

MAIN LINE

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2007

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS



LOCAL 798 GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

WORKING FIRE

3RD ALARM - MARCH 19, 2007 - 52 PAGE STREET



Photos by Bryan Carmody

THE MAIN LINE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007 - Vol. 34, No. 10

Official Publication
of the San Francisco
Fire Fighters Local 798

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The MAIN LINE is the official publication of San Francisco Fire Firefighters Local 798. However, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Local 798 or the San Francisco Fire Department.

These emblems on the masthead of any labor publication certify that the publication is a member in good standing of the International Labor Communications Association and has bound itself to observe ILCA's Code of Ethics.

Members are welcome to submit Letters to the Editor for publication. The Editorial Board reserves the right to review/edit any submitted material.

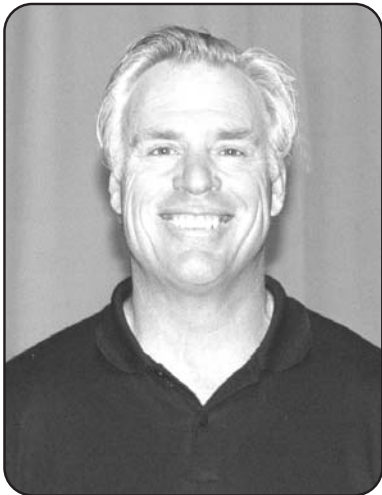
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Provided by Shon Buford





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to autumn. Our four year contract has been signed by the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. Cost of living increases should be on the payday of October 2nd with retroactive that payday or the next (this is what we've been told). With our contract, we as members of a union must be ever-vigilant regarding our wages, hours and working conditions.

There are now discipline cases involving accidents in the SFFD pending. I find the charges brought against our members to be excessive and NOT in line with the extent of our responsibility. I'll explain one. A driver of an engine is hit by a car; the car was traveling at a high rate of speed. The driver of the car is in his underwear, and the driver also has a suspended license. The car is registered to his girlfriend, but on this early Saturday morning, the passenger is not his compassionate girlfriend, but another woman ... also dressed only in her underwear. A competent investigation at the time would have cleared the engine driver. Instead, almost a year later; the engine driver has been brought up on charges. The driver of the engine company navigated over 1,850 Code 3 runs (10,000 intersections) over the course of the past two years without a single accident. The driver was involved in an accident. He did not get hit by this car traveling at a high rate of speed on purpose; experience in the trade.

One would think that an Administration with experience at busy suppression companies would understand that accidents will happen when our rigs are navigating the busy streets of San Francisco on over twenty (20) Code 3 runs each and every watch. But alas, that is not

the case. Unlike in the past, discipline cases have not been thought out thoroughly by seasoned veterans who have served in the trenches. Therefore our members suffer unfairly at the hands of a wonderful command staff with limited field experience. Odd ... just maybe there is a lack of respect of firefighting and the job that we do. For example: when have we had a medal ceremony for the brave actions of our members at fires and medical emergencies? Yet last month a civilian was honored for making a rescue at a recent fire (photo op). Not that we need medal ceremonies - but it does seem odd that in four (4) years no medal ceremonies have occurred. There have been allegations of an incident involving off-duty misconduct by firefighters. The Department has stated that this is a "Priority 1"; I thought to myself ... there are surely more important things to rate "Priority 1"; to name a few ...

- The Capp Street Fire. No thorough investigation ever completed, even though six (6) firefighters ended up in the hospital;
- Captain's Test: Broken tape recorders, test re-administered at great financial cost;
- Page Street Fire; 4th alarm pulled, but not dispatched; no response to a MAYDAY, no investigation of this incident ever completed;
- E-35 firehouse red-tagged, no work scheduled to be done; how in God's name can a firehouse be red tagged!
- New engines put in service that did not pump properly, if at all;
- Paychecks incorrect. No administrative oversight to catch errors at the Controller's office.

These are just a few of the problems that would appear to be "Priority 1" for the Fire Department, rather than the allegations of off-duty conduct that the Administration is currently investigating.

It appears that Station 3's Neighborhood Outreach has reached a new height. Firefighters from across the country have called with congratulations on Station 3's supreme effort on their neighborhood friendly project. Some have responded and wondered if the guys are going to use that neighborhood outreach on their resumes.

Be Safe 2 All
John Hanley

U N I O N L E T T E R S

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Thanks for all the good work. Use check where needed.

Jim Andersen

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find check in memory of Daniel Kevin O'Sullivan died August 14, 1996. R.I.P.

Sincerely,
Nora O'Sullivan

P.s. Thank you for the Main Line

Local 798,

Please accept this donation in loving memory of my wonderful husband, Andrew, who passed away on July 13th. He is greatly missed by his family.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Clemenza & Family

In memory of Garrett Caulfield, Bruce Navarett, and all ours who have passed.

Bob Andersen

Donation in memory of that gang who are no longer with us from the 'Ole Firebarn Number Four'. A great and unique bunch. Sure miss them...

T.R. Hall
What Four Station Four

Enclosed donation in memory of Joe Kocher, a great man and a great captain.

Larry Schlarmann
Ret. Truck 10

P.s. Tell Lou I'm still on the Boulevard of Broken Dreams in Downtown Calistoga!!

John,

Tahoe just wasn't the same without you there yelling, "HEY, STANFORD!!" all over the beach.

I wanted to send this on Labor Day to show my appreciation for all the hard work you guys do. Congratulations on another excellent contract for the troops.

I can't believe it's been two years

since I retired. Time really does fly.

Please use the enclosed to purchase a new cell phone for the Vice-President; I'm sure he's lost his by now.

Phil Kelber

Use as needed

Al Fioresi

Donation for the Main Line.

Marilyn Gregg

Use for the Main Line.

Artti Juslin

August 6, 2007

Dear Executive Board,
Board of Directors, and
Office Staff of Local 798,

Thanks to all of you once again for all that you accomplish. It is truly a safe and secure comfortable feeling knowing that our Union 798 Directors and Office Staff Personnel have our best interests in mind. Please use enclosed check as needed.

Sincerely,
Bill DeMattei

August 24, 2007

Please accept this donation in memory of Gil Schmitz who passed away on August 6th. He spent most of his firefighting career at Station 17 and probably was one of the first members I met there many years ago. He was an inspiration to many and a true friend to all. With his wit he had a way of making everyday normal situations a fun thing to be involved in. He was exceptionally pleasurable to work with. He will be missed.

Respectfully,
Frank Grimley

August 29, 2007

To: All CCSF Labor Organizations

Re: Employee Health Premium Deductions

Thank you for your participation today in our meet and confer discussion regarding the scheduling of employee health premium deductions. As discussed, beginning in Fiscal Year 2008-2009, employee premium co-payments will be deducted twice monthly, for a total of 24 deductions per year. Currently, employee co-payments are made on a biweekly basis, for a total of 26 deductions per year.

The first paycheck received in a month will have a premium deduction covering the first half of that month. The second paycheck received in a month will cover the second half of that month. There are two months each year in which employees receive a third paycheck in a month; there will be no deduction on that third paycheck. While the individual deductions will be normally higher, the overall annual deduction will be the same as there will be two fewer deductions.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Micki Callahan
Employee Relations Director

8/1/2007

The Main Line,

Thank you for the Main Line. Enclosed is check in memory of Barney Viner.

Sincerely,
Helen Viner

September 4, 2007

Use the enclosed as needed. Thanks for the Main Line.

Tim O'Leary

September 7, 2007

Main Line
Gentlemen,

Please except this donation in memory of Walter F. Baine, who passed away from lung cancer on July 19, 2007. A special thanks to Father Green for the wonderful mass

Station Stewards

Station 1	Dan Gracia
Station 2	Carla Bisio Murphy
Station 3	Stephen Engler
Station 4	CLOSED
Station 5	Jim Mellberg
Station 6	Michael Horta
Station 7	Al Hom
Station 8	Ramon Serrano
Station 9	Lawrence Rustia
Station 10	Leonardo Harris
Station 11	Tom Oertli
Station 12	Mike Belcher
Station 13	Sherman Tillman
Station 14	Garreth Miller
Station 15	Brett Evert
Station 16	Patric Steele
Station 17	John Chung
Station 18	Daniel Tauber
Station 19	Rebeccah Sturtz
Station 20	Mike Beere
Station 21	Tom Johannessen
Station 22	Dominic Shanley
Station 23	O.J. Leonardo
Station 24	Thomas J. Carberry
Station 25	Kinnie Jamerson
Station 26	Randy Hendricks
Station 27	CLOSED
Station 28	Steve Harper
Station 29	Open
Station 30	CLOSED
Station 31	Brendan McGorrin
Station 32	Tracey Courtney (O'Keeffe)
Station 33	Open
Station 34	Jon Grant
Station 35	Pat Higgins
Station 36	Fred Putt
Station 37	Ricky Yee
Station 38	Eigil Qwist
Station 39	Tom O'Brien
Station 40	Janice Hoaglin
Station 41	Ken Yee
Station 42	Mike Guajardo
Station 43	Michael Smith
Station 44	Michael Gonzales
Station 48	Joel Paige
Station 70	James Mogannam
AP 1	Terry Woo
AP 2	Open
AP 3	Open
BFI	Stan Lee
BFP	Tom Cordes, Mike Estebez, Tom Harvey
BOE	Al Harvey
HQ	James J. Lee
RADIO	Wayne Stewart

Members interested in becoming Station Stewards should contact the Union office at (415) 621 - 7103

U N I O N L E T T E R S

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9/18/2007

he did for Walt. He also refused the envelope with my donation so I am sending it on to you to do with as you wish.

A thanks also to your President, John Hanley, whom I have known since he was just a pup. Keep up the good work John. We're losing too many past and present firefighters to cancer.

Sincerely,
Anna M. Baine

Local 798,

I was saddened to read about John Flaherty's death.

Please accept this donation and use it as you see fit.

Keep up the bulletin. I love reading it!

Hello to all,
Frank Lehane
Ret Captain,
40 Engine

An American Hero

John Flaherty was the finest man any of us could have hoped to meet.

John was born in 1923 in an era with no television, no computers, no cell phones, and no spell-check. He was a young boy in the Great Depression and a young man in time for the battles of World War II. John was a highly decorated Marine Corp veteran of the battles of Saipan and Iwo Jima. On February 19, 1945, at 0859 hours, the order was given to launch the landing force towards the black sand beaches of Iwo Jima. John Flaherty landed "in the first half hour" with the 4th Marine Division. In that 37 day battle, where "uncommon valor was common virtue", 27 Marine Corp and Navy personnel were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, 14 posthumously. In those two battles, 9,774 young Americans "gave their last full measure of devotion" to our country.

An anonymous Marine left an inscription to describe what had happened there. It said:

*"When you go home,
Tell them for us, and say,
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today".*

In 1948, John began his legendary 40 year career as a San Francisco Firefighter. John was blessed with those intangible qualities of character and leadership that could inspire intense respect, devotion and loyalty. He was a kind, generous, and humble man, and was truly that mythical "Fireman's Fireman".

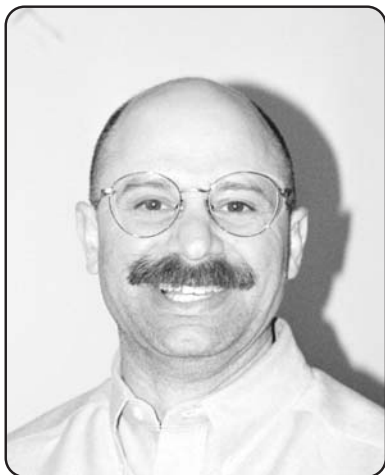
One evening, I asked a naive question of John during a Pedro game in the "Comm. Room" at Station 2. I asked, "What is your secret of being a good 'boss'?" His answer was, "You keep a big stick in your back pocket, but it never has to come out. Haw! Haw! Haw! I bid 8!" He went on to say, "The higher you get promoted, the nicer person you have to be".

The true measure of John Flaherty was in his service for others; for our country, for his Marine Corp, for his family, for his Church, for our Fire Department, and for anyone else who needed him. He was an extraordinary man.

So long, "Big John", thank you for giving us so much. We'll meet again. Donation in memory of John Flaherty, use as needed.

Al Leonard
Truck 2, Retired

THE VANNUCCHI PAPERS



By Jim Vannucchi, Director

"Firefighter, thy name is compassion"

For well over 50 years, the membership of SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 798 has recognized that its' duty to the community that it serves goes far beyond those moments when the alarm sounds at the firehouse.

The establishment of the SFFF TOY PROGRAM that responds to the needs of over 40,000 children each year,

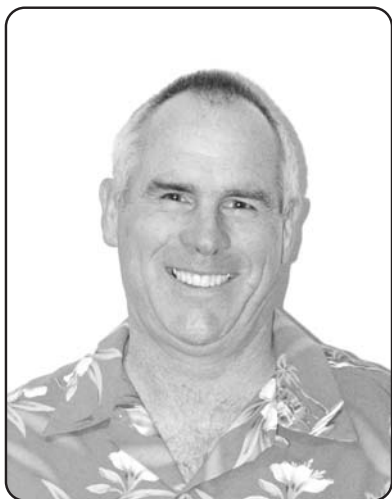
the life-saving contributions our members make at the quarterly SFFF BLOOD DRIVE, the SFFF SURVIVORS FUND that reaches out to families across the United States who have lost their firefighter, or the SFFF CANCER FOUNDATION which was founded to help end the cancers that are all too common in the fire service, only underscores our obligation to society.

These venues, coupled with the financial support that your Union donates each month to needy organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Marina Dock or the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, to name just a small few, has become a way of life to our membership; a way of life that many of our members will never talk about.

In keeping with this tradition of giving without any expectation, I would like to personally thank Shon Buford, Kinnie Jamerson, Tom Johansson, Danny Gracia, Luke Michaelis, Les Moy, Tom Oertli, and Leo Tingin for giving up their Sunday to volunteer their talents at the LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR Luau on September 30, 2007. These guys gave up time with their family, their friends and the 49ers to make life just a bit brighter for the residents at the ST. ANNES HOME at 300 Lake St.

Firefighter, thy name truly is compassion.

CAN'T SEE THE FOREST THROUGH THE TREES



By Frank Kelly, Secretary

The members of Local 798 have seen enough.

There is nothing more important for any San Francisco department than to see that their employees are paid on time and correctly.

This past year the Executive Board of Local 798 has raised concerns about compensation issues only to have them apparently fall on deaf ears.

Effective July 11, 2007, fifty six (56) lieutenants were promoted to captain. Evidently no one informed payroll. It has taken the past two (2) months to rectify the situation and to date, I cannot confirm that every member has been made whole.

On October 2, 2007, six (6) weeks after the ratification of the new MOU, pay warrants were issued incorrectly. Past practice has and will continue to be that all pay raises are retroactive to July 1st, the beginning of the new fiscal year. It appears that this administration is ill-prepared to shoulder the burden that previous administrations took for granted to ensure that their members were paid correctly. It is evident that the mundane everyday boilerplate tasks of this institution are being ignored.

Make no mistake about it, morale is low and it will continue its present course if the only reason for the existence of this administration is to focus on the negative, particularly with regard to disciplinary matters.

We are a paramilitary organization. In the service of the United States the enlisted men and women eat first. Then, and only then, are the officers allowed to partake in their daily meals. It's a simple example of respect, yet it speaks volumes.

FROM THE DIRECTORS ...



By Brendan O'Leary, Director

Retiree Update

Thank you to those that reported updated information regarding retirees.

Name	Rank	Retirement Date
Edward Arce	Acting Battalion Chief	07/14/07
Eugene Baraona	LWLP Battalion Chief	06/29/07
George Bruce	Acting Captain	06/30/07
Theodore Grover	Acting Lieutenant	07/01/07
Steven Kazarian	Acting Lieutenant	06/30/07
Joseph King	Acting Lieutenant	06/12/07

Boston Firefighters

John Hanley (E6), Mike Walsh (E44), Floyd Rollins (RS2), Tom O'Brien (E39), Al Lee (B1) and Brendan O'Leary (BFP) attended the funerals services for Boston Fire Fighters Paul Cahill and Warren Payne. Over eight thousand firefighters lined the procession route through the city. The families and members of Boston Local 718 were very appreciative of the show of support.

Report from the Health and Safety Committee

Health and Safety Committee Minutes August 8, 2007, 10:00 AM, Offices of Local 798

Members Present: Rhab Boughn, Steve Gonzales, Ira Lubell, Brendan O'Leary, Tom Siragusa

Member Excused: Mike Walsh

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the June 6, 2007 were unavailable, but a general discussion ensued regarding the topics that had been covered. The minutes will be reviewed at the October committee meeting.

Old Business:

Personal Protective Equipment:

Turn out replacement. Language in the new MOU (page 37) states that the Department will make a best effort to provide a second set of PPE. The loaner policy turn outs are to be utilized in the event that the inner lining (thermal barrier) is soaked.

Infection Control:

The Infection Control General Order and Manual are both ready, but have not yet been released. ADC Siragusa discussed a PDF format for accessibility.

Command Post Operations:

The task regarding a Command Post Operations Training Bulletin assigned by Deputy Chief Kochevar to the Assistant Chiefs has not yet been completed. Discussion ensued concerning the Incident Commander wearing "all hats" until given to other responders.

Safety Officers:

Report from NIOSH recognizes that a Safety Officer was not in place (nationally) in nine out of ten incidents.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus:

ADC Siragusa reported that annual issues regarding: mask fitting, compressors, calibration and the Breathing Apparatus Repair Facility were addressed. A concern was voiced that over a half million dollars is invested in individual masks that are in firefighter's lockers. The department's goal is for everyone to use their issued mask. A high percentage has been distributed.

New Business:

Fire House Repairs:

The sidewalk and driveway in front of Station 11 is being repaired. The Engine and Truck will be temporarily relocated. The department requested three million dollars for facility repairs. The current budget amount was reduced to \$700,000. The department-conducted audit identified nine million dollars worth of deferred maintenance that needed to be performed (shower pans, roofs, bathrooms, boilers and water leaks). The apparatus floor repair at Station 1 was estimated to cost

\$400,000. Some complaints regarding unsafe buildings are being filed directly with OSHA from firefighters. There have been no fines yet for building related violations.

Industrial Accidents:

SFFD personnel could be fined for the non-reporting of industrial accidents to which they respond. There have been cases in the past where the SFFD has been fined. The report must be made to CAL OSHA within twenty-four hours. The reporting is not necessarily the responsibility of the Battalion Chief, but the senior responding officer. A discussion ensued regarding the creation of a field on the PCR for “working/on duty illness or injury”. Fines could be as high as seventeen thousand to eighteen thousand dollars for violations that occur during the non-emergency phase of a fire.

Vehicles:

All front line apparatus and reserve apparatus now have closed cabs. A discussion ensued regarding proper notification when a front line engine is unable to draft (Battalion Chief, Division Chief, BOE or Communication Center?). ADC Siragusa will research to determine notification procedures.

Emergency Vehicle Operations Training:

The current Battalion Based training on Treasure Island has a component dealing with vehicle operations. Pre-trip inspections are being covered as are the daily vehicle inspection duties of drivers and tiller operators. Premiums are paid for those positions because of the added responsibilities and duties. The use of seat belts is being emphasized. Twenty-eight percent of firefighter’s deaths are the result of responding to or returning from incidents. There are discussions being held nationally regarding the ineligibility to collect PSOB (Public Safety Officer Benefit) if the death was due to a vehicle accident and seat belts were not utilized. There was also a discussion regarding the Department’s position concerning intersection accidents. The vehicle code allows an emergency vehicle to proceed through a red light, but only after the right of way has been yielded to that emergency vehicle.

Radios:

The new MOU, Section 33.5 requires that: four radios are provided for each Engine Company, five radios are provided for each Truck Company and four radios are provided for each Rescue Company. ADC Siragusa was asked by the committee to determine the timeline for the implantation of that section.

Fire Code:

Brendan O’Leary reported that the new fire code is

proceeding through the legislative process for adoption in January 2008. A Firefighter’s elevator is being proposed for high rises greater than 200 feet in elevation.

Hearing Loss:

Dr. Ira Lubell reported that there is a concern involving high frequency hearing loss. Ear plugs should be distributed and continue to be made available at the fire stations. The plugs should also be kept in turn out gear. A discussion ensued regarding the use of ear plugs in conjunction with head sets in rigs due to the alert tones that are transmitted over the radio. Dr. Lubell inquired as to the availability of lower frequency alert tones for both station speakers and headsets. ADC Siragusa indicated that three tones were available.

Work Related Injuries:

Dr. Lubell provided the committee with the work related injury report for June 2007. ADC Siragusa expressed concern for the smoke inhalation injury. A discussion ensued regarding the need to follow SCBA policy. It was pointed out that the products of combustion in a structure fire in 2007 are different than the products that were present several years ago. Phoenix Fire Department has conducted a study with John Hopkins and it was revealed that cyanide levels were elevated even when PPE was utilized. Possible increased levels might have been attributed to absorption through skin. Additional discussion included the need for air monitoring during the overhaul stage of the fire and the issuance of a filtration mask for overhaul activities when the atmosphere is tenable, but particulate matter presence is elevated. ADC Siragusa indicated that an air monitoring system General Order was forthcoming.

TB Testing:

The annual TB testing will be done at the fire stations by Paramedics. ADC Siragusa proposed that annual tests involving TB, mask fitting and hearing all be coordinated so that they are done at the same time. Dr. Lubell suggested that the tests be arranged so that they could all be done on the same day as “Health Check”. A discussion ensued regarding “Health Check”. The evaluation is currently offered every three years at Davies Medical Center. Employees are notified when they are eligible for the tests, but compliance is voluntary. Employees should be encouraged to attend and it was suggested that People Soft be utilized to alert employees when they are due.

Next Meeting:

The committee will reconvene on October 10, 2007 at the Division of Training. 10 AM

Meeting adjourned at 11:10

AUXILIARY OF LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR OF ST. ANNE'S HOME

October 2, 2007

Mr. John Hanley
San Francisco Firefighter's Union
1139- Mission Street
San Francisco, Ca.94103

Dear John

I want to thank you and all the firefighters for your wonderful contribution to the Luau on Sunday at Saint Ann's home. Without your assistance, this event would not have happened. The firefighter's barbecued chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers were absolutely delicious and their wonderful personalities charmed the residents, their families and friends. Because of your participation, smiles were a little brighter and hearts much lighter. Our residents have contributed so much to the community during their lives and it is wonderful for them to realize that they have not been forgotten. The time you spent with them was so appreciated and will be remembered fondly for a very long time.

Once again, I want to tell you how happy you have made our special seniors. We are pleased to welcome you into our family of loving, caring supporters and look forward to spending many happy times with you. Thank you again.

Very Truly Yours

Maureen O'Shea
Andrea Rago
Chairperson



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Serving the Aged Poor of San Francisco Since 1901 • Our work has just begun..



Little Sisters of the Poor

St. Anne's Home
300 Lake Street
San Francisco, CA 94118-1397
(415) 751-6510

October 3, 2007

San Francisco Fire Fighters Union
%John Haley
1139 Mission St
San Francisco Calif. 94103

Dear Members of the Fire Fighters Union,

It is difficult to adequately express our gratitude to you for your great participation in the Luau held at St. Anne's Home. To borrow an expression of the Mother Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Jeanne Jugan: "Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!...You must always be cheerful. Our old folk do not like long faces."

The wonderful Fire Fighters who came this past Sunday to our Home to Barbeque a delicious meal, were not only experts along the line of cooking, but brought forth a spirit of genuine kindness and joy. Thank you! Our day was blessed through you.

The Little Sisters of the Poor and the Auxiliary of St. Anne's Home join together, along with staff, volunteers, and benefactors to collaborate in our mission to provide hospitality to the needy elderly. You have been a part of that mission!

May God bless you,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

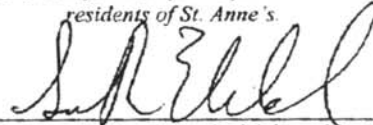
Certificate of Honor

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS City and County of San Francisco

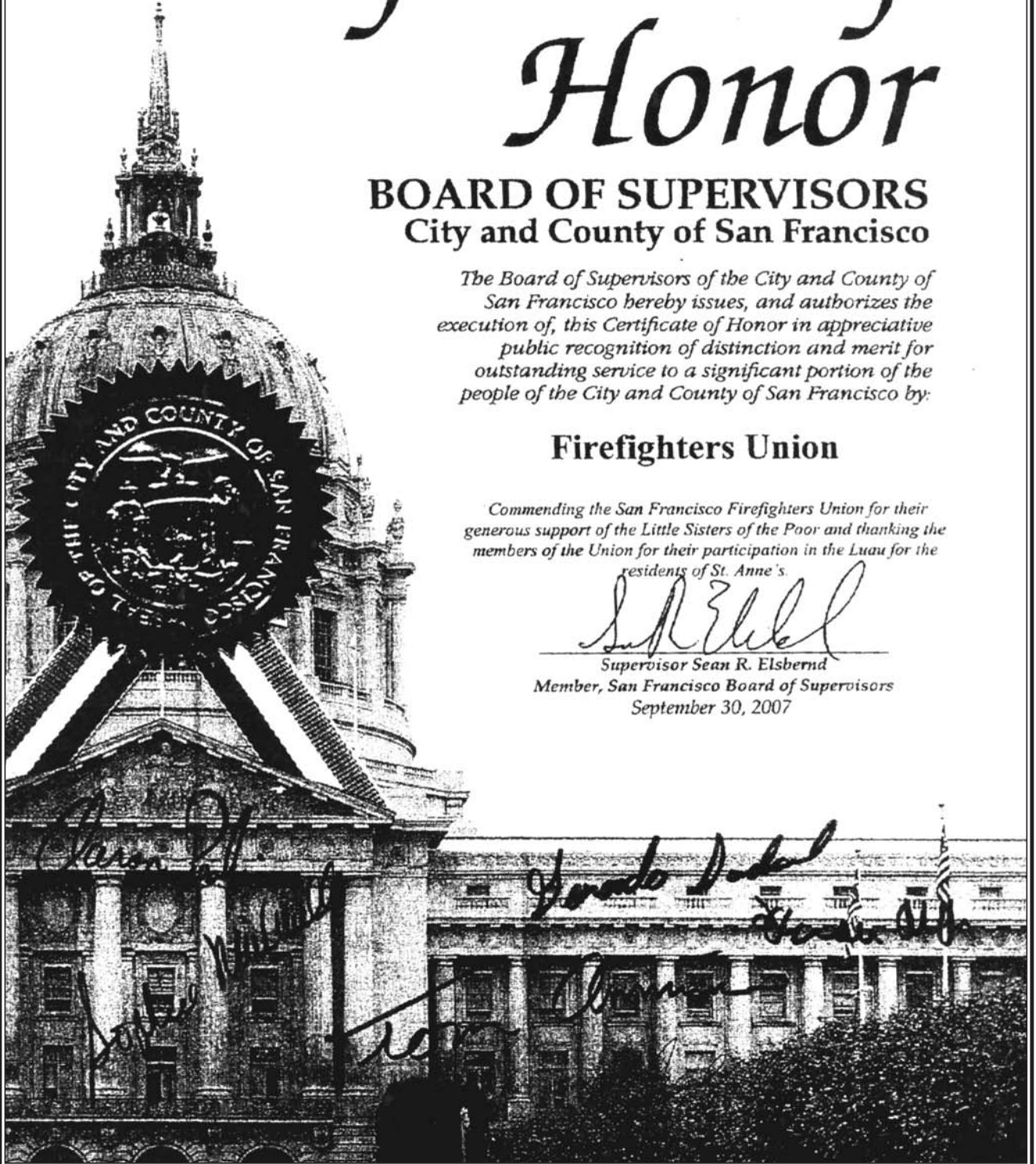
The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:

Firefighters Union

Commending the San Francisco Firefighters Union for their generous support of the Little Sisters of the Poor and thanking the members of the Union for their participation in the Luau for the residents of St. Anne's.



Supervisor Sean R. Elsbernd
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
September 30, 2007



SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS CANCER PREVENTION FOUNDATION

On behalf of the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation, we ask that you please give consideration to contributing to the Foundation during the Combined Charities Campaign. Your tax deductible donation through payroll deduction will help us greatly even if it is just a few dollars a month.

The San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation was established when it became apparent that the incidence of cancer in the firefighter population was significantly higher than the general population. Many firefighters in San Francisco have died of both common types of cancer and rare forms of cancer not common in the general population. The Foundation is dedicated to the early detection of cancer in San Francisco firefighters using scientific research through our partnership with UCSF.

The San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation is also working toward obtaining the medical care to which firefighters are entitled under California law. The Foundation is also about to embark on a 20 to 30-year longitudinal study in conjunction with UCSF. This voluntary program will be the first of its kind in the United States. We hope that all active and retired firefighters will take part in this study. The Foundation has one purpose in mind and that is the health and wellness of each and every one of you.

My best,
Tony Stefani
Chairman of the Board
San Francisco Firefighters
Cancer Prevention Foundation



**THE SAN FRANCISCO
FIREFIGHTERS
CANCER
PREVENTION
FOUNDATION**

THE INSIDE BOX

RET I R E D M E M B E R ' S C O R N E R , L O C A L 7 9 8

This section is dedicated to all the retired members of Local 798, who worked many long hours to maintain and improve the working conditions and benefits enjoyed by all San Francisco Fire Fighters. Retirees' efforts established a solid framework of working conditions and benefits for active members to build upon.. Let us never forget . . .



4th Alarm - May 27, 1936 - 6th & Channel

THE INSIDE BOX

RET I R E D M E M B E R ' S C O R N E R , L O C A L 7 9 8

This section is dedicated to all the retired members of Local 798, who worked many long hours to maintain and improve the working conditions and benefits enjoyed by all San Francisco Fire Fighters. Retirees' efforts established a solid framework of working conditions and benefits for active members to build upon.. Let us never forget . . .

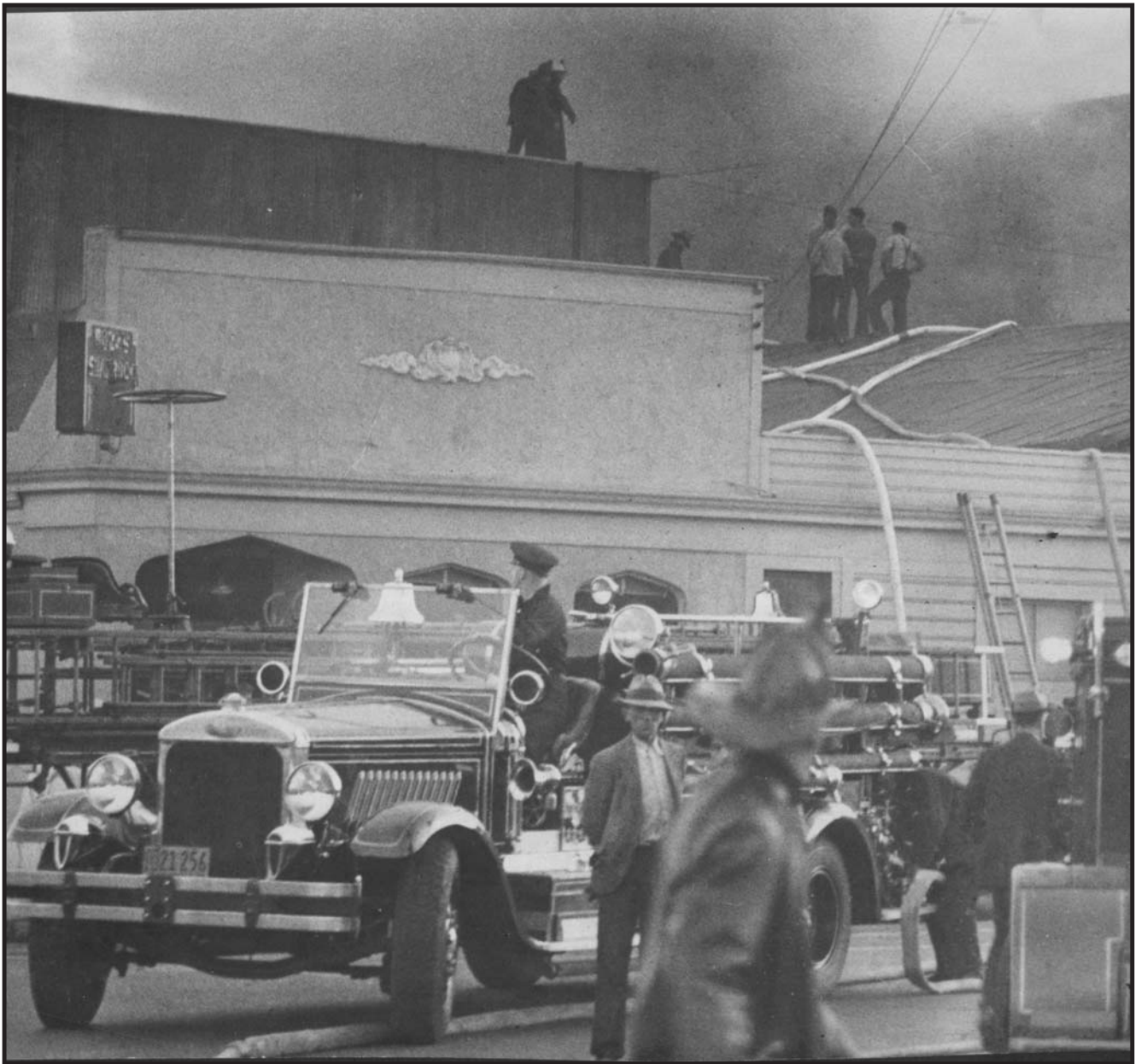


4th Alarm - May 28, 1936 - 7th Street Trestle

THE INSIDE BOX

RET I R E D M E M B E R ' S C O R N E R , L O C A L 7 9 8

This section is dedicated to all the retired members of Local 798, who worked many long hours to maintain and improve the working conditions and benefits enjoyed by all San Francisco Fire Fighters. Retirees' efforts established a solid framework of working conditions and benefits for active members to build upon.. Let us never forget . . .



3rd Alarm - July 24, 1936 - 19-21 Bernice St.

FIREFIGHTING TRADITION ALSO SAVES CITY MONEY

WOODEN LADDERS RESIST HEAT, COST LESS TO BUILD AND REPAIR THAN ALUMINUM, FIBERGLASS

Meredith May,

San Francisco Chronicle, Monday, June 25, 2007

With the skilled hands of a craftsman, Qing Du feels the side rail of a San Francisco Fire Department ladder, searching for stress points.

In a tradition that dates back to World War I, Du custom builds and restores the 350 wooden ladders used by San Francisco firefighters in a city fabrication shop in the Bayview district.

San Francisco is one of a handful of fire departments nationwide, including those in Oakland, Hayward, Alameda County and San Mateo, that still use wooden ladders. But it is the only one that relies on city workers to handcraft each one.

The rest buy their wooden ladders from Alaco Ladder Company in Chino (San Bernardino County), the only U.S. outfit that still sells them.

Du finds the crack he's looking for, decides the rail needs replacing and pulls the ladder apart. With a mallet, he bangs on the second rail and the rungs pop into the air like bread out of a toaster.

Like the cable cars or the clam chowder served in sourdough bowls at Fisherman's Wharf, custom building the city's wooden fire ladders is part of San Francisco tradition. It is kept alive out of one part necessity and two parts love.

Firefighters in cities with many high-voltage overhead wires — including those that power Muni lines in San Francisco — prefer wood ladders because they don't conduct electricity like aluminum or wet fiberglass ladders do.

Wood is twice as expensive — about \$100 per foot — and about 15 percent heavier than aluminum or fiberglass, but it holds up better in a fire, said Mike Braun, supervisor of San Francisco's Fire Shop.

"Aluminum or fiberglass, when it gets too hot, it gets soft; it will actually fold over without any warning," he said. "Wood takes hours to fail completely — enough time for a firefighter to see it burning and get off it."

San Francisco has stayed with wood, said Capt. Jerry Cohane, because the ladders are sturdier and last longer, and builders like Du save the city money because they know how to get the longest life out of a ladder. Once an alu-

minum or fiberglass ladder cracks, it usually has to be replaced. Wooden ones can always be repaired, he said.

"You don't want to use a 50-foot lightweight aluminum ladder in heavy winds — it's too dangerous," Cohane said.

Many of San Francisco's fire ladders look like antiques because they are. Some date back to 1919 and are perfectly restored and in use today. A dusty linen-bound log book in the Bayview shop with quill-pen entries keeps track of each ladder's history.

"You can't get craftsmanship like that anymore," Cohane said. "Our ladders are just built better."

The three artisans who make the ladders for San Francisco have been doing their job for a combined 50 years.

They make regular trips to the mill to hand-pick only the strongest ash, Douglas fir and hickory woods with tight, straight grain from the center of the tree. Anything with wavy grain or knots is rejected. The wood stays in the San Francisco shop for three years to acclimate so that it doesn't warp or crack when it's fashioned into a ladder.

The crew makes about 35 new ladders a year and repairs hundreds.

They have never had a ladder fail on a firefighter, Braun said. The most common reason a ladder goes into the shop is because it's worn from too much use. Du and his colleague Jerry Lee also repair a lot of cracks. It's not uncommon for firefighters to bring in a ladder they accidentally ran over with their truck.

All of it is fixable, Du said.

Du and Jerry Lee will grind larger rungs from a broken ladder into smaller ones to reuse them, and salvage rails from one ladder to make a shorter one.

They are also pattern makers, drawing the plans and casting the molds to make hardware such as the locking mechanisms, recessed nuts and fittings that hold the ladders together.

"I have to be very careful, or a firefighter could get hurt," said Du, who learned his skills fabricating engine blocks at his family's factory in China. He has been making ladders for 14 years.

Continued next page

13 CHASED FROM HOMES IN 3-ALARM S.F. BLAZE

Chronicle Staff Report

San Francisco Chronicle, September 8, 2007

(09-07) 14:30 PDT SAN FRANCISCO - Thirteen people were displaced from their homes and two firefighters suffered minor injuries in a three-alarm fire this morning that damaged a pair of Victorian-style buildings near Alamo Square in San Francisco, authorities said today.

The fire caused \$800,000 damage to 1100-1104 Fell St. and 1106-1108 Fell, Fire Department Lt. Mindy Talmadge said. Damage to the contents was estimated at \$125,000.

A neighbor reported the blaze at 3:16 a.m., and it took 90 firefighters more than two hours to bring the fire under control. One firefighter suffered a minor hand injury and another suffered an eye injury, Talmadge said.

The Red Cross is arranging shelter for residents who have nowhere else to stay. All those burned out of the buildings were adults, Talmadge said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but Talmadge said it did not appear to have been intentionally set.

Continued from previous page

The largest ladder they make is 50 feet, weighs 350 pounds and takes six firefighters to lift.

Painter Pete Misthos varnishes the ladders until they're glossy enough to see his reflection.

Misthos takes as much care with the ladders as he does with his other projects — refinishing the beloved Doggie Diner heads, custom-painting motorcycles or creating a heart sculpture for the 2004 Hearts in San Francisco installation.

"There's a certain amount of pride working on these ladders," said Misthos.

Visitors to his finishing room are likely to leave with a bit of an epoxy high and a dose of wisdom.

Misthos likes to write inspirational quotes in black Sharpie pen on his metal tool cabinet. In the decade he's been working in on the ladders, he amassed quite a collection of quips from Shakespeare, Martin Luther King, unknown sources and this gem from "Rocky and Bullwinkle": "Boiling water that softens the hard carrot also hardens the soft egg."

Firefighters who visit him often thank him for his quality work, he said, and sometimes they even try to persuade Misthos to refinish a piece of their furniture.

"We try to instill quality and craftsmanship, and that gets passed on to the firefighters so they take pride in and good care of the ladders," he said.

Although wood fire ladders may seem to be going the way of the typewriter, Alaco Ladder Co.'s manufacturing manager, Pedro Jimenez,

says he is seeing the opposite. Annual sales of new wooden ladders have doubled in the past five years to about 1,100, he said.

"Although aluminum is cheaper, I think fire departments are realizing wood can be better in the long run," he said.

A wood renaissance would tickle Braun's heart, but he's more concerned with local matters. San Francisco's Fire Shop has no apprentices, and no one is knocking on the door looking to build wooden ladders.

"We are like a ghost down here," he said. "This is hundreds of years of history. Who is going to keep it going after my crew is gone?"

Wooden fire ladders

Thirteen fire departments in the United States use wooden ladders, 12 of them in California. They are:

San Francisco
Oakland
Hayward
Alameda County
San Mateo
Los Angeles
Los Angeles County
Glendale (Los Angeles County)
Pasadena
West Covina (Los Angeles County)
Montebello (Los Angeles County)
Arcadia (Los Angeles County)
Bellevue, Wash.

T O Y P R O G R A M

TOY PROGRAM BIMBOS PARTY NOVEMBER 24, 2007

By John Rocco

It's that time of the year again. Department tradition carries on with our very own Firefighters' Toy Program Holiday Dance Party at Bimbos 365 Club. One big change is taking place this year that should make the party even bigger. The Saturday night slot has just opened up as an option to us, and we did not hesitate to make the move. The party will be on Saturday, November 24, 2007.

John Chung's SFFD Ultimate Garage Band will once again open the show, followed by the headliner, John Kosta's reunion of HOUSE QUAKE. Come dance to all of the hits of the 70's with this 12 member, high energy show band. The turnout for this event has always been great and this year we will help promote the party with flyers and posters being distributed to all of the stations during the first or second week of October.

Remember, this is the first big fund raiser and kick-off party for the Toy Program season and our only

true all Department event.

For those of us who have attended in the past, we all know how insane the party can get regarding ticket sales and orders. Tickets will be available by the second or third week of October for \$25 each. Call Station 8 for details, individual tickets or group sales. A station sign up always works best.

If any members have any additional ideas, questions, or connections for guest appearances or other surprises that we can add to the party, please call Frank Roldan, John Rocco, or John Kosta at station 8. If not, remember, **BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY**, dress up and show up thirsty!!! The entertainment and the stories are always priceless the next day. Come join us and continue the tradition and the support of the Toy Program.

We'll see you there on Saturday, November 24, 2007.

REMINDER OPENING LUNCH FOR SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS TOY PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 15, 2007
11:15 A.M.

WEAR RED!!

COME HELP MAKE THE 2007 TOY SEASON A SUCCESS!!

S P O R T S

DRAGONBOAT RACES

By Patricia Yuen Lui

Thank you Asian Firefighters Association and Local 798 for sponsoring the SFFD Fire Dragons at this year's Dragonboat Championships held on Treasure Island, September 22nd, 2007. The team took home the 1st place trophy in a field of 30 teams. It was a rain soaked morning but the water in Clipper Cove was still and calm. Our team strategy was timing and technique. But after a sluggish first race (in which we finished first by less than a second), we

made some changes in the boat which improved our next 2 races by 5 seconds.

The end result was a 1st place finish in the Championship race, besting the 2nd place boat by 4 seconds. Highlights 2007: Although nothing can beat Stan Lee's fall into the water in 2006, Ed Moy's cooking came close. Thanks Ed. And thanks to all the new and returning paddlers. See you all again next year.



1st Row: Kevin Tom, Maiko Bristow, Joe Ouyang, Patty Lui, Nakai Kashima, Terry Woo, Dan Lui

2nd Row: Rudy Guajardo, Alice Tom, Vivian Lo, Lourdes Russell, Mary Tse, Alina Leung

3rd Row: John Caba, Anita Prately, Brendon, Joel Sato, Brian Kyono, Steve Harper, Doug & Debbie Manguiat, Kim Chung, Erica Arteseros, Joe Chan, Shane Francisco, Kevin

Photo provided by Patricia Yuen Lui

SUBMISSIONS:

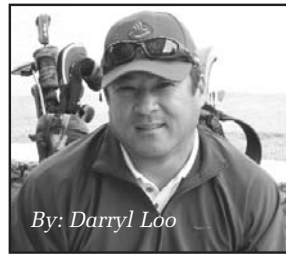
THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR THE MAIN LINE IS:

Nov. - Dec. 2007 / Nov. 20, 2007

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2008 / DECEMBER 20, 2007

MARCH - APRIL 2008 / FEBRUARY 20, 2007

S P O R T S



By: Darryl Loo

Chardonnay Golf Club September 5, 2007

In the past years we have played at Chardonnay as one of our early events. For schedule reasons we pushed it back into the fall season. We arrived at the club this year to play after enduring the Bay Areas longest heat wave of the summer. It was nice to see that it was going to only be in the 80's or 90's that day. We had a good crowd of players and they were ready to play golf.

One of our members in years past would use this tourney to jump into an early season point lead in the race for the clubs' Cup. Tom Kiernan must like this course a little. I don't know how often he has played Chardonnay, but the last two times he played as a member of the club he shot 74, 72 and maybe he had another good round in there somewhere. Well ... I do know that he had another fine round this year. His round of 70 net 64 was very impressive and helped to increase his club lead in the point race for this year. There are few rounds shot under par and to shoot it on a tough course is always nice. Tom congratulations on your second place finish at Chardonnay.

Normally I like to write about the winner of the tournament first as obviously they deserve to be in the limelight. Sorry!!! The first paragraph was already written when I received the results from Frank, and if you have seen me type that is about an hour of work. AND the winner is ... Jimmy Moore has been a member of our club for the last few years and this is the first win for him. His 97 net 62 was one of the lowest totals of the year, probably the lowest. I am not sure if Jim has shot under 100 before but if not that is a big milestone if you are a golfer. I played with a friend who accomplished this feat and to hear him talk it was a very big deal to him. So Jim if this is the first time welcome to the 90's and the winner circle.

When you have been playing golf as long as I have it is the rare round when it all comes together and you shoot way under your handicap. Usually you think about the score and it knocks you out of the Zone. One of the members was in the Zone and held on to post 75 net 65. Mike Duncan a new member at

Station 17 found the Zone and stayed in it. I have played a few rounds of golf with Mike and he can find the groove and play quite well, but the fall out of the Zone can be treacherous. Nice round by our new house member. Station 11's group must have had their A-game packed and ready at Chardonnay. A third member of their group had a great round, Sal Taormina shot a net 65. Sal doesn't play in the club often and he should play with us more if he is going to play so well.

This year we have somehow reserved Lake Merced Country Club for our last event of the year. One of the reasons I joined the golf club in the first place was to get a chance to play at Lake Merced. It is an old fashioned golf course that is beautiful and tough. We are hoping to get a good turnout to this event so are inviting everyone to join us. If interested please contact the golf committee at 415-822-9500. The date is November 12, 2007 and is an 11:30 shotgun.

Reno Golf Trip 2007

The golf club has been running the Reno Trip for five or six years now and it has always been a lot of fun. When I was first convinced to make this trip I found it to be fun and a good way to get away from the hustle and bustle of the daily rush. Three days of playing golf and playing cards was right up my alley. And hanging out with the other firefighters was just a bonus. A lot of laughs and cocktails were had by the pool and at the tables.

But the last few years the interest in the trip has been lukewarm and it has reflected in the attendance. What happened to our fire department? Is there too many other events or trips planned? When I joined the Golf Club they had over Three Hundred Golf Members!!! Now we are hoping every tournament to meet our contract with golf courses. Often we are making our commitment with the number 48 players as our goal. I for one am worried that the Reno Golf Trip is on its farewell tour with the Golf Club soon to follow. Is there

any interest from the rest of the department in keeping this long running trip and club up and running. When sixty golf members are the only ones to support the golf club with a scattering of other players thrown in for a tournament here or the Monterrey trip as their one event it makes it hard to be optimistic. Reno Golf DONE, Finished, Kaput??? Maybe it is time to end this trip with its long history. I hope not, but we need help. There must be more than sixty golfers in the fire department. I for one hope to get some positive feedback and some suggestions would be welcome as to what can be done to change the 'so-what' attitude.

RESULTS FROM CHARDONNAY September 5, 2007

NAME	GROSS	HANDICP	NET	\$\$	POINTS
1 Jim Moore	97	35	62	50	11
2 Tom Kiernan	70	6	64	40	8
3 Mike Duncan	75	10	65	25	5
Sal Taormina	89	24	65	25	5
5 Al Bronson	83	16	67	5	2
John Won	81	14	67	5	2
John McNulty	84	17	67	5	2
Kevin Burke	88	21	67	5	2

MEDALIST: Tom Kiernan: 70

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 53

CLOSEST TO PIN

Front		Back	
1. Al Bronson	2'7"	1. Tom Kiernan	15'11"
2. Rob Vigil	3'7"	2. Dave Maxion	19'1"
3. Jim Schrick	8'2"	3. Jim Moore	24'6"

Station 12
1st Annual Hall of Fame Luncheon



Canton



Stanyan Street



Cooperstown

The Inaugural Class of 2007 Inductees:
Nick Cannuli, Rich Sarlatte, Dan Murphy, and Russ Lease
In Memoriam:
Vince Del Bene

DATE: Tuesday, November 6, 2007 Watch 19
PLACE: Forest Hills Lodge
254 Laguna Honda Blvd, San Francisco
TIME: Open Bar: 11:30am - 2:30pm Lunch 12:30pm
PRICE: \$30



Space is limited to 120 guests. Please call Station 12 at 564-4847 to sign up.
Payment must be received by October 30th to guarantee a seat.
Please send checks payable to Station 12 to 1145 Stanyan Street, 94117.

The Phoenix Society of San Francisco's

16th Annual
OLD TIMERS' NIGHT

HONORING RETIRED S.F.F.D. VETERANS:

Capt. Elmer "Slim" Ballard ~ DOT, Div. 1
Lt. Rene Chavez ~ Old E15 (38)
AC Ed Murphy ~ Div. II
BC Bob Quinn ~ Batt. 4, E24, E5

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Spanish Cultural Center
2850 Alemany Blvd at Farragut, San Francisco

No-host Cocktails: 6 PM Dinner: 7 PM

Dinner Choices:
New York Strip Roast with Mushroom Sauce *or*
Breast of Chicken with Sherry Cream Sauce

50.00 per person

Reservations needed! Deadline: Friday, Nov. 2
Call early to arrange your group table for 8 to 10 persons

For reservations call: (415) 648-8676
Send checks (with your dinner choice and seating requests) to:
Phoenix Society of SF, c/o 278 Chenery St, San Francisco, CA, 94131

Benefit for SF
Firefighter Toy
Program

San Francisco Firefighters RRC
Presents the
27th Annual Turkey Trot
Dedicated to the Memory of Tom Collins

S F F C U



Date: Saturday, November 17, 2007
Race Start: 9 AM
Place: Lake Merced (North Parking Lot)
Distance: 4.5 Miles
Registration: Prior to 11/13 \$10.00; \$15.00 after

**Sports
Basement**

Awards	
Division Winner	
Males	Females
18 & Under	18 & Under
19 - 29	19 - 29
30 - 39	30 - 39
40 - 49	40 - 49
50 - 59	50 - 59
60 & Over	60 & Over
Multi & Single Company Stations	
Post race drawings	

.....
In consideration of your accepting my entry, I, intend to be legally bound and hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release forever any and all rights and claims or damages I may accrue against the San Francisco Fire Fighters and any and all sponsors of the race, their successors, representatives and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me while traveling to and from and while participating in the "27th Annual Turkey Trot" run at Lake Merced on November 17, 2007. I further attest and certify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for competition in this event and my physical condition has been verified by a licensed medical doctor except when in violation of religious principle.

Name _____ Station _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Birth date _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Station _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Email

Checks payable to: "SFFFRC" and mailed to Jim Gallagher, 1671-16th Ave., SF., CA 94122. Phone: (415) 753-0880 Fax: 415-681-8196. For immediate results, write your email address below so it can be read.

MOVED?

Change of Address/Telephone
Change of Beneficiary

If you have just moved or are about to move, have a new telephone number or change in beneficiary:

FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN TO:

LOCAL 798
1139 MISSION STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94013
ATTN: GAIL (415) 621-7103

or
E-mail: Gail@sffdlocal798.org
with Subject: Change of Address

NAME: _____
FORMER ADDRESS: _____
NEW ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
BENEFICIARY: _____

ULTIMATELY THIS HELPS YOU!

**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
22ND ANNUAL!**

AIRPORT DIVISION LUNCHEON

⊗ HONORING ALL NEW & PAST RETIREES ⊗

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2007
Watch #4

PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB, SAN FRANCISCO

👉 **PLEASE NOTE LOCATION** 👈

11am -- 3:30PM Lunch @ 1:30PM

PRICE -- \$25 per person
ADVANCE PAYMENT IS APPRECIATED
Please make checks payable to -- DENNIS KRUGER

**** RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ****
Before 10/17/07
Jayn Feyling @ 650/821-4600



**SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL
798
PRESENTS**

"A DAY AT THE RACES"

Your day for fun and excitement is coming up!
Be sure to add this date to your calendar and experience the thrill of
Thoroughbred racing at its' best.

Family & Friends Welcome!

WHERE: Bay Meadows Race Course
West of Highway 101 off Highway 92 in San Mateo

WHEN: Sunday, November 4, 2007
Gates Open - 10:00am
Post Time - 11:00am

COST: Still only \$30.00 (Children 17 years and under free)
Price Includes Parking, Admission, Official Program, Reserved Seating
and Buffet in the Turf Club.

Make Checks Payable and Forwarded to:

Jim Vannucchi
1139 Mission St.

SUBMISSIONS:

**THE DEADLINE
FOR SUBMISSION OF
ARTICLES FOR THE
MAIN LINE IS:**

Nov. - Dec. 2007 / Nov. 20, 2007
JAN. - FEB. 2008 / DEC. 20, 2007
MARCH - APRIL 2008 / FEB. 20, 2008



SFFD

SF Fire Fighters Local 798 2007 BLOOD DRIVE DATES

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
April 3, 4, 5
September 4, 5, 6
December 18, 19, 20
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Location: Irwin Center, 270 Masonic

Give the Gift of Life
 Blood Centers
of the Pacific
PICTURE ID REQUIRED FOR
Donate Blood

PALM SPRINGS AGAIN – 2007

FUN-SPORTS-SUN-SHOPPING-DINING-LOUNGING-TOURING-CASINOS

If you don't see your pastime there, it's illegal.

SAN FRANCISCO RETIRED FIREFIGHTER'S OF SONOMA CO. INVITE YOU AND YOURS OR JUST YOU TO JOIN US ON A TRIP TO THE BEAUTIFUL COACHELLA VALLEY.

DATES: OCTOBER 28-29-30-31 AND NOV. 1ST.

STAY: EMBASSY SUITES in Palm Desert.

COST: \$520 PER PERSON-Double Occupancy with two double beds.

\$490 PER PERSON-Double Occupancy with a king bed. **INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

****5 nights lodging in a two room suite.**

****Daily cooked to order breakfast.**

****Daily two hour complimentary cocktail party.**

****Welcome western barbecue dinner party the first night.**

****Final night awards banquet. Indian Wells Country Club.**

****Pool, Spa, Fitness center.**

****Complimentary use of six lighted tennis courts.**

GOLF: \$ 310 PER PLAYER – MEN'S TOURNAMENT: A 3 day low net tournament with two or three flights. 3 winners in each flight. WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT: WVG (women with ghin) A 3 day low net tournament.

WVWG (women without ghin) A fun tournament. Price includes prize money.

OCT 29 TAHQUITZ CREEK 9:00 TEE (LEGENDS COURSE)

OCT 30 DESERT WILLOW 8:00 shotgun (FIRECLIFF COURSE)

NOV 1ST TRILOGY 8:30 TEE (HOME OF THE SKINS GAME-2006)

Optional daily SKINS tournament. \$30 – Pay down there.

TOUR: Celebrity Tour. \$30. Oct. 31 – 9:30 AM. Bus pick up at hotel. 2.5 hours.

Fabulous Follies: Info not available at this time. A great show.

SPORTS: Bowling, handball/racquetball, tennis tournaments. Someone step forward and organize.

GOOGLE: embassy suites/palm desert. celebrity tour/palm springs. tahquitz creek golf.

desert willow golf. trilogy golf. desert hills premium outlet mall.. El paseo shopping district.

INFO: Bob Quattrin 823-8243 - Woody Paynter 579-0325 - Joe Collins 542-7797

Kevin Garry 546-2505 - Gary Montague 576-1891 – John Logue 577-8850 ALL 707 area code.

AFTER FEBRUARY 25TH, ROOM AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED ON RECEIPT OF DEPOSIT.

\$300 PER PERSON PLUS \$30 FOR CELEBRITY TOUR, IF INTERESTED. INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF KING OR DOUBLE BEDS. **BALANCE DUE**, \$220 OR \$190 PER PERSON BY SEPT. 25TH.

ADD \$310 FOR GOLF.

SEND CHECKS TO: CHAIRMAN SFRFSC – 7980 MITCHELL CT. SEBASTOPOL, 95472.

MANAGING CREDIT

Improving Your FICO Score

Improving your FICO Score takes time, and there is no 'quick fix.' Here's some advice on how to better manage your credit to raise your score over time.



PAYMENT HISTORY

- Pay your bills on time.
- If you have missed payments, get current and stay current.
- Be aware that paying off a collection account will not remove it from your credit report. It will stay on your report for seven years.
- If you are having trouble making ends meet, contact your creditors or see a legitimate credit counselor. SF Fire Credit Union members have access to free credit counseling with Balance Financial Fitness at (888) 456-2227.

AMOUNTS OWED

- Keep balances low on credit cards and other "revolving credit".
- Don't close unused credit cards as a short-term strategy to raise your score.
- Don't open a number of new credit cards that you don't need, just to increase available credit.

LENGTH OF CREDIT

- If you have been managing credit for a short time, don't open a lot of new accounts too rapidly.

NEW CREDIT

- Do your rate shopping for a loan within a focused period of time. FICO Scores distinguish between a search for a single loan and a search for many new credit lines in part by the length of time over which credit inquires occur.
- Re-establish your credit history if you have had problems. Opening new accounts responsibly and paying them off on time will raise your score.

TYPES OF CREDIT

- Apply for and open new credit accounts only as needed.
- Have credit cards – but manage them responsibly.
- Know that closing an account doesn't make it go away. It will still show up on your credit report, and may be a factor in your score.

FREE QUARTERLY FICO SCORES

SF Fire Credit Union offers members the option of viewing their FICO Score on a quarterly basis. Scores are reflected quarterly on statements and displayed within Online Banking. To register for this free program - members are not automatically enrolled - contact our Call Center or sign-up within Online Banking.



SF Fire Credit Union

3201 California Street,
San Francisco, CA 94118

(888) 499 - FIRE
www.sffirecu.org

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT STRESS UNIT



A COUNSELING SERVICE FOR EMPLOYEES

A part of being human is to experience problems and conflicts. In most cases we are able to resolve them ourselves. Occasionally, however, we are confronted with problems that require professional assistance. Through the Employee Assistance Program we have immediate access to professionals who can help us.

WHOM DOES IT SERVE?

The San Francisco Fire Department Stress Unit/EAP serves all employees of the San Francisco Fire Department and their families.

PEER COUNSELORS- TOM POSEY • DOYLE MILLER

The EAP/Stress Union new location is 501 Cesar Chavez, San Francisco.
Peer Counselors are available 24 hours, seven days a week.

Phone (415) 206-1419

Leave your phone numbers and the counselors will be paged.

CONFIDENTIAL

Personal requests for information or assistance are a matter solely between you and the counselor.

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS?

The Employee Assistance program offers confidential and professional counseling on problems of concern such as:
Marital / Family / Alcohol Abuse / Drug Abuse / Stress / Persistent Anxiety Financial or Legal / Other Psychological / Emotional Problems

VOLUNTARY

At all times it is the choice of the employee to use the Employee Assistance Program. Use of the program is not recorded in the personnel file and does not affect the employee's standing on the job.

ATTENTION RETIRED MEMBERS:

San Francisco Employees' Retirement System has moved!

The new location is:

30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000
San Francisco, CA 94102

The General Information telephone number
at the new location has remained the same:

(415) 554-1500

Attention:

All Members Thinking of
Retiring...

Contact Secretary Frank Kelly
at the Union Office
415-621-7103

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

INVESTING FOR RETIREMENT...
SOUND OVERWHELMING?

DEFERRED COMPENSATION
HELPS MAKE IT EASIER!!

The City and County of San Francisco and ING make retirement planning easier under the **City and County of San Francisco 457 Deferred Compensation Plan**. By contributing to the Plan, you can supplement your retirement and enjoy these benefits:

- ✓ your contributions (up to the Internal Revenue Code limits) are made by convenient payroll deduction to a group annuity designed for long-term investing for retirement purposes
- ✓ reduced current federal and state income taxes; your contributions and earnings are not taxed until you receive them
- ✓ personalized service including individual appointments, investment modeling and retirement illustrations
- ✓ diverse investment options that provide you with flexibility in managing your account
- ✓ distributions permitted upon retirement, separation from service, accounts under \$5,000 if certain conditions are met, death or incurring an unforeseen emergency
- ✓ access your individual account 24 hours a day through ING's website www.ingretirementplans.com/custom/sanfran, or by calling ING Access at 1-800-584-6001



*Meaghan Doherty
Registered Representative
Account Executive
CA Insurance License #0C91224*

For more information, or to schedule an individual appointment, call your **ING Representative at 415.364.2017 or 1-888-822-1211**. Our local San Francisco Office is located at 1 Front Street (at Market Street) Suite 1425.

You should consider the investment objectives, risks and charges and expenses of the variable product and its underlying fund options carefully before investing. Fund prospectuses and information booklets containing this and other information can be obtained by calling 1-888-822-1211. Please read carefully before investing.

Insurance products issued by ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company. Securities offered through ING Financial Advisers, LLC (Member SIPC).

ATTENTION!!

DO YOU HAVE FIRE PHOTOS?

*Whether old or new,
the Main Line is interested
in publishing them in future issues.*

Please forward to the Union office:
1139 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

or contact

Stan Lee @ BFI - (415) 920-2933
or by email: sffd.mainline@gmail.com



Annual

James T. Ferguson Scholarship



Applications must be received by April 6, 2008

3 Scholarship of \$500.00 will be

Awarded to a Son or Daughter of an Active Local 798 Member

Eligibility: Graduating senior high school student who will be attending an accredited College or University in the U.S.
Selection: By "Lottery", held at the annual May membership meeting.
Application: Application forms may be obtained at the Union Office at 1139 Mission Street, San Francisco (415-621-7103), or below.

In addition to the application form, applicants must submit a brief essay (no more than 100 words) on why their parent belongs to a Union.

James T. Ferguson Scholarship Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ AGE: _____

COLLEGE ATTENDING: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

A FEW MOMENTS WITH THE KING

On a recent lay-over in San Francisco, while enroute to his Blue Hawaii concert, "The King", also known to many as Tony Rivera, did a command performance at the Italian Athletic Club in North Beach.

As these never before seen photos will attest, in front of a sell-out crowd, with more moves than a can of worms, the "Pride of North Beach" (by way of The Mission with a few stops at Italian delicatessens along the way) brought the weeping throngs to a standing ovation. Truly, a San Francisco treasure.



LOCAL 798 GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



The *MAIN LINE* is the official publication of the San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798. Affiliated with IAFF-CIO/CLC. It reflects the views and opinions of the Executive Board and the membership. We do not endorse or support any other publication. Nor do we endorse or support telemarketing as it pertains to the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798.

John Hanley
President, Local 798

San Francisco Fire Fighters

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