

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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June/July 2008

From the Desk of the President

By Stephan G. Fugate

Promotional Exams Debacle

Such was the heading in the February/March '08 edition of this newsletter wherein I took more than two full pages to chronicle the issues surrounding what had begun in July of '07 with allegations of improprieties in the Suppression Lieutenant and Captain examinations conducted on June 2, 2007. The debate had reached a crescendo and had become the source of the single most divisive matter I had ever witnessed as a Member of this Union Local.

That initial writing was followed by a less wordy report of the legal maneuverings and the Grievance Procedure in the April/May '08 edition which closed with a hope for a ruling favorable to the Unions' position. Whatever the ruling might have been, however, it would surely NOT have satisfied everyone with there being at least five divergent views as outlined in the original writing. It would appear now that we will never know what that ruling might have been as the issue has been effectively, not to mention surprisingly, resolved.

With the literal stroke of a pen, the original lists stand as published on July 2, 2007 and promotions have already been made to fill those vacancies that had accrued since the expiration of the previous lists. While I will not be specific, disciplinary actions were taken against most of the members initially subject to scrutiny and appropriate mea-

sures have also been taken in response. Surely there are those who remain convinced that they have been harmed in some form or fashion in through this entire fiasco and such concerns might never be addressed to their satisfaction. For all practical purposes, however, the "case is closed" and though we might debate for years the equity of the final resolve, it's time to move on.

My Friend, Rick

Only a handful of cities in the US and Canada have two Union Locals representing their Fire Service personnel and those that do are, like Baltimore, typically separated at the supervisory ranks. I honestly do not know what type of relationship exists between the two Locals in those other Departments but I do know that there might easily be self-serving reasons for divisiveness and in-fighting.

It's very easy for the leadership of the subordinate member Local to blame the ills of the world on the Officers who supervise their members. It is also very easy for the leadership of the supervisory member Local to view themselves and their members as "above the fray" and more akin to the Department management than the rank and file with whom they actually work. In either case, however, it is the members of BOTH Locals that suffer the consequences with very predictable divide and conquer tactics and policies at every level.

I sincerely believe a best case scenario is indeed a single Union Local, but the sixty year history of Baltimore's Fire Locals as well as an existing City Code prohibition assures dual representation. The next-best thing then is a cooperative working relationship between the two

Locals and I can tell you, in no uncertain terms, that not only do we enjoy such a positive relationship, it simply could not be any better. Much of the credit for the existence and continuance of that atmosphere should go to Local 734 President Rick Schluderberg.

When I was fortunate enough to be elected President of our Local in the fall of '96, Rick was the First Vice-President of Local 734. Local 734 President Bill Taylor had just been elected IAFF Fourth District Vice President and his new responsibilities with the IAFF often left Rick filling-in as Acting President and it was with the very serious illness of Bill Taylor in '98 that Rick became de-facto President. Bill's stepping-down in '99 made way for Rick's formal election as Local President and the rest, as they say, is history. And an incredibly productive history it is.

I suppose in part because we had worked at Truck 10 together for some time, though on different shifts, there was a sense of trust and confidence that might not have been there otherwise. We also share some rather basic beliefs in individual and employment rights that go to the very core of Union membership and representation. Perhaps most importantly, we believe that we have the honor of representing members of the noblest profession in the world, and we would NEVER misuse or take lightly such a privilege.

I'm going through all of this because my friend and longtime "partner in crime" has come to the end of his service as President of Local 734. He has stepped aside in anticipation of his ultimate retirement and to say that I will miss him and his stellar work ethic and

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From the President's Desk.....

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professionalism is a monumental understatement. I wish I could take the time to go through all of the issues of the last ten years or so that Rick and I have teamed-up to tackle, but it would take too much space, and I would have to admit that my work paled to his by comparison. All too often, I was the front person for Rick's efforts and never once did he complain or feel slighted.

All of the collective work, cooperation and camaraderie with me and Local 964 by extension, however, NEVER put members of Local 734 in an inferior position and Rick never once allowed the interests of members of Local 734 to take a back seat. In the very few circumstances when there may have been a difference of opinion or approach, we were able to work toward a solution that didn't compromise the position of either Local. A tough balancing act to say the least, but we both understood the consequences of not working together.

It is my hope that I'll have an opportunity to do Rick and his service to OUR Department justice in terms of recognition, but I could not allow the ending of his term as President of Local 734 to pass without mention. I will miss Rick, his friendship and support immensely, and I only wish that we could do it all over again.

Local 734 Moving Ahead

This might be an appropriate point to congratulate those who prevailed in Local 734's recent round of elections held on Saturday, May 24, 2008. Unlike our Local which has staggered the principle officer elections over a three-year cycle, Local 734 elects its entire Executive Board and Board of Directors at once every three years. And the results are:

Bob Sledgeski – President
 Jerry Robusto – 1st. V.P.
 Lenore Festerman – 2nd. V.P.
 Dave Cox – Sec. Treas.
 George Neubeck – Rec. Sec.

Congratulations to all and particularly to Lenore for breaking that proverbial "glass-ceiling" by becoming the first female member elected to an Executive Board

position. How appropriate that she will join our own Anita Hatoff whose January '08 swearing-in made her the first female Executive Board member of Local 964.

Having lauded Rick, though not nearly enough, for his leadership and working relationship with our Local over the years, I am very optimistic about Bob's willingness, desire and ability to continue to do much the same. Bob is likely the longest serving Executive Board member in the history of either Local and he's certainly "been there, done that and seen it all". Local 734 remains in good hands, and I look forward to working with Bob for the benefit of ALL of our members regardless of rank or Local affiliation.

Local 964 Elections

Continuing something of a theme, our Union Local will conduct elections this fall for the position of President, Second Vice President, One Trustee (Webster) and the entire Board of Directors which is comprised of representatives from each Battalion and the several Bureaus, some of which have been combined of necessity. Nominations will take place at our two meetings in September, ballots will be mailed shortly thereafter with a return deadline of late October and the official announcement of results will be on November 3, 2008. Those currently holding office in those positions contested will serve through December of '08 and newly elected and/or re-elected members will be sworn-in on January 5, 2009.

We sincerely encourage anyone with an interest to either serve our Local or participate in the nomination process to attend our September meetings which, due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday 9/1/08, will be held on Wednesday, 9/3/08 and Monday, 9/15/08.

Chief Clack

I had written of Chief Clack's arrival in the last issue of this newsletter with an optimism that might easily have been quickly dashed, but I am VERY happy to report that the positive view remains very much intact. Chief Clack, on somewhat short notice, was kind enough to attend our recent Retiree Dinner Dance and offer his well wishes to those recently retired members present, but his actions

go well beyond the ceremonial. Chief Clack has begun the process of selecting his two Deputy Chiefs and has expressly included the Union Local as part of the initial screening and subsequent interviews.

Having quickly realized and identified a significant shortcoming in the Headquarters staffing, Chief Clack has brought with him a colleague from Minneapolis to fill the role of Chief of Staff. Mr. Steve Nutting has relocated to Baltimore to work with Chief Clack and will be focusing on what's probably best described as "DHR" type issues. For those who may not have regular dealings with such matters, the lack of attention to general personnel issues might not be so apparent and the significance of the impact might not be appreciated. Suffice it to say that there is a GREAT deal of room for improvement, and we believe that Mr. Nutting will provide welcomed relief.

Finally, for the moment, Chief Clack has made himself available to a degree that only causes me concern for his ability to find enough time in the day to keep it up. He has established an "open door policy" unlike anything I've ever witnessed before, and he is open to meeting personally and directly with anyone who asks. In a department with more than 1,700 members all of whom may have a personal concern or a desire to express a particular point of view, the quick math suggests that if he were to meet with as many as three members a day, it would take two years to get through the entire Department. I know that's something of an absurd scenario, but the point is that there are only so many hours in the day and while we do appreciate Chief Clack's time and attention, he has a Department to run so let's try and keep that door open by not wearing-out the hinges.

IAFF Convention

The 49th Bi-Annual Convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters will be held from August 11 – 15, 2008 in Las Vegas, NV. Our Union Local, based upon the total number of members for which we pay IAFF per-capita dues, is permitted four Convention Delegates and four Alternates. In accordance with our Local Constitution

and By-Laws, the five elected Executive Board members also serve as Delegates or Alternate to the IAFF Convention.

Not being in attendance, however, does not mean that you have no voice, vote or say in the conduct of business. If there is an issue of particular concern, you can express that concern to the Executive Board members at a regular meeting or by direct contact. You may also submit recommendations for resolutions to be presented but such recommendations must be received either in hard-copy, FAX or email at the IAFF by 1700 hrs. on June 23, 2008.

Please contact any member of the Executive Board for additional information or clarification prior to the deadline for submission noted above.

Local 964 Awards

It is probably not widely known that our Union Local is authorized to present up to four Special Awards in any calendar year, all four of which have been established in recognition and honor of former members of our Local. Two of those awards are appropriately named in honor of two former Local Presidents (Thomas E. Frazier & John L. Seiss), one in honor of a former member and Fire Department Deputy Chief (Clarence E. Smith) and the fourth was just recently created to honor the service and memory of a former First Vice-President, Francis E. Uhlhorn, III.

The "Seiss Award" is presented at our Annual Golf Tournament (to be reported on in detail in the next issue) which is also named in honor of John and will be presented on Friday, July 11, 2008 at the close of the tournament. The "Frazier Award" (Ret. B.C. William J. Shives) and the "Smith Award" (Ret. Capt. Robert J. Jordan) were to be presented at our Annual Retiree Dinner/Dance on May 17 of this year but the recipients of both were unable to attend and those plaques will be presented as their presence permits.

The "Uhlhorn Award" which was established just this year in honor of Captain Francis E. Uhlhorn, III is to be presented to that member whose contributions to the health, safety and well-being of ALL of our members most closely mirrored Frank's commitment,

dedication and service to the same causes. It was our pleasure to present that Inaugural Award to recently retired Lieutenant William F. Kern at the Retiree Dinner/Dance in May and, once again, we congratulate and THANK him for his selfless service to those same ideals that Frank held so highly.

We were very pleased to have Frank's wife, Angela and his sisters Diane and Linda on hand to help present the award and trust that we will continue to have members as dedicated as Frank was to warrant such recognition in the future. Speaking of which, though all four awards can be presented only one a year, we do NOT simply pick a name just for the sake of presenting an award. Quite often, one or more of the awards are NOT presented in any given year if a deserving member or friend of the Local is not selected.

The Smith Award, established in 1976, has been awarded nineteen times in thirty-three years; The Frazier Award, established in 1987, has been awarded eight times in twenty-two years; The Seiss Award, established in 2000 has been awarded every year since; and, as stated, the Uhlhorn Award, established in 2008 has now been awarded only once. Sincere congratulations to ALL of this year's recipients and best of luck to all future candidates.

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

By Michael Waldner

Congratulations to Chief Clack for surviving his confirmation hearings and being installed as the current Chief of Department! Best of luck to us all and now on with the show!

The cheating scandal / investigation is finally over and the original list has been recertified. Congratulations to all the newly promoted members of our Local and welcome aboard to all our new members. I'm sure all the names and dates will be posted elsewhere and need not be repeated here.

Congratulations also to all involved in a very successful event held to honor Captain Donald Hubbel. Everything went

well and all attendees had a great time while raising funds for his family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers in the passing days and months as their lives are trying to get back to something resembling normalcy. It will never be over for them, and we should never forget him or them.

There was another fine Retirement Dinner Dance to honor those who gave so many years of service to this Department held at Columbus Gardens on May 17th. Tom Nosek and his committee did another outstanding job of putting together a fitting tribute to our members who retired in the past year. Special honors went to Bob Jordan and Will Shives for their many years of service on the EBoard and Board of Directors/Trustee respectively. Also a new award was created to honor Frank Uhlhorn and was presented to Bill Kern as the inaugural recipient for all his service on Health and Safety and as a Trustee. Congratulations to all the honorees.

Softball season has begun for the Firehouse Tavern team though not many games have been played as yet. It seems that Monday is the day for rain to hit the area. The season will now be extended to get all the games in for this year. If you had school games for your kids or Little League games and were unavailable earlier, we can still use you as we get extended into peak vacation time and may lose some players to family commitments. Anyone interested in playing contact me ASAP. If you just want to watch, call me for a copy of the schedule or stop by Firehouse Tavern any Monday night after 8:30 PM or so and see us there after our games. I am always recruiting for the IAFF/ MDA September Tournament "40 and over" Team. Games will begin on Thursday night 9/4 through Sunday 9/7. If you want to play or need more info contact me for that event also.

Heart/Lung Scans and Physical Assessments

Please note the following change in the Heart / Lung scan Program. We are now going to include spouses under the Tuesday / Thursday plan. After consultation with Union Memorial administrators, we have

agreed that our occupation is stressful to our wives as well as ourselves. They deal with the tension and danger probably as much as we do. We take the danger for granted while they quietly endure out of our sight and minds as we go about our jobs. Hopefully, the wives will help me push more members into using the program. Make a date for your scans, take the wife to lunch and show her how much you care about her.

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. 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 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, 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.
- 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 gen-

eral 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 its 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 safe and remember 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 would like to congratulate the 2007 class of Retirees. We honored 17 heroes on May 17th with over **515 years** of dedicated service to the Citizens of Baltimore. This was another fine affair put on by Tom Nosek and his Committee. Chief Clack, along with his Chief of Staff, Mr. Steven Nutting was also in attendance. Thank you Chief and Mr. Nutting for taking the time to honor those members who gave of themselves selflessly and which you never had the chance to meet until that evening! A highlight of the evening occurred when Lt. Bill Kern was honored with the inaugural Captain Francis E. Uhlhorn, III Award for his dedication to the safety, health and well being of our members! A more deserving member I could not have envisioned. Congratulations Billy! I also had the pleasure of attending the "pilot" IAFF

Frontline Safety Program at the Fire Academy in late May which looked at ways to decrease line-of-duty deaths and injuries. This segue could not have been set up any better for my next topic! Generally, when we come into this occupation, retirement isn't a blip on our radar screen. All we wanted to do when we first stepped foot in a firehouse after graduating from the Academy was put the wet stuff on the red stuff, **OFTEN!** Now that some gray hair has cropped into my mane, my thoughts do wander towards retirement and what that will be like. **Some data to mull over:** Each year approximately 100 fire fighters are killed while on duty and over 80,000 injuries are reported, (the 343 members killed on 9/11 are not included). **The top three causes of LODD are: 1. stress/overexertion 2. vehicle collision 3. caught/trapped!** We have an extremely dangerous job, but can we lower some of these numbers. In my mind, YES! We must have some kind of fitness/wellness program in place. We have made attempts to partner with the Fire Dept., but that can be a catch-22. Do we want annual physicals provided by the City? Absolutely, but we are also afraid of what may be found and worry about losing our job! Knowing PSI like we do, I certainly don't want them saying if I am fit to work or not, but we can get a complete physical and various cancer screens on our own and if something is found then get the proper treatment. Thanks to Mike Waldner, we also have partnered with Union Memorial for the Heart/Lung scan. Everyone, and I mean everyone, needs to get this done!!! Diet and exercise can significantly help as well. **These few items could reduce #1!** Wearing your seat belt at all times that the wagon is moving is a no-brainer. Stopping at all stop signs and red traffic lights as well as driving at a speed where you are still in control of the vehicle. Never think that the 4-way stop is just for civilians. **These few items could reduce #2!** Wearing all of your protective clothing along with SCBA while in an IDLH atmosphere. Being aware of your surroundings and taking the appropriate precautions while actively engaged in fire fighting. Sometimes thinking to yourself, the roof is already collapsed, the

floors are in bad condition, should I really be in this building! **These few items could reduce #3!** We are constantly battling the Fire Dept. and the City to provide us with working Plymovents, safe vehicles and a firehouse that isn't about to be condemned! As the Fire Officers Chairman of the Joint Labor/Management Safety and Health Committee it is my job to continually fight on your behalf to see that those items above are addressed, but am I really doing the job justice if I don't also look at what we can do for each other to make sure that we aren't talking to widows and orphaned children because we took shortcuts and just shrugged our shoulders and said, "hey, it's a dangerous job. People die"! Captain Uhlhorn and Lieutenant Kern both looked out for our well being throughout their careers and all they wanted in return was to see that each of us went home in the same condition we left our homes in. I have seen some of the best fire fighters I know enjoying their well deserved retirement. I want to be there, and I hope you do as well! I think this is at least worthy of discussion!! **ARE 1000 FIRE FIGHTER DEATHS IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS ACCEPTABLE?** What say you?

By now all of the Suppression Officers who were due the ALS stipend retro to 2003 are in receipt of their monies. I am happy to report that the EMS Officers who are also due the ALS stipend retro to 2003 will see their monies either on the first or second check in July. This finally brings to a close a very arduous task that quite honestly shouldn't have gone this far. Promotions are now up and running. I keep a current list of members on their time and am in constant contact with Headquarters to see that we stay up-to-date. I was unable to attend the Deferred Comp. meeting on 5/20/08, but here are some quick hitters. By now you should've received a letter in the mail about the replacement of the Legg Mason Value Fund with American Funds and the replacement of Mainstay Small Cap fund with Westcore Small-Cap Value Fund. The Committee has also placed the Legg Mason Partners Large Cap Growth Fund along with the Brown Capital International Equity Inst. Fund on the Watch list. A note about Hardship Withdraws. You

must wait six months before you can begin contributions to your Deferred Comp. account after you receive an Unforeseen Emergency Withdrawal! The next meeting will be 8/24/08. You can contact Citistreet at 410-332-0809 or 1-800-905-1833 also on the web at <http://myplan.csplans.com>. 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. Frank Schlosser is moving forward with the motorcycle tag issue. We are submitting new artwork and will get in touch with members when they can forward their applications. If you need applications for either auto or motorcycle, drop me a line. I am currently working 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. **Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!** The Union does not meet in the months of July and August for membership meetings.

Health Care

I have included a document in this Newsletter explaining the Prescription Home Delivery program offered by Express Scripts. Here are a couple of questions concerning expiration of medications along with Express Scripts reply to each: **How should a member take care of a prescription that is expiring and how soon does it need to be done before it expires?** *On each mail-order the member receives information on how many refills are remaining and the expiration date. In some cases a prescription can expire and there are still refills remaining. On the last prescription, we provide additional information letting the member know this was the last fill and we send them a form that they can give to the doctor to fax in the new prescription. When a prescription is about to expire, can a member only get a 60 day supply and not the customary 90 or 100 day supply?* *As long as the original prescription was written with applicable refills the member would receive the 100 day supply. A prescription about to expire would not result in a lesser day supply being sent.* You can access Employee Benefits

online at <http://www.baltimorecity.essbenefits.com> or by calling 410-396-5830.

Safety and Health

The Safety & Health meeting was held on 5/15/08. As usual, the main topic was the Plymovent systems and the lack of repairs. Both Locals have filed a joint grievance, and it appears to be heading to Arbitration. Keep an eye on the Forum for immediate info. The joint Locals also are drafting a letter 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. Our recommendation is to go back to the old style bracket. 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. The next meeting is scheduled for 6/19/08. Contact me with any issues.

President's Club

The 2008 PAC FUND campaign is the largest to date. Currently we have 155 members who are contributing to our PAC Fund, and for the first time we have 100% participation in the President's Club. I personally wish to thank all of you along with Anita Hatoff and Kevin Rock for their assistance in signing up new members! I think I can hold off on that rotator cuff surgery from the constant arm twisting of our members for a while! I am currently distributing the shirts. Retirees are unable at this time to contribute by way of dues deduction but can still donate the full amount of \$100.00 by way of cash or check! 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. 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

Worlds to twirl by...

*What would you think if I sang out of tune?
Would you stand up and walk out on me,
Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song
And I'll try not to sing outta key.
Oh, I get by with a little help from my
friends,
Oh, I'm gonna try with a little help from my
friends!*

--The Beatles

From the Desk of the Recording Secretary

By Tom Nosek

Our Union Hall is now being fully used for meetings, social functions and everyone appears to be fully utilizing their new offices. The Hall was blessed by Father Ross Syracuse, the Pastor of St. Casimir's Church on Social Night, so only good things can come from our endeavors.

Our Annual Dinner/Dance was held May 17th and we recognized our 2007 retirees and their 515 years of collective service. We had 136 people in attendance – not what I would have hoped for, but a good time was had by all. We may look into a different venue next year for our retirees because it is evident our membership doesn't step up to the plate to honor our colleagues for their years of service. Not a gripe, just the realization of the last two dinner dances. If it wasn't for other locals, vendors, lawyers, health care providers, Box 414, Emerald Society, our retirees, etc., we would have to cancel the affair. We only had six active members buy tickets.

Good news, both active and retired members did step up to the plate and we raised \$4570 on the Ocean City raffle for the VEBA Fund. Thank you! The winner was Lt. Jake Vangelder, Truck 1.

Annual Picnic will be July 13 @ Cascade Lake in Hampstead, Maryland. See flyer in the newsletter for time and directions.

Mark your calendar for our annual crab feasts for Thursday, September 11 and Thursday, September 18, 2008 – location to be The UAW Hall at O'Donnell and Oldham Streets. NOTICE this year we are selling tickets. You will have to have a ticket to attend – no ticket sales at the door! You will be able to get tickets from EBoard members or your battalion stewards. Still the best deal in town \$15.00.

Members of Local 734 and 964 attended the IAFF Pilot Safety Training Seminar at the Fire Academy on May 10th and 21st. The training/seminar was superb. Seventy-three percent (73%) of municipal fire departments do not have any type of health awareness, fitness program or annual physicals. I think the time is now to correct and implement such a program here in our department. What do you the members, think?

Chief Clack was able to get a program going in Minneapolis with a grant. We work in a city with two highly respected health institutions - Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland. Hopefully we can form a committee to study such and move on a program to address our needs.

Hopefully, we will be getting a 3% raise in July and will again be going to the bargaining table in 2009. Ideas are always welcome.

Look for a flyer in the firehouses for a night at the ballpark with the Aberdeen Ironbirds.

Please enjoy your summer. Remember to take time out to enjoy your family. Ten things to do this summer (see below). Let me know in September how many you did with your family.

1. Go camping, try Elk Neck State Park.

2) Go fishing and crabbing anywhere on the bay.

* * *Attention Members Both Active and Retired* * *

Engine Company #33 will be 100 years old on June 14, 2008. A dedication ceremony will be held at 12 noon on June 14, food and drinks will be served. Come and bring your memories. Community groups, the COFD, Mayor and past members will speak.

3. Bodyworks2 at the Science Center, then take in the Inner Harbor.

4. Amusement Parks - Hershey and Knoebels, both in Pennsylvania.

5. Check out Oregon Ridge Star Spangled Spectacular concerts July 3rd, 4th and 5th and Bluegrass Concert July 28th.

6. Tube the Gunpowder River.

7. Go to an Orioles Game.

8. Visit the Ravens Training Camp.

9. Take your wife dancing.

10. Go down the Ocean, Hon. Drive over to Assateague Island and use a seine net to catch crabs and fish, something your kids will never forget.

FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANT EVENT AND BEST DEAL THIS SUMMER -- ATTEND OUR ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC ON SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

By Anita Hatoff

We now have tenants on both sides of the 1st floor of the Union Hall. We have the Daily Grind on one side and Garceau Realty on the other. Garceau Realty will be opening up for business from the new location soon. They have to do some renovations, but are hopeful to be opening soon.

We had our Retiree Dinner/Dance. The band, food and companionship were great. The raffle was a great success. The dismal attendance is of concern. I hope that we will still have one by the time I retire. There were a lot of great people honored. It's a shame the membership can't take the time to attend and honor people they have worked with.

The Golf Tournament which benefits our VEBA fund was rained out. The makeup date is July 11th. The annual picnic is July 13th at Cascade Lake in Carroll County. This event is a great opportunity to combine family, friends and co-workers into one great time. I hope you will all consider attending.

It has been nice seeing some of the newly promoted members at the monthly meetings. I hope when we start back up in September that I will get to see many more of you. Have a safe and fun summer.

Baltimore Fire Officers IAFF LOCAL 964 Annual Family Picnic

*Sunday, July 13, 2008 11-7 pm
Cascade Lake - Hampstead Md.*

***Cost is \$10 for anyone over 13 years of age!!
Active and retired members and family only!!***

Six acre lake, covered pavilion, with in-ground pool, lifeguards, bathrooms/changing rooms on site, soccer fields, horseshoes, basketball, kiddie pool, swimming also at lake, paddle boats, catch and release fishing, games, also arcade at the pavilion

Menu: hot dogs, hamburgers, corn, wings, watermelon, ice cream, snowballs, soda, beer and more!!

Directions: from Balto.: I 695 to Exit 19 to I 795 to Rt 30 N to Hampstead, left on Rt 482, right on Snydersburg Rd. Cascade Lake is at 3000 Snydersburg Rd, on the right. www.cascadelake.com

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Tired and Retired

By Bob Hatoff

Well, there's no shortage of stories in the papers about the City's shortage of money. It's also obvious there's a real shortage of medic units. This is why I continue to wonder why the Fire Dept. wastes millions paying unneeded magic wand chiefs, when the money could be used to correct the shortage of life-saving medic units. I had hoped Chief Clack would reorganize this ridiculous farce and clean house. I suppose I'm just a silly dreamer, but I have a clear memory of when I joined the Fire Dept. There were twice as many companies and twice as many personnel. Yet 5 Deputy Chiefs and the Chief of Fire Dept. were able to smoothly supervise the entire department. The only thing I've observed all these extra chiefs have accomplished is loss of life, loss of morale and the loss of chain of command. This is just my short opinion of the mess left by the last chief!

I ran into Hector Torres. He said his first day in the department at Engine 33, was Hugo Warns last day there. So you can add Hector's name to the list of men who remember Hugo. Actually it was good that I saw him, because I was starting to forget Hugo.

Now I'm happy to report my old friends Walt and Marie Lemmon are celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary this month. Not too many people knew they

were very close to getting a divorce. The only thing that saved their marriage was they couldn't agree on who would get custody of the coffee wagon. I'm glad it worked out. God bless you both.

This year's Fire Dept retreat will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 17-18 at Claggett. I hope to see many of you up there. If you need more info contact Chief Devilbiss.

Well brothers and sisters that's it for now. I hope you all get a chance to have a safe and happy vacation with your families. I'm lending gasoline money at a mere 24% interest. As always you can reach me at 410-866-3235 or 1805 Greencastle Dr, Balto., MD 21237.

Sick and Injured List

Tom Herz suffered a mild stroke. He's home now and getting therapy on his left arm.

Joe Wodarski continues to rehab at home from his stroke.

Larry Buynum continues to rehab at home from his stroke.

Ed Kilcoyne is going to have surgery to get his heart in proper working condition. If this doesn't work he might need a heart transplant.

George Ziegler is permanently hospitalized in Ohio due to several forms of dementia.

Notice for Election of Officers for Local 964

Nominations for the offices of President, 2nd Vice President and (1) Trustee will take place at the September union meetings. All board of directors 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.

Reminder the September meetings are Wednesday, September 3rd and Monday September 15th, 2008. Ballots will be mailed in October 2008 in accordance with Local 964 bylaws.

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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