

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 2010

From the Desk of the President

By Stephan G. Fugate

Dues increase, et al

With slightly more than a year left on my fifth and last term as Local President, I would have preferred to finish-up with a continuing record of progress established in the early years, but with one more round of negotiations to start in just three months, my optimism is surely challenged. As background, using what has traditionally been the median salary for our Local (that of a Captain) in the fourteen years since the start of my tenure, our base salaries have increased sixty percent and hard as it may be to believe, that's slightly more than four percent per year over those fourteen years.

Of course, I know and understand that you're only as good as your last at bat, and we are well into a second year of no salary increase, coupled with annual increases in health care costs and a recent increase in pension contributions. Suffice it to say that my pay check is no different than yours and, for better or worse, I have a front-row seat in the process, so I doubt you could surprise me with something I don't already know.

And yes, there are other working condition issues to consider and it can't be denied that we're all doing much,

much more with much less and while the economics are certainly important, it's not always about the pay and quite frankly, we all took our jobs with our eyes wide open. It is a genuine tribute to every single member that they continue to do the never-ending, excellent job in service to the citizens and visitors of Baltimore as well as those simply passing through.

While you do your jobs, my primary focus since taking office in January of '96 and particularly since going on all day-work in July of '02 has been to make things better whenever and wherever I could and to represent the interests of ALL of our members to the best of my ability. The most tangible evidence of my efforts for a majority of our members and their families shows-up every two weeks in the form of a pay stub. Any reduction in the amount is a failure of my efforts, and I'm forced to admit that I'm batting zero of late.

Sure, the global economic melt-down of recent years has had much to do with most if not all of what's happened in recent years, but people naturally tend to focus on what or who is closest to their conditions, and I am very much in the crosshairs. I am there by choice, however, and I'm not whining about it but merely expressing my displeasure with where we are. I took the same oath as you at the Fire Academy in that I would leave the City and the Department "better" than when it was transmitted to me. How likely is it that the next fourteen months will match

most of the last fourteen years and what will people remember?

What will be remembered is that two years of frozen salaries were followed by a one percent increase in pension contributions, followed by a fifty percent increase in dues. Yes, if you didn't know already, the one percent of base dues structure in place since 2002 has not kept pace with mounting expenses, and as announced in the last edition of this newsletter, votes were taken on September 8th and 20th wherein those members present and voting approved a dues increase overwhelmingly. Active member dues will rise from one percent of base to one and one-half percent of base for active members and from five to six dollars per pay for retired members.

Unfortunately, a sizable majority of our total membership was either unable or not interested in participating in the discussion and debate, and it would take more than a newsletter article to give justice to the logic and necessity and though it could be argued that a small minority determined the issue, that small minority did so by ninety percent. I am confident that had the entire membership participated in the vote, a significant majority would have supported the issue and though it may not have been by ninety percent, it would not have been close.

As with any potentially controversial action, there will be questions as to process, so let me address that in ad-

...continued on page 2

From the President's Desk.....

...continued from page 1

vance. Our Constitution and By-Laws is very clear in addressing increases in dues or assessments. By-Laws, Article 1, Section 3a stipulates that at least thirty days prior notice must be given and the vote is to be taken by members present at Regular Membership Meetings and all of that took place as prescribed.

Anyone having questions or concerns should feel free to call me at 410.908.0199 or toll-free at 1.888.625.4386.

Second most important

There should be no doubt, based upon the preceding segment, that we take very seriously the economic well-being of ALL of our members, but that's not where our efforts stop. The highest salary scales in the State are no good if people are not occupying those positions with job security. Perhaps second only to salaries and other economic benefits is the maintenance of Officer positions in the Department and Local, and I'm pleased to report we've done rather well there.

When first elected to our Executive Board as the Local's first Secretary-Treasurer in 1994, taking office in January of '95, I "acquired" one of those occupancy permit notices issued by our Fire Prevention Bureau and emblazoned it with stick-on number "325" to represent the total number of active Officers represented by the Local. We were 100% Union then as now and given the contraction of our Department in the nearly fifteen years since, one would think that number is surely lower.

Though there have been movements and reclassifications along the way (the most recent of which are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter) our numbers total 336 active Officers today which significantly bucks the trend in Departments throughout the Coun-

try. Having just attended the Fiftieth Bi-Annual IAFF Convention in August, we heard first hand of the virtual decimation of personnel in other Departments and the fact that we actually have MORE members today than we did in 1994 is simply incredible and testament to our tireless efforts to maintain Officer positions.

THANKS! (one overdue)

A belated, HUGE THANK YOU to former member **Thomas J. Brennan** for his generous contribution "...to protect the hard fought benefits obtained through years of negotiations.". For those who may not know Tom, he is a former Executive Board member and Captain in our Department who simply quit in 1983 to pursue other endeavors, and I can assure you that he has done very well for himself and his family. The significance of his unsolicited, personal contribution to the Local is that, having quit, he is NOT receiving a pension benefit from the F & P or any other benefit himself!

That contribution was made in July of this year, and I neglected to mention it in the last newsletter and I apologize for the oversight. THANKS AGAIN, Tom! You're a great friend of the Local and it is very much appreciated.

Retired Lieutenant Tilghman A. Shamer, Sr.

A sincere "THANK YOU" to ALL of the following for their generous contributions to our VEBA Fund in Memory of Retired Lieutenant Tilghman A. Shamer, Sr.. THANKS also to the Shamer family for so kindly designating Local 964's VEBA Fund as the beneficiary of their loss. God Bless.

Ms. Delores M. Meyers
Ms. Diana Lynn Rowley
Ms. Janet Ann Tiesi
Mr. Michael L. Thomas
Ms. Anna M. Thomas
Ms. Ramona L. Setherley

Ms. Erica C. Setherley
Ms. Lisa Johnson
Mr. Michael Johnson
Captain Thomas M. Bailey
Ms. Diane L. Neumann
Ms. Joan C. Kuba
Ms. Milmarie Ellington
Mr. Carroll F. Keys
Ms. Peggy J. Keys
Ms. Claudia B. Levesque
Ms. Randi D. Shamer

*Retired Captain
Gustave A. Calo*

Finally, a very sincere THANK YOU to retired 734 member **John A. Rozankowski** for his generous contribution to our VEBA Fund in memory of Retired Captain Gustave A. Calo. John is a former, stalwart member of 734's Executive Board and the father of our own Steven J. Rozankowski.

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

By Mike Campbell

I wish to begin by referring back to some very important dates lately in my career. On February 18, 2009, I suffered a stroke. On June 25, 2009, I was told by PSI and the Fire Department that I was unfit to perform the full duties of a Fire Suppression Battalion Chief and as a result had to apply for my pension. On July 22, 2009, I was transferred to Communications because of the "unfit to perform full duties" language which was written on my PSI slip even though it was in complete opposition to my Neurologist's findings. On June 17, 2010, I visited the third party Independent Physician who the Chief of Department, both Unions and the Labor Commissioner agreed upon as part of the Addendum Agreement settlement which was signed by all parties above concerning the Return

to Duty policy and who found me fully capable of performing the duties of a Fire Suppression Battalion Chief and on September 23, 2010, I showed up for work in the 3rd Battalion on A-Shift and caught a basement fire! The Return to Duty policy was just a part of the grievance that both Unions had filed concerning the 90 DTL/Non Line of Duty issue. I mention this because in the last Newsletter, I had stated that I hoped Chief Clack would stand by the agreement and in this case he has. We will be keeping an eye on similar cases to see that those individuals get their day in court as well, so to speak! I wish to again thank everyone who offered their support for not only my continued good health but also my return to what is one of my life's passions and that is serving alongside the men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis. Thanks also to my family and to Steve Fugate and Tom Nosek who stuck with me during these past 19 months. It will never be forgotten!

On a personal note I would like to thank the members in the Communications Bureau that I had the pleasure to work with. I was lucky enough to witness the dedication and professionalism that is needed to support our Brothers and Sisters in the field on a routine basis. Throughout my career I have heard the bashing from those who feel that everyone in the Bureau doesn't have a clue and I would remind those folks that it's easy to take shots when you haven't walked in someone else's shoes. I, for one, could never be in a 911 call taking position. I had the opportunity to listen to many 911 calls in my time there and can assure you that I would've been fired a long time ago if that had been my chosen profession! When the stuff hits the fan there are no additional troops to call such as a 2nd or 3rd alarm of Communications personnel as added resources. You have to dance with the ones that brought you! During the snow storms there were members, who of their own accord, chose to get a hotel room so they could make it in for their

next shift and paid for it out of their own pockets. If that isn't dedication, then I don't know what is. Just as in every fire house throughout the City, you have members who take great pains to make life difficult for those around them and who give the Company or Bureau a bad rap. Those folks are a very small part of the Unit, and I can tell you that the super majority of folks in Communications do one helluva job! Thanks again. I will ask one favor of those members and that is if you hear me requesting a cross street, keep in mind that I am looking for something LARGE like Pratt, Lombard or North Ave., not Ohio or Spring streets!!! Thanks to Tom Nosek and everyone who assisted in this year's MDA collection. By the time you read this, our annual Memorial Service/Medals Day will have come and gone. Thanks to the entire Committee for their work to see that our past and present brothers and sisters received their due! A special thanks to Chief Steve Weigman who again took the lead on this and brought this event together for another successful year. Congratulations to Fire Fighter Jeff Novack for receiving the Heroic Award for his selfless acts of dedication and courage!!!

During the summer, Steve and I attended a hearing that Councilwoman Holton scheduled concerning possible pension reform for new hires. This was part of the legislation that was passed back in June which screwed some of our active and retired members. At the hearing Council President Young made a passionate speech about Fire Fighters and Police deserving of a respectable pension and that maybe some of the pension legislation that was passed, much too quickly in my estimation, should be reviewed. This is nice to hear but this is exactly what we were telling all of the Council members back in June. Councilwoman Clarke and Councilman Kraft as usual stuck by us and asked that there be more discussion on this. Councilwoman Holton agreed that there will be more discussion not only on the new hire issue but on the recently passed

legislation. As I elaborated on in the last Newsletter, "I am willing to not only sit down with our friends but our enemies as well to see that OUR members get the best representation they can"! It is my belief that if you burn your bridges then don't ever expect to get a thing accomplished. These folks are the only game in town, for now, but we have too many of our issues that depend upon dialogue between the two groups!

Local 964 has been given written notification of three sets of reclassifications. This is in compliance with Article 19, "Classification of Employees" of the MOU. The first being the reclassification of the Chief of Communications position to a Fire Dispatcher Manager. The Chief of Department has agreed with Local 964's stance that the 4 Captains currently in Communications should test for this position, and it will be an internal test. It is my opinion that the Captain's in Communications have been shafted since 2003 when Communications BC Harold Mason retired and the Fire Department removed the position. This notification means that whoever tops the Fire Suppression Battalion Chief's list will have to wait for two vacancies before getting promoted. **The Union is not losing a spot!** The 344 classification will remain the same and the position will be represented by Local 964. The second is one Fire Lieutenant Prevention and Investigative Services position that will be reclassified to Lieutenant Plans Examiner and work along with John Carr the new Chief Plans Examiner, OFM. The third are two Fire Captain positions along with the current Captain assigned to the OFM that will be reclassified to Captain Community Risk Reduction positions. This means that when the two Fire Captains who are currently serving in the Fire Marshall's office retire then those positions will be reclassified to Captains in OFM and there will be an internal exam for the current Fire Lieutenant Investigation and Prevention Ser-

...continued on page 4

From the Desk of the 2nd V.P.

...continued from page 3

vices members to test for. Currently those members cannot promote higher than Lieutenant. Chief Clack also informed us that the Fire Department would like to begin a mentoring program for future Battalion Chiefs which would have our Captains who are soon to be promoted or Chief's who get promoted to spend about two weeks, as a detail, in the Bureaus to better acclimate them to all aspects of the Department. I remember that this was done in the past but cannot come up with anyone beyond Chief Mark Wagner who participated in this.

At the meeting on August 31, 2010 Galliard Capital Management was approved by the Committee to replace SSgA as the Stable Value Fund manager. This replacement is targeted for the end of September 2010. Even with a strong one year period, Brown Capital International Equity will remain on the watch list. If you have questions or concerns about Deferred Comp. contact the Deferred Compensation Plan Office at 201 E. Baltimore Street, Suite 120 or call 410-332-0809 or 1-877-233-2748. Their hours are Monday thru Friday from 0800 to 1700 hrs. Please keep abreast by logging on the Fire Officers website at www.iafflocal964.org.

Health Care

As an added insult to injury our retirees were mailed letters this month informing them that there are two changes that go into effect on 1/1/2011 concerning their prescription plans:

1) Retirees will pay a premium for prescription drug coverage effective January 1st

2) Retirees will have to be enrolled in a medical plan in order to enroll in the prescription plan. On the surface this is a clear violation of our MOU and we have been in touch with the Labor Commissioner. I foresee this as a pre-

cursor to our contract negotiations next year with this as a top item from the City for our active members!

The 2011 Open Enrollment will be held from 10/25/2010 through 11/5/2010. The benefit fairs will be held at the War Memorial on the following days:

10/27/2010 9 AM to 4 PM

10/28/2010 9 AM to 4 PM

11/3/2010 9 AM to 4 PM

Keep eyes out for material being delivered via U.S. mail!

Safety and Health

I attended the Safety/Health meeting on 9/16/10. Items discussed were as follows:

- TB/Flu Shots - On October 5, 2010, the annual TB skin testing and Seasonal Influenza vaccination program will begin. All units will be rotated through the Oldtown Fire Station. Questions regarding this program can be directed to the Infection Control Officer, Captain James U. Matz at 410-404-1043.
- Annual Physicals – There will be a separate RFP concerning the Annual Physicals and who will administer this program. As of this writing the RFP's have not gone out.
- Air Conditioning – I would like to thank Ms. Eckard for her prompt attention to Oldtown and Engine 30's air conditioning issues. I received a call from the Officer of T-8 during the hottest of days this summer that their air conditioning had stopped working. Within 2 hours Ms. Eckard and Rich Flury delivered an air conditioner to their station.
- Safety Shoes – The RFP is being sent to various vendors. Baltimore County has expressed an interest in the shoes as well which could save the City money by buying in bulk. The FD is hoping to begin fitting members after the 1st of the year.
- Flagging Out – The FD wants mem-

bers to remain out of the street when units are backing in. Members should be behind the wagon to check for civilians. Ms. Eckard is looking into the traffic lights in front of stations.

- Evacuating Buildings – There was much discussion concerning the alert tones and the blowing of air horns when an evacuation has been called for. There will be further discussions.
- Ladder Pipe Op's – The Safety/Health committee is requesting that the FD issue a Bulletin concerning ladder pipe Op's. Members should only be on the tips of ladders to get a vantage point and should not remain on the ladder during operations. Ladders should never be moved with members onboard.
- Buddy Check – The Safety Office would like to remind Company Officers to have members complete a Buddy Check of fellow fire fighters prior to entering dwellings.
- Communications – Carpal Tunnel injuries are up in the Communications Bureau. As per the Division of Safety there have been various ergonomic changes made to curtail this upswing.
- Tools/Equipment – Captain John Kisser gave a presentation concerning the various tools/equipment that the FD would like to purchase for each member in the future. This goes along with the FD banning all personal tools/equipment.
- Run Assignments – The Safety/Health Committee is concerned with the talk of changing and reducing the current run assignments. We will be keeping abreast of how this possibly will affect the safety of our members.

An issue that will be discussed at the next meeting will be the cleaning of blankets for the bunks. Included in this discussion will be turn out gear and where they should and should not be

allowed in the fire house. Two areas of concern are the bunkroom and other living areas. With all of the unhealthy dirt and dusts that attach themselves to our turn outs it is time for this discussion to take place.

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 10/14/10. Contact me with any issues. **BE SAFE!**

President's Club

I am looking for suggestions for next years President's Club item. Keep in mind that this program is about raising funds for the PAC Fund, and we just can't buy items that are costly year in and year out! Let me know if your size has changed. It is very difficult to do after I order the item. Please contact me if you would like to contribute. Retirees cannot contribute to the President's Club 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 listens 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.

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

Home – 410-529-3472

E-mail: capttain16@hotmail.com

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Worlds to twirl by...

Come down off your throne and leave
your body alone
somebody must change
You are the reason I've been waiting
so long
somebody holds the key
Well, I'm near the end and I just ain't
go the time
And I'm wasted and I can't find my
way home

-Blind Faith

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

By George Jones

Greetings to all and I hope you had a very safe and enjoyable summer.

In August, I attended my first International Association of Fire Fighters Convention, held in San Diego, and what a learning experience it was. I would like to thank Anita Hatoff for allowing me the opportunity to be a delegate, and not an alternate, so that I could be on the main convention floor. I would also like to thank Steve Fugate and Michael Campbell for their patience during the convention, as I asked a lot of questions, and took in a lot of information.

As you know, there is an attack across the nation against UNION pensions, and the IAFF is in the foreground of the battle. Across the nation, UNION members are being laid off, demoted, suffering brown-outs and a host of other radical ideas dreamed up by elected officials. We need to stand together locally and nationally to fight against these "lies" and protect what we have worked so hard for and protect our future.

During our September 8th meeting, the Trustees came to the attending members asking for a dues increase. It became a heated debate and a lot of questions were asked of the Executive Board and of the trustees. Trustees Rock, Webster and Tosh did an excellent job presenting the information and

making the request, and on their behalf, I would like to remind you that the cost of doing business has increased dramatically. The UNION is up against a pension law suit, lawyer fees as well, and, in January, we are back in negotiation with the city, and I for one see us in arbitration.

On September 21st, former 1st Vice President Michael Waldner and I, met with Dr. Joel Dunay of Union Memorial Hospital and together we discussed the future of the heart/lung scan. During our meeting Dr. Dunay informed us that UMH is also going through a transitional period as the hospital relocates equipment and staff. Dr. Dunay informed us that the hospital has purchased a new MRI scanner that delivers a clearer resolution, and with that encourages those who have had the scan done more than 3 or 4 years ago to have another. The heart/lung scan has been in effect for 8 years, and has been a blessing to many of our members and their families. The scan has caught a laundry list of ailments, possibly saving some members from what may have been something more disastrous. The heart/lung scan will continue through Union Memorial at a cost of \$150.00.

As of the printing of this article, I am trying to arrange a time and date for Dr. Dunay and his associate to attend a union meeting to meet the Executive Board, discuss the heart/lung scan and answer any questions that you may have. Please keep an eye on the Forum for any and all updated information regarding the heart/lung scan.

Finally, on September 8, 2010 at approximately 1730 hours, our city incurred 2, four alarms of fire at the same time. As always, the men and women of the BCFD rose to the occasion, and performed their jobs to the utmost, and to them I say "Job well done!!". I would also like to say thank you to the surrounding jurisdictions that responded to the city and assisted with fill-ins, and answering calls.

From the Desk of the Recording Secretary

By Tom Nosek

My newsletter article will speak to the *good, bad and ugly* of the BCFD.

I will start with the *UGLY*, on September 8th while in the Board of Directors meeting at our hall, pagers were lighting up with announcements of a large fire on the west side of town. Within minutes multiple alarms were struck out and then another fire hit with multiple alarms. Members in the board room were called back to duty and some called in offering their assistance. Fire suppression services were being depleted and mutual aid was sought out. Management makes those decisions and we are labor, one would hope when the request for mutual aid is requested the surrounding departments would send professional, paid units from their jurisdictions. I not naive enough to know that doesn't always take place and over the years volunteer units have been sent. However in my 21 years, I have never known BCFD members who volunteer in their communities arrive in the City of Baltimore as volunteers on their vullie rigs!!!! I have been notified of such by our members that BCFD members from both Locals L734 and L964 did just that on September 8 !!! First such is a slap in the face to every brother and sister who works for the BCFD, second such is taking away callback opportunities for their brother and sisters, third such is in violation of Article 25 of the IAFF constitution and by laws. As I write this article I am trying to verify such members, if anyone did do such and wants to call me feel free and if anyone can confirm such also give me a call **410 499 5441**. Now to respond to anyone who thinks such is not a big deal or points out that they did not know was such a violation of the IAFF constitution and bylaws. My reply is common sense,

members of the BCFD just went through a historical first, furloughs/pay cuts, pension benefits diminished, possible layoffs/demotions and we still have rotating closures!!

With all of such going, these people did not question their own behavior, you were wrong period!!! Where were you people when we rallied at City Hall, handed out flyers after the Presstman St. fire, about rotating closures, stood in the cold with Harold Schaitberger and decried closures, furloughs and attacks on our pension!!! I am a paid member of the BCFD, this job has put a roof over my family, food on the table, daughters through college and hopefully will provide me a decent pension. I will be damned to see other members of the BCFD treat it as a lark and do such for free/volunteer. Now I am not that narrow minded to understand if a member wants to volunteer in a jurisdiction that does not have a paid department and protect his or her community, God bless you, it is noble. Again I say by your behavior on September 8 you are attacking the frame work of your brother and sisters livelihood and such will not be forgotten.

The *BAD* the past years attack on our pension and diminishing benefits for anyone with 15 years or less is still there along with possible furloughs and rotating closures. Everyone must continue to fight to reverse the pension changes and seek full staffing. L964 has over 73 members with 15 or less years of service, you must get involved. One way is to contribute to the PAC fund, in 2011 there will be a citywide election for Mayor and all City Council members, we need to be involved. The City Council screwed both active and retired on their pension and we need to vote those members who voted against us OUT OF OFFICE. This year will be along fight to correct the attacks on us and if you think last year was something be ready for the second round.

Reported in the *Baltimore Sun* in

August, quote from Mayor Rawlings-Blake "on the F&P pension we can't have members entering at age 18 and retiring in 20 years at age 38 and collecting a pension for the remainder of their lives". I have been in 21 years and I know of only seven members who retired at twenty years, two regret the decision, three had wives who were transferred because of their careers and two who had a thriving business on the outside. Just a fact for you to chew on if the Mayor does not get reelected in the fall of 2011, she will be 41 years old, with sixteen years of service and collect some where north of a \$85,000 a year pension!!!!

The *GOOD*, my friend Mike Campbell is back to work, Mike is back as a suppression Battalion Chief. After over one year of battling with PSI, COFD and the City, Mike has prevailed. Yes he had to file grievances and EEOC complaints, battle with the City's doctors etc. but he is back. For the naysayers, who questioned his integrity, behind closed doors made up rumors of secret deals etc., how wrong you were!! I witnessed a very strong man who surrounded by his family and friends fought almost single handily to right the wrong dealt him. Along the way he continued his representation of our members and always put the membership first while dealing with his own problem. I publicly want to thank Steve Fugate for standing by his side to make the wrong a right.

While attending the 50th biannual IAFF convention this past August, Brother George Jones and I were visiting the exhibition center and came across a company offering heart, lung/body scans. The price of such was way beyond the cost that Union Memorial is offering our members. The foresight of retired Eboard member Mike Waldner has provided both Locals with a fantastic benefit. However in my opinion such benefit is not taken advantage of, all members regardless of age and service time should take

advantage of this benefit. *Hearty/lung scan cost \$75, call Union Memorial Hospital for an appointment 1-877-744-3278.*

Fill the boot for Muscular Dystrophy was done by the members on Labor day weekend, we raised over \$61,000 and with the help of retiree Rod Devilbiss auction items our grand total was \$66, 000. E52 was top company and top Truck was T21, both companies will be treated to a dinner in the near future . THANKS to everyone for their dedication.

Over the summer and just these past few weeks we have many members promoted, yes promoted not demoted as we were facing last spring. Congratulations to all, job well done.

In closing from September 12 to September 25, I was out of the country. I along with two of my brothers, several cousins from Maryland , Colorado and California and some friends joined our patriarch 88 year old uncle back to Ireland. The purpose was to visit and document our families history in Counties Mayo and Roscommon. Mission was accomplished , pints and pubs, music and laughter was enjoyed by all. Advice if you ever get the chance to visit Ireland do so, don't put it of a grand time you will have.

VEBA FUNDRAISER

Local 964 is selling

2011

Entertainment Books

Cost \$30.00

**Proceeds benefit our
VEBA Fund?**

Contact: Capt. Jim Beebe,
410-467-6214

Tired and Retired

By Bob Hatoff

In my June column I wrote about the surgery to my arm. I was completely surprised by the outpouring of love and concern for me. I never thought so many of you cared. I was really touched by your love. So I'd like to thank Betty for the card and Wally for the call. The rest of you can go to hell.

The August newsletter went out early so my column did not appear. This resulted in an outcry from my fan base. However it was only half the number that reacted to my surgery. Take note of the last sentence of the first paragraph.

Now the legend of Hugo Warns continues! The resident newspaper of Oakcrest, "Our Village Voice", featured a lengthy story about him. This included pictures and stories from his fire fighting career. I don't recall the fires he spoke about, but I was only 2 when they occurred. The interesting news is he decided to study art and has become a very talented painter. I can attest to this because the article contained pictures of his work. When I retired I found the only talent I had was sleeping and watching television.

My old friend Donald Webb, also a resident of Oakcrest, was kind enough to send me the article. At 88 he's only a kid compared to Hugo. Don and his wife, Betty, are 2 of my many fans. By the way Don, Bob Mueller gave me a picture of one of the first Retreats. It was so old I wasn't even in it. I found you by using a magnifying glass and you look around 16. If we can get together I'll bring the picture and the glass. I'm a big fan of Matthew Brady photos!

Well fans that's it for now. My head is hurting and I need some rest. It's always great to hear from you, so let me know about any special birthdays or anniversaries. Items of gossip are treasured and printed. As always you can reach me at 410-866-3235 or 1805 Greencastle Dr, Balto., MD 21237.

Sick and Injured

Bob Mueller was able to come to the Retreat. The cancer treatments are really sapping his strength. He had to drive from our rooms to the cafeteria. I went with him for the sole reason of helping him. The fact that I could barely walk that far had nothing to do with it.

Charlie Williams had cataracts removed from both eyes and is very happy with the results.

Fred Reidel suffered a massive stroke and passed away Oct. 3.

Bill Grahe has congestive heart failure and can no longer live alone.

Al White is in a nursing home in Virginia.

Max Powers fell at home and injured his leg.

Baltimore City Fire Officers Union Hall for Rent

1020 S. Linwood Ave.
In the heart of Canton Square!!

- small parties
- birthdays
- weddings
- business meetings
- showers
- etc.

The hall is currently not handicap accessible, no kitchen facilities.
Capacity 100 plus , two flat screen televisions , bar , ice provided.

If interested call Tom Nosek 410 499 5441, or any Eboard member.

THE BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICERS

Local No. 964

Meetings -- 1st & 3rd Monday

1030 S. Linwood Avenue

Baltimore, MD. 21224

PHONE: 410-276-6964

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4815
Baltimore, MD

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

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE No. _____