. I don't know who the gentleman was that won, but as soon as he walked over to get his package, he immediately turned and handed it to Chief Dalton. It was without a doubt one of the most selfless acts I have ever seen. All I can say is, "What a class act!"

The 964 picnic was well attended. Once again the food was great. It's always wonderful when you can spend time with your family. I know my family had a fun time. I got to see some old friends and meet some new people. Cascade Lake, in my opinion, is the best location we have ever had the picnic. It was a bit of a ride, but well worth it. I will make sure we never miss it. If you have never been, or just haven't gone in awhile, you should truly consider going. I can assure you your family will have an awesome time.

Garceau Realty should complete construction and open sometime in August. They have been a nice addition to the first floor. Bank of America is in the process of getting permits for an ATM. They will be installing it in the existing doorway between Garceau and Daily Grind in the front of the building. Things are finally coming together and we hope to have a long working relationship with all three. We wish them the best in their ventures.

Things have been hectic trying to make sure my father was properly cared for after total knee replacement surgery. I am happy to say he is home and recuperating. It's a great thing when you are able to have a family member come home after being in a nursing home/rehab facility. It's sad to say things could and should have been better. Seven days in rehab and four meetings with the administrator because of problems isn't a good thing. I now know that having a house built, so that my mother and father can both be comfortable, was the absolute right thing to do. I will do whatever I have to to make sure neither of them ever has to go to one of those places again.

Well I get off my soapbox now and just hope everyone has a happy, healthy and fantastic summer.

Tired and Retired

(From Franklin Woods)

By Bob Hatoff

I don't know if you're aware, but I'm now beginning my 14th year writing this column. Those of you who have been reading all these years must realize what a brilliant mind I have that continues to rocket down the rails. However, from time to time, it does jump the tracks. This type of accident always produces some twisted wreckage. I write some of my best columns during these off-track times. I know this because my fan mail increases by 2 or 3 bags a week. With all this in mind, I present for your perusal, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation!"

My summer started in May when I became aware of the ever increasing pain in my left knee. As a result I visited the doctor who took x-rays. He showed them to me and they revealed there was no cartilage left in my knee. It was bone on bone and no relief in sight. His advice was complete knee replacement and I had to agree. We set a date for surgery (7-14) and I went home. With the non-stop pain, sleeping became impossible. I usually was awakened by it and sat up the rest of the night watching

50 year old reruns and doing crossword puzzles. With no noise, no kids and no ringing phone's your sense of being greatly increases. The TV commercials that I normally ignored became extremely clear to me. I started to figure out what the target audience they were aiming for was!

I determined it was middle age to elderly men who were obviously over weight. In addition, the tin soldiers they played with were always smaller than other boys. When the soldiers were ordered "Attention" they had problems standing erect. It was at this point that I decided this years vacation would connect with my medical problem. As much as I enjoy having my grandchildren with me, I had to do this one alone. Fortunately, I was able to book a luxury suite at the hotel Franklin Square. I tackled the first problem by eating the delicious sponsor's food. They even gave me 2 extra weeks food free. In no time I had 6 pack abs and was not ashamed to take off my shirt in public. The next 2 problems were solved by simply taking capsules. In both cases, I was given a week or 2 for free. Now the cure for the second problem caused me to lean forward, but the cure for the third problem prevented the tilt from increasing beyond a 45 degree angle. All that was left was the knee. I was warmly welcomed by the hotel staff. They directed me to a back room where a nice man suggested I remove all my out of style clothing. He thought this would distract me, but he didn't know I was no longer afraid to take off my shirt in public. He gave me a free locker where I could store my clothes and shoes and a key to lock it up. I wasn't even deterred by the fact that the locker was only big enough to hold an umbrella. The nice man then gave me 2 very stylish night gowns. One covered the front and the other took care of the rear. Next I was greeted by 2 very charming ladies. They had me lie down on a very comfortable bed. Then they covered me with heated blankets and I started to mellow. In fact I started singing, "I feel good." If it wasn't for the bad knee I think I might have done the James Brown dance. They put an IV in each arm and they told me the last step before the operation would be a questioning to see if I was sane enough to realize what the

operation was. In rapid fire they asked me my name, age, address and social security number. I aced all 4 questions and was very proud, because I hadn't even studied. Then they wanted to know who was president. I quickly answered George Bush, but they came back, which one? I pondered this and replied all I know was all male members of the Foreman and Bush families were named George. Then they asked how far I went in school. I told them I went in the front door all the way to my homeroom. My last recollection is waking up on my back and seeing a row of staples that started well above my knee and ended well below it. It then occurred to me they looked like a line of train tracks that I jumped earlier to start this twisted tale!
THE END

Now as I end this (7-22) I'm resting again in rehab. I can't name all of you who called, visited and sent cards, but thanks to you all! I felt the love! To all of you who took time to pray, I felt God's healing touch. I'm blessed by your friendship.

As always you can reach me at 410-866-3235 or 1805 Greencastle Dr, Balto., MD 21237.

Notice for Election of Officers for Local 964

Nominations for the offices of:

President
2nd Vice President
(1) Trustee

will take place at the September union meetings. All board of director positions are also up for election. These are bureau and battalion steward positions. Each office is for a three-year period beginning in January of 2009. Ballots will be mailed in October 2008 in accordance with Local 964 by-laws.

Reminder the September meetings are Wednesday, September 3 and Monday September 15, 2008.

**Baltimore City Fire Officers IAFF Local 964
Annual Crab Feasts**

**Thursday September 18, 2008
Tuesday September 23, 2008
Time: 7-11pm , food served 7-10 pm
Location: UAW Union Hall, O'Donnell and Oldham St.'s**

**Menu: hot steamed crabs, crab soup, corn , hot dogs,
Italian sausage with green peppers and onions, bar-b-que baked wings,
redskin potato salad, baked ziti with meat sauce, sheet cake,
cold beer , soda , ice tea**

Cost: \$15.00

**TICKETS SOLD IN ADVANCE ONLY,
SEE ANY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OR BATTALION STEWARD**

**Tom Nosek, Cell: 410 499 5441
Steve Fugate, Cell: 410-908-0199**

**Mike Campbell, Cell: 443 629-0216
Mike Waldner, Cell: 410 908 2179**

Anita Hatoff, Cell: 410 274 2765

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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