

MAIN LINE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS

LOCAL 798 HEADQUARTERS RED TAGGED



WORKING FIRE

DECEMBER 18, 2007 0651HRS - 1133 MISSION STREET



Photos by Ken Cofflin

THE MAIN LINE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008 - Vol. 35, No. 1

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of the San Francisco
Fire Fighters Local 798

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

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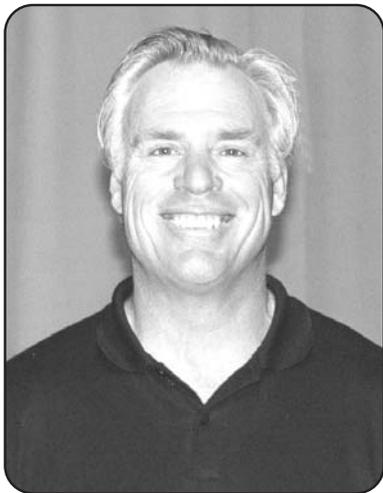
*December 18, 2007 0651hrs
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Photo by Ken Cofflin





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Brothers & Sisters, Welcome to the New Year!

Due to the efforts of the members of Local 798, both active and retired, each child in San Francisco was able to receive toys from Santa this year. What an accomplishment! Thank you Sally and all her little and large elves.

As many of you are aware, the Union Hall has been "red tagged," due to a fire next door. The owners of a nice little Tavern on Ocean Avenue have volunteered their upstairs office space for us to continue business as usual. "The Avenue" is the name of the establishment, and in the morning they have numerous Business Channels on T.V. In the evening, the establishment prefers the Country Music Channel, so stop by for a Diet Coke and say "hello" to the proprietor.

There has been much discussion in Fire Houses centered around the fire on Mission Street. Should we have pulled out of the building or not? Let me state from my point of view, a firefighter's life or a severe injury is not worth the piece of real estate. The initial attack was excellent, made by aggressive firefighters, experienced and well trained.

The problems started, I feel, was when elements out-

side of Fire Suppression got involved. Building engineers and Headquarters staff were there for support, not to determine fire ground tactics. As the saying goes at Stanford, "keep the band off the field until the game is over."

The nice news was foam was used on this fire and Mission Street had that "North Pole feeling" the week before Christmas. The philosophy that I was taught is that our job is a trade/skill, the more one does that trade like a plumber or electrician, the better one becomes. Time at Headquarters removes one from practicing your trade or skill.

The Administration continues its' love affair with internal investigations. The investigations are usually directed at the suppression side only. I, for one, would like to see the Administration investigate themselves. Ask themselves, "why didn't we do an investigation on these issues?"

- Capp Street Fire: 6 firefighters hospitalized
- Page Street Fire: 4th Alarm asked for, but never dispatched. Mayday call never answered
- Ship crashes into Bay Bridge: Fire Boat response cancelled by Headquarters' personnel, Fire Boat never goes on scene
- Fire on 1100 Block of Mission Street (next to Union Hall): Building torn down and Mission Street closed for days
- Captain's test: Non-functioning tape recorders, test re-administered at great cost to the City

We have heard from our temporary Headquarters on Ocean Avenue that certain members of Station 7 were mentioned in the Mitchell Report. (Steroids Investigation). That explains everything about that place. Be safe this year.

John Hanley

FROM THE DIRECTORS . . .



By Shon Buford, Director

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.”

“My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man. “ - John F. Kennedy

This quote kept coming to mind as I laid in bed debating whether or not I was going to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning to walk for Prop D. It was 1995, and Proposition D was a ballot measure that would help bridge the gap of pensions in a two tier system.

“Why should I walk? What has the Union done for me?” “I didn't cause the two tier system, let the “old timers” fix it, it's their fault anyways.” These thoughts and many more crossed my mind as I laid, tossed around in bed.

Tore by the realities of an imperfect world, I fought with the fact that my union was flawed too. I had been told *“This isn't a place for us”, “The Union fought to keep us out”, “You're wasting your time, they'll never let you have a say.”* If what I was being told was true, and some of it was at the time, why should I walk?

As a young child, I spent a lot of time with my Grandfather, who served in WWII, moved to San Francisco to start a family, and worked as a Longshoreman in San Francisco for 33 years. He never taught me to give up, take handouts, or judge a book by its cover. It was those values along with the words of John F. Kennedy that got me up

that morning. I asked myself, not what my union can do for me, but what I could do for my union. If I was going to benefit from a pension upgrade, then I wanted to be part of the effort.

It was then, as I stood in front of Ireland's 32, that I realized the oath I pledged was not an oath of what others could do for me, but what I could do for others. I was amazed with the number of Tier 1 guys who had come out to help Tier 2. They had nothing to gain other than the unwavering gratitude of a young man who one day would be willing to do the same.

“Hold yourself to the same high standards that you require of others.” - Unknown

Happy New Year

Greetings and Blessings, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women who helped make the Holiday Season a very special one for the children of San Francisco. Our Union has always taken pride in giving back to our community. From the start of our Toy Program by a few firemen who took old bikes and toys and refurbished them, to serving over 40,000 kids a year, the motivation has been the same, bring smiles to others. ✕

Attention!!!

Employee Health Premium Deductions

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.

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	Jose Zalba
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	Bruno Walther
Station 15	Brett Ewart
Station 16	Patric Steele
Station 17	John Chung
Station 18	Daniel Tauber
Station 19	Rebecca Sturtz
Station 20	Mike Beere
Station 21	Steve Finnegan
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 McGorin
Station 32	Tracey Courtney O'Keeffe
Station 33	Open
Station 34	Jon Grant
Station 35	Pat Higgins
Station 36	Brook Baker
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	Bobby Jackson
AP 3	Dave Amituanai

BFI	Stan Lee
BFP	Tom Cordes, Mike Estebez, Tom Harvey
BOE	Al Harvey
HQ	Open
RADIO	Open

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

FROM THE DIRECTORS ...

By Brendan Ward, Director

GASB/Pension

Non-Safety (Miscellaneous) employees have been negotiating with the City to obtain enhanced retirement benefits. Local 798 endorses this process. During the same time, negotiations also have been held between the City and all employee groups (including Local 798) to change health benefit requirements for all future employees hired by the City after July 2008 (these meetings were held as a result of GASB requirements that show the City has a potential \$4 billion unfunded liability in retiree health care over the next 30 years).

Neither set of meetings resulted in agreement between the parties. As a result, the employee groups and the City submitted separate and potentially competing ballot measures for the June 2008 election that address pension upgrades and Health System requirements. Both measures, to a different degree, include increased pension benefits and both measures address tightening restrictions for new employees to access the Health Service System. The sides have agreed to continue discussions until a February cutoff date to see if the parties can agree on one or the other ballot measure.

How does this affect firefighters (future, active and retired)? First, both measures include a cost of living enhancement which affects all City employees and retirees (miscellaneous and safety). The measures an increased compounded COLA without any complex formula that the Retirement Board must achieve (this is especially beneficial to Tier 2 retirees). Secondly, however, as an offset, newly hired employees (miscellaneous and safety) would work under a second "Tier 2": A health benefit with tighter restrictions to qualify and potentially paying into the Health system along with paying into the Retirement system.

More information will follow after the February deadline to amend or rescind these ballot measures.

Health Service System

Speaking of the Health Service System: The various health plans submitted their annual proposals to the Health Board in a November meeting. At the December meeting the Board reviewed the information and expressed its shock to the proposed increases by Blue Shield and PacifiCare. The Board voted to accept the Kaiser Plan and scheduled a January meeting to discuss the future of both Blue Shield and PacifiCare. The "City" plan will continue but the rate has not been set either. More information will follow.

Retirement Seminar

Due to popular demand another Retirement Seminar (for active employees) will be scheduled for this spring. Please look for the General Order announcing the seminar. Also, we are looking into formatting a "mid-career" seminar to assist employees to plan their future years far in advance.

Toy Program

As Chair of the Toy Program (and speaking for the entire Board of Directors) I want to thank all the active and retired firefighters who volunteered at the Toy Program this year (please read the Toy article). It would be impossible to continue without the benefit of your valuable time. It was a very successful year. And special thanks to Sally and all her crew at Santa's Workshop.

As always, Happy New Year to my mentor, Pete Sorensen. ✂



FROM THE DIRECTORS . . .



By Brendan O'Leary, Director

FOURTEEN DAYS IN DECEMBER

A lot can happen in two weeks. On December 6th a meeting was convened at City Hall. In attendance were Mayor Newsom, Chief Joanne Hayes-White, Fire Marshal Barbara Schultheis, Captain Bill Mitchell from BFP Plan Check and Isam Hasenin, the Director of the Department of Building Inspection. For the past several months there had been an ongoing project to

analyze the efficiency of the Department of Building Inspection. Members of the Bureau Fire Prevention had been active participants in the project and had been providing suggestions on how to better provide services for the contractors, builders and citizens of San Francisco.

The Plan

Director Hasenin presented his plan for streamlining the building permit process. He proposed transferring all the new construction and remodel plan review along with the inspection functions of the Fire Department that were currently under the Fire Marshal's office into the Department of Building Inspection (DBI). This meant that the positions, budget and revenue that were currently controlled by the SFFD would be moved. Not only did he want to transfer the fifteen Bureau of Fire Prevention members assigned to plan check and review, but he also wanted control of the sixteen BFP members that were assigned to district inspections. In addition he proposed taking control of the plan review and inspection functions that the SFFD provided to both the Port and the Airport. That meant another five members of the BFP would now be working for DBI.

Meet and Confer

The SFFD had been ambushed by another city department. At no time during the efficiency study project had there been any mention or proposal of taking fire department employees. Some consideration was being given to the elimination of possible redundant activities and everyone felt that progress was being made. There had been no meet and confer with labor concerning this obvious change in working conditions and promotional opportunities. Bill Mitchell left the meeting with a distinct impression that the transfer was a "done deal".

Local 798

On December 7th, Local 798 was made aware of the raid that had been perpetrated against its members. Apparently prior to being appointed Director of DBI, Mr. Hasenin had worked in San Diego for a building inspection department

where San Diego Fire Department fire inspectors had been transferred into the building department.

The Executive Board of Local 798 met on December 11th and prepared a motion to spend \$30,000 to save the jobs that were going to be transferred. In addition a fact finding team was authorized to determine what had happened in San Diego. On behalf of the Union, President John Hanley sent a letter to Mayor Newsom expressing the disappointment of not being included in discussions that affected working conditions. At the Union Membership meeting on December 13th, the members not only unanimously approved the motion for funds, but increased the expenditure to \$50,000. Over the course of two days, President Hanley had communications with both the Mayor's Office and the Chief's Office that would be described as "lively".

Fire Commission

The Fire Commission met on the evening of December 13th and was made aware of the proposed take-over by both President Hanley and Director Brendan O'Leary. Chief Hayes-White also briefed the commissioners during her scheduled report. The DBI proposal was not on the agenda, but Vice President George Lau sought advice from the Assistant City Attorney as to what action the commission could take to voice their concerns regarding this unilateral plan. The Assistant City Attorney offered an opinion to President Paul Conroy that a letter could be sent on behalf of the Commission.

San Diego

Lieutenant Joe Cuff (BFP supervisor of district inspectors), Bill Mitchell and Brendan O'Leary met with the Assistant Fire Marshal and Fire Marshal of the San Diego Fire Department on December 17th and 18th. They also met with a director of the San Diego Firefighters Local. A Memorandum of Understanding dated May 25, 1999 did transfer fire inspectors to the building inspection department. It was a time during a budgetary setback that it was advantageous for both departments. But times have changed. The Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal both expressed a desire to transfer the fire inspectors back to the Fire Department. The San Diego Firefighters Union also sees a benefit having the inspectors back under the authority of the Fire Marshal.

Building Inspection Commission

The Building Inspection Commission meeting convened at 9AM on December 19th at City Hall. Something had obviously happened since the original transfer proposal. Mayor Newsom was in attendance and voiced his support for the efforts of everyone that had been involved in the efficiency study, but he emphasized that moving forward must be a collaborative effort by all the departments involved. He specifically mentioned that the culture of the Fire Department must be respected.

John Hanley, BFP Captain Tom Harvey, Brendan O'Leary, Inspector John Darmanin, Lieutenant Mark Hayes and retired BFP Captain Mario Ballard all addressed the Commission and spoke in support of the services provided by the SFFD regarding plan review and inspections.

Continued on page 9

COAST GUARD DENIES CALLING OFF S.F. FIREBOAT RESPONDING TO SPILL

Cecilia M. Vega, San Francisco Chronicle - November 22, 2007

A U.S. Coast Guard commander disputes claims by Mayor Gavin Newsom and other city officials that the agency unilaterally canceled the response of a city fireboat to this month's oil spill in the bay, saying the decision was made by the San Francisco Fire Department.

Meanwhile, city officials acknowledged that the fireboat never actually left the dock the day it was dispatched to the spill, despite the officials' earlier assertions that the boat was en route to the disaster when it was turned away by the Coast Guard.

"We never directed them and said 'No, don't get under way,'" Coast Guard Cmdr. Jon Copley said Wednesday. "They would have been more than welcome. If they had already been under way, they would have been in the vicinity of the Bay Bridge. We could have directed them to check out the damage."

The conflicting accounts about the fireboat's aborted response in the hours after the container ship Cosco Busan sideswiped the Bay Bridge on Nov. 7 are significant because the boat crew stationed on the city's waterfront could have provided an additional set of eyes as 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel oil spilled into the bay.

The Coast Guard says it didn't realize the magnitude of the spill for about eight hours after the ship hit the bridge at 8:27 a.m. Once the agency finally grasped the magnitude of the incident, an additional four hours passed before the public was notified that the spill totaled 58,000 gallons rather than the 140 gallons the Coast Guard had been reporting all day.

Newsom testified on Monday before a House subcommittee investigating the spill and expressed frustration that the fireboat had been turned away by the Coast Guard. He indicated that the boat was on its way to the scene of the disaster when it was sent back to shore.

"Our fireboat dispatched within the hour from Station 35 under the Bay Bridge to help assess damage, but returned to the dock after the Coast Guard notified us that there was no fire or injuries and expressed concern for safety of the fireboat due to the foggy conditions," he said in his written testimony.

Similarly, the mayor told reporters last week, "We had a fireboat out there within an hour. They were told to turn around, that 'No, no, we don't need you.'"

But Copley said Wednesday that, in the hour after the ship crash, the Coast Guard received a call from city Fire Department Lt. Kyle Merkins asking whether the agency needed help rescuing people from the water.

Copley said the Coast Guard advised Merkins that search and rescue aid was not needed but never said the fireboat should not follow through with the call from local dispatch operators sending it to the scene.

"When (Merkins) called ... we still didn't know there was oil being leaked. ... We said, 'No, we don't need assistance for search and rescue,'" Copley said. "He called back to his dispatch and said ... 'They don't need rescue assistance,' and he told them not to come."

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White disagreed with the Coast Guard's assessment of the conversation, which took place on a cell phone and was not recorded.

"It sounds like his perspective is a little bit different from

ours," she said, meaning fire officials took the conversation between the Coast Guard and Merkins to mean the fireboat crew's assistance wasn't needed in any way.

The fire chief also suggested her department never meant to indicate to the mayor or to the general public that the fireboat had left its dock and was sent back.

"It's kind of a semantics thing," she said. "From a dispatch point of view, we were dispatched for all intents and purposes, and we were planning on responding to the incident."

Hayes-White acknowledged that, although the fireboat is not equipped with booms to contain the oil and crew members are not trained to handle oil spills, the crew's arrival on scene could have meant that city officials had a better understanding about the spill's magnitude early on.

According to the fire chief and 911 dispatch recordings released by city emergency officials Wednesday, the Fire Department learned about the container crash only after a former fireboat pilot who was boating in the bay called the fireboat crew to alert them about an hour after the incident occurred.

In the aftermath of the crash, city officials have complained repeatedly about the lack of information from the Coast Guard.

The conflicting accounts about what led to the fireboat crew's decision not to proceed to the scene further underscores breakdowns in communication between federal and local authorities on Nov. 7.

And Newsom's assertions to reporters and subsequently in testimony to the House subcommittee that the fireboat had left its dock in response to the crash raises questions about communication up and down the chain of command among city officials.

Newsom spokesman Nathan Ballard said the mayor's testimony before the House subcommittee Monday "accurately reflects what he was told by the fire chief."

The audio recordings of the fireboat's dispatch - released by the city's Department of Emergency Management to The Chronicle in response to a request under the California Public Records Act - confirm that the Coast Guard never directly contacted local emergency personnel to alert them of the crash. The recordings also don't reflect the agency asking the fireboat crew to cancel its response.

During a 9:30 a.m. phone call between a Fire Department dispatcher and the Coast Guard communications center on Yerba Buena Island, the fire dispatcher seemed puzzled that a container ship could have crashed into the bridge an hour earlier and no one from the Coast Guard had called local officials to warn them.

"Our fireboat got a call ... that a ship might have struck the Bay Bridge," the fire dispatcher said.

"Yeah. We received reports at 8:30 of a ship making contact with the delta tower Bay Bridge," the Coast Guard dispatcher said.

"So that's an hour ago?" the fire dispatcher asked. "And did you investigate it?"

"We are investigating it right now," the Coast Guard dispatcher said.

"OK. I guess we're going to send a fireboat over there," the

Continued next page

FIRE DESTROYS FORMER S.F. HOME OF IRISH FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

Rachel Gordon, Marisa Lagos

San Francisco Chronicle - December 19, 2007

A piece of San Francisco history went up in flames Tuesday when a stubborn one-alarm fire destroyed the former home of an Irish fraternal organization.

The unreinforced masonry structure, on Mission Street between Seventh and Eighth streets, was so badly damaged that the city's Department of Building Inspection plans to issue a demolition order early Wednesday.

"The feeling is that it's better to knock it down before it falls down," said Bill Strawn, a spokesman for the building department. "The structure has been weakened to such a point that it could collapse at any time."

The fire at 1133 Mission St. was reported at 6:51 a.m. Tuesday and was still burning well into the night. Fire crews were pulled from the interior when the ceiling collapsed, but about 30 firefighters continued their water bombardment from the sidewalk and atop a ladder that hovered above the building.

The old brick structure was supported by thick wooden beams - perfect fuel to keep the building aflame. Firefighters periodically turned off the hoses throughout the day, but the flames kept coming back to life.

"We're going to be on the scene all night," said San Francisco Fire Department Lt. Ken Smith.

Crews kept the fire from spreading to the building next door - home to the local firefighters union.

One firefighter suffered burns on the neck, and a second was injured when the ceiling fell. They were treated and released, officials said.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the fire. Assistant Fire Chief John Lo said the building had been vacant and under renovation. Workers were last in the building at 10 p.m. Monday, authorities said.

Continued from previous page

fire dispatcher said.

"You're going to send a fireboat over there?" the Coast Guard dispatcher said. "OK. Yeah. Like I said, we don't know how much damage has been done."

Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who on Tuesday requested that the Board of Supervisors hold a hearing on the spill next month, called the revelations about the conflicting stories "very alarming."

"We need to understand where a breakdown in leadership occurred and whether there was any sort of cover-up so that this never occurs again," Mirkarimi said.

Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, who has criticized Newsom for taking off on a Hawaiian vacation after the spill, said "there wasn't a sense of urgency by the administration" immediately after the incident occurred.

"It's not the end of the world if the fireboat went out or didn't go out," Peskin added. "It wouldn't have changed the fact that we had a massive oil spill on our hands. The problem is that not only did we not mobilize our own resources, but we then misrepresented for the public that we had done so." ✂

The one-block stretch of Mission was closed to traffic all day Tuesday. It is expected to remain off-limits at least through Thursday, or when the building is finally torn down, Strawn said.

The Municipal Railway's 14-Mission electric trolley has been rerouted around the scene, and a shuttle motor coach has been added to take people along segments of Mission.

The building is owned by the Knights of the Red Branch, an Irish fraternal organization, which planned to lease it to a Presbyterian church, senior building inspector Ed Sweeney said. Like many at the fire scene, he had a personal link to the building.

"My parents met there," he said.

During its heyday from the 1920s to the 1950s, the social club and dance hall served as a hub for the city's Irish community. Dances were held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Tom Hayes, an Irish immigrant, met his future wife there around 1949. Tom and Patricia Hayes have been married for 55 years, said their daughter, Joanne Hayes-White, San Francisco's fire chief.

"There's a lot of history in that building," she said. ✂

Continued from page 7

State Fire Marshal and the Attorney General

Retired State Fire Marshal James McMullen spoke to the Commission and referenced a State Attorney General's opinion regarding the need to keep Fire Department inspection functions separate from the Department of Building Inspection.

The analysis stated:

"The function of the State Fire Marshal is to foster, promote and develop ways and means of protecting life and property against fire and panic."

"The State Fire Marshal, the Chief of any city or county fire department or district providing fire protection services and their authorized representatives shall enforce in their respective areas building standards related to fire and panic safety adopted by the State Fire Marshal."

"The division of authority for enforcement of building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal shall be as follows:

Regarding Sections of the Health and Safety Code; as far as practical that the enforcement be carried out at the local level by persons who are regular full-time members of a regularly organized fire department and not be carried out by other persons pursuant to Section 34004 of the Government Code."

Support

Later during the meeting, Commissioner Michael Theriault who is also a member of the San Francisco Labor Council voiced an opinion that it was heartening to see that the BFP functions would remain under the authority of the Fire Department.

A lot can happen in two weeks. ✂

TOY PROGRAM

2ND ANNUAL JOHNNY V MEMORIAL TOY RUN

The Barbary Coast Chapter held its 2nd Annual Johnny V Toy Run on December 17. The anxiety of putting a run together is finally over. The pressure of the Weather Channel was getting the best of us. Reports of rain for the weekend didn't lighten up until the morning of the event. But Johnny didn't let us down. As I was giving the pre-ride instructions to the group, I looked up at the clearing skies to see there were several clouds that took on the shape of V's. I knew then, it was gonna be a great day.

Over 200 bikes enjoyed a police escorted ride throughout the city, parade style. We passed almost every tourist attraction in our city. The tourists were surprised with the passing event and looked on in wonder. Every cell phone and camera took advantage of the spectacular photo op. Traffic was at a standstill in awe of the thunderous sound and beauty of the American Iron moving past every tourist venue.

The best part is that we were doing it for the kids. Our arms were sore from waving at the children and the appreciative crowds we drew. Mongo (Pat Gardner) of the W&FMC / Barbary Coast Chapter played a great Santa and lead the pack through the city. We rode in the missing man formation, leaving an open spot for Johnny V. He rides with us always.

I would have loved to be a bystander as we roared through the Broadway tunnel. We were 200+ strong, yea baby, ears still a hurtin'. The SFPD approved our longer route. I felt they were enjoying it more than I. The day continued without a hitch. As one participant stated, "The run was off the "HOOK" (and ladder)! The run, food, raffle and music were outstanding.

Registration was held at the SF Firefighters Toy Program Headquarters. Ole' Fire Station #30, located just south of AT&T Park, on Third Street. Over 11 barrels of new toys were collected before the start of the run. Old friendships were renewed as riders from all points of the Bay Area participated. Some rid-

ers came from as far away as Fresno and Santa Barbara. The hour-long ride through the city took us along the Embarcadero, through Fisherman's Wharf to the Marina, on to Union Street, Broadway, Chinatown, the Financial District, etc. Even the holiday shoppers were given a treat as our procession went through the main Downtown shopping area of Union Square.

The ride ended at Club 330 Ritch Street, the location for the after ride party. Once again, caterer Dean DeGraffenreid treated the riders to a fantastic meal of tri tip, with all the fixins. Music by Anytime DJ, Chris Diaz, entertained the group. Over 160 raffle prizes were given away and a 50/50 raffle prize of \$220. To each and every firehouse that donated towards our raffle, your station shirts and memorabilia were a big hit to the raffle winners. Our thanks go out to all those at 330 Ritch St.

John D. Voelker

August 3, 1956 - December 4, 2005

John's Recipe for Life

- 1-Cup of Kindness
- 1-Gallon of Laughter
- 1-Dash of Energy
- 1-lb. of Humor
- 2-Cubes of Love
- 1-Dollop of Heroism
- 1-Quart of Harley Davidson Motor Oil

Combine all ingredients, mix well
Feeds Thousands

Thank You

The W&FMC, Barbary Coast Chapter would like to

thank all that participated in our toy run. To all the volunteers that helped us put on the event. To Lt. B Linney and the crew of Engine 8. To the SFPD for your help in traffic control and a special thank you to our raffle contributors and sponsors. We hope all had a good time and enjoyed the day and the after party. Your generosity will help insure a good Christmas for the less fortunate children & families of our community. Your good deed has not gone unnoticed. You have earned our respect and gratitude.

Thank you to all who came and helped kick off a great Holiday season for the SF Firefighters Toy Program. MERRY CHRISTMAS! We hope to see you all back again next year.

Respectfully,

Phil Leanio, SFFD Retired

Pres. W&FMC/Barbary Coast Chapter

Johnny V

fireman - brother - toyking
1956 - 2005



TOY PROGRAM LETTERS

Dear S.F.Firefighters

Thanks for all you do, Even though this check is late, keep up the great work!!!

I have you on my calendar for next year!

Happy Holidays
Vicki Harrigan

To Everyone at the Firefighters Toy Program

I want to THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for blessing me and my kids with presents.

You are my HEROS & STARS!!!!

Thank You

Anna Niu & 5 Kids

Anna, Manuel, Cristina,Victoria, and Victor

TOY PROGRAM 2007

By Sally Casazza

We had a very successful season of San Francisco Firefighters helping the children of San Francisco have a Happy Christmas. We filled applications for about 500 families per day starting December 1st through December 25th. We did appointments every 2 minutes starting at 9:00 am through 3:00pm Monday through Saturday. On Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day a few stragglers came by with glowing thanks to the firefighters providing the toys. There were many events, be it a school, or a corporation that collected toys for us that San Francisco firefighters took time off their own personal schedule with their families, to help out with pick up, and delivery of toys to those who might otherwise go without.

The following is a list of names of Firefighters who came in more than 5 times to, be it a party, pickup of toys, or whatever needed to be done. If I missed anyone, You forgot to sign in ...

Ramon Serrano, Ramon Barretta, Pat Martinez, Ben Canedo, Jim Novello, Ramon Simon, Danny Gracia, Keith Onishi, John Manning, DeWayne Ekart, Kevin Kuhn, Dave Thompson, Shon Buford, Pat Hannan, Janet Brock, Al Lee, Tom Johansson, Doug Magunat, Rob Styles, Con Lucey, Bob Cappa, Matt Scola, Julie Dejarlais, Brendan Ward, Derrick O'Leary, Jack Walker, Tom Carberry, Richard Hom, Erik Zammarchi, Matthew Lee, Hank Lasik, Dennis Sutter, Hank Scoble, Mike Guajardo, Jose Zalba, Steve Giacalone, Frank Roldan, John Rocco, John Kosta, Dan

Tauber, Dan Murray, Pete Gallagher, Skip McKinney, Dan Murray, Ricky Ford, Jim McCoy, Brian Kearney, Bob Lopez, John Ahearn, Vince Tudoni, Al McCarthy, Ray McGrath, David Amituanai, Bob Arzave, Alex King, Gary Barisone, Greg Barron, Bill Basssett, Pete Batanides, Gerry Shannon, Bill Britt, Rich Brown, Kevin Callahan, Elmer Carr, JC Carvajal, Phil Leanio, Jack Creman, Art Citron, Jim Conners, Mike Cunnie, John Farrell, Bill Ferguson, Pat Gardner, Jerry Kohane, Leo Martinez, Mike Muleskey, Kash Kashima, Tom Oertli, George Schnapps, John Walters, Barry Wong, Roger Wilhelm, Vic Wyrtsch, Kevin Kuhn, Chad Law, Julio DeLucchi, Maiko Bristow, Terry Smith, Annie Hoddinott, Brett Evart, Marc Casper, Rick Nolen, Rick Avilas, John Kositzen, Jeff Rusteen, Matt Adams, Bill Storti, Keith Barraka, Tony Vallario, Jack Norton, Brian Walsh, Eli Chan, David Sweeney, Mariano Ellias, John Harrington, Jeremy Silva, Steve Gonzales, Dan Molloy, Lou Ibarrara, Amador Herrera, Jason Watrous, Cristina Costa, Luke Michaels, Will Dorsey, Chris Diaz, Tony Serpa, FF Dorherty, Floyd Rollins, Mike Walsh.

The 798 Executive Board and Staff, and civilian helpers.

All the Firehouses that cooked for the volunteers, and all those who worked behind the scene, Jill and Dee Dee, and Joanne as well as the 600 plus Business locations that proudly displayed the Firefighters Barrels for collections.

All the effort is appreciated. ✂

STATION SEVEN RETIREMENT BANQUET



P/LT. RICHARD VEAL
A/INSP. TOM GORMAN

HONORING
A/LT. BARRY COMERFORD
GARY TISMA

MICKEY WINSLOW
MIKE WALSH
JIM SCOTT

MAY 14, 2008 6:00PM

*Italian Athletic Club
1630 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94133*

\$70.00

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL STATION 7 (415) 550-9074

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS
GUNS & HOSES
SEVENTH ANNUAL CHARITY TENNIS CHALLENGE

To benefit Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund
and S.F. Firefighters' Toy Program



Hosted by:

SAN FRANCISCO
Tennis Club
(Fifth and Brannan)

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008

Tennis: 4:00 - 7:00pm Dinner: 7:00 - 10:00pm

Tennis • Dinner • Raffle • Silent Auction

Player Admission/Donation: \$100 (includes tennis, food, beverages, and t-shirt)

Non-Player Admission/Donation: \$30 (includes viewing tennis, food, and beverages)

For more information or to donate contact Bob Lopez at 650-315-8268 (SFFD), Geoff Quesada at 415-800-6197 (SFFD),
or Inspector Robin Matthews at 415-553-1093 (SFPD).

SUBMISSIONS:

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

MARCH - APRIL 2008 / FEBRUARY 20, 2008

MAY - JUNE 2008 / APRIL 20, 2008

JULY - AUGUST 2008 / JUNE 20, 2008

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

California State Fire Marshal Classes Level 1

New Location:

SFO – CCSF Aeronautics Campus
North Access Road & Clearwater Road
<http://www.ccsf.edu/Info/Map/airport.shtml>

Cost: \$136 per course

Class	Dates	Location
Fire Prevention 1B	11/13*, 19, 26 & 12/3, 10/2007 (Mondays)	SFO Classroom #8
ICS 300	1/7, 8, 9/2008 - Cost: \$60	SFFD – 19 th Street
Fire Command 1C	1/17, 24, 31/2008 & 2/7, 14/2008 (Thursdays)	SFO Classroom #8
Fire Instructor 1B	2/14, 21, 28/2008 & 3/6, 13/2008 (Thursdays)	SFO Classroom #8
Fire Investigation 1B	3/10, 18*/2008 & 4/1*, 7, 14/2008 (3-Mondays & 2-Tuesday* on 3/18 & 4/1)	SFO Classroom #8
Fire Command 1B	4/2, 9, 16, 23, 30/2008 (Wednesdays)	SFO Classroom #8
Fire Prevention 1A	4/21, 28/2008 & 5/5, 12, 19/2008 (Mondays)	SFO Classroom #8

*meets Tuesday

Online Registration Required at:

<https://www.ccsf.edu/Forms/cgi-bin/application.cgi>

For Further Information:

Fire Science Technology
50 Phelan Avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94112
(415) 239-3359
wlong@ccsf.edu
<http://fog.ccsf.edu/~wlong>

City College of San Francisco Fire Science Technology Spring 2008

Classes begin January 15, 2008

- **FSC 50* - Introduction to Fire Science** (Batmale 222)
CRN: 33621 Sec: 001 - Units: 3 (Tuesday/Thursday) 09:30 am - 11:00 am - Nicol Juratovac
CRN: 38096 Sec: 501 - Units: 3 (Mondays) 6:00 pm - 09:30 pm - Jim Skinner
- **FSC 53* - Bldg. Construction and Fire** (Batmale 222)
CRN: 33501 Sec: 001 - Units: 3 (Tuesday/Thursdays) 08:00 am - 9:30 am - Jim Connors
- **FSC 62 – Rescue Practices** (Batmale 222)
CRN: 37972 Sec: 001 - Units: 3 (Tuesday/Thursdays) 11:00 am - 12:30 pm – Staff
- **FSC 64* – Fire Behavior and Combustion** (Batmale 222)
CRN: 33620 Sec: 501 - Units: 3 (Thursdays) 06:30 pm - 09:30 pm – Greg Owyang
CRN: 38596 Sec: 501 - Units: 3 (Wednesdays) 06:30 pm - 09:30 pm – Greg Owyang
Location: Mission Campus 1125 Valencia Street Room 271
- **FSC 70 – Fire Investigation** (Batmale 222)
CRN: 37170 Sec: 501 - Units: 3 (Tuesdays) 6:00 pm - 09:00 pm – Jim Skinner
- **FSC 105B, D, F - Fire Protect Work Exp** (PREREQ: FSC 50)
CRN: 34747, 48, 49 Sec: 001 - Units: 1-3 (Days & Hours TBA) - Bill Long
(All sections will initially meet Tuesdays 1/15, 3/11 & 5/13/2008 from 1 – 3 pm in Cloud 334)
- **FSC 111 – Firefighter I Academy** (SF Airport)
PREREQ: F SC 50, F SC 115 and HLTH 17; and clearance from licensed physician
ADVISORY: F SC 52A or 53 or 55 or 61A or 64
CRN: 38597 801 L L T R 06:00-10:00PM SF Airport Staff
SAT 08:00-12:00PM SF Airport Staff
SAT 01:00-06:00PM SF Airport Staff
- **Health 17* Public Safety – First Responder** (Mission Campus 271)
38595 551 Lec Thursdays 6:30-09:30PM 1125 Valencia St, Room: 271 - Long, W

*Core Course

FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1B

(FSC 71B) CRN # 33535 SEC: 001 UNITS: 2

Dates: 02/14/08 to 3/13/2008

Thursdays

Course web site: www.ccsf.edu/~wlong

This course is taught by a California State Fire Marshal certified Master Instructor, Bill Long. The student will learn the fundamentals of lesson planning, the latest instructional techniques, how to present lessons for technical lessons that are interesting and informative.

(meets partial certification requirements for "Fire Officer" & "Fire Instructor")

Class Location: SFO – CCSF Aeronautics off "North Access Road"

Building 928 at Clearwater Road - Phone: (415) 239-3902 San Francisco, International Airport, CA94128

DIRECTIONS: TAKE 101 OR 280 OR 380 TO SFO "NORTH ACCESS ROAD" FOLLOW THE SIGNS "CCSF AERONAUTICS" GO PASS "FED EX" TAKE CLEARWATER ROAD (RIGHT) AND GO THROUGH GATE NEAR THE JET AIRPLANE

Cost: \$136 or \$121 (for second course)

\$80(cart + book) + \$40 (registration fees) + \$16 (Admin fee)

Further info: wlong@ccsf.edu

Course web site: <http://fog.ccsf.edu/~wlong>

Enroll online at www.ccsf.edu before coming to class

Register Now!

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@sfflocal798.org
with Subject: Change of Address

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

ULTIMATELY THIS HELPS YOU!

PALM SPRINGS – 2008

SAN FRANCISCO RETIRED FIREFIGHTER'S OF SONOMA COUNTY

WELCOME YOU AND YOURS TO FUN, SUN, SHOPPING AND GAMES.

DATES: NOVEMBER 9-10-11-12-13

STAY: EMBASSY SUITES IN PALM DESERT

COST: \$540 PER PERSON-DOUBLE OCCUPANCY WITH KING BED.

\$570 PER PERSON-DOUBLE OCCUPANCY WITH TWO DOUBLE BEDS.

PRICE INCLUDES:

**5 nights lodging in a two room suite.

**Daily cooked to order breakfast.

**Daily two hour complimentary cocktail party.

**Welcome dinner at the hotel on Sunday night.

Final night awards banquet at **LG'S PRIME Steakhouse. Prime, not choice.

**Pool, spa, fitness center, six tennis courts.

**Good cheer and camaraderie with old and new friends.

**Look MOM! No cooking or dishes.

GOLF: \$375 PER PLAYER – Men's tournament a 3 day low net with 3 to 5 flights, depending on number of players. Women's tournaments WWG (women with ghin) and WWOG (women without ghin). Price includes prize money.

Optional daily skins tournament. \$30. Pay there.

NOV. 10 PGA WEST 8:30 shotgun – Nicklaus Course. One of 100 best in US. Accuracy rewarded-errant shots penalized. Sounds familiar? 69.0/124 – 6037 yds.

NOV. 11 La QUINTA RESORT 8:30 shotgun – Dunes Course. Pete Dye designed. One of The top 75 resort courses. Was a PGA Qualifying site. 70.1/124 – 6230 yds.

NOV. 13 DESERT DUNES 8:30 shotgun – Host to PGA, Open qualifying events. 70.2/124-6205 yds.

SPORTS: Bicycle, tennis, racquetball, bowling, running, etc. Get an organizer and come along.

DEPOSIT: Group room rates need to be reserved by March 28th. \$300 per person. After this date, room availability determined on receipt of deposit.

BALANCE DUE, by September 20th. \$240 or \$270. **ADD** \$375 for golf.

WEDNESDAY ADVENTURE: 360 degrees of WOW! A ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tram to the top of 8500 ft Mt. San Jacinto State Park. Pass 5 life zones from Sonoran desert to Alpine wilderness. Cocktails and lunch on the mountain. If interested in going, there will be a sign-up list at Sunday night's dinner.

GOOGLE: palmdesert.embassysuites.com – lgsprimesteakhouse.com – laquintaresort.com
deserthillsgolf.com – desert hills outlet mall – pstramwy.com

INFO: Bob Quattrin 823-8243, Joe Collins 542-7797, Woody Paynter 579-0325,
John Logue 577-8850, Gary Montague 576-1891. All 707 area code.

MAIL CHECKS TO: CHAIRMAN SFRFSC, 7980 MITCHELL CT. SEBASTOPOL, CA 95472.

SF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS SONOMA COUNTY

-1973-



SAN FRANCISCO RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS OF SONOMA COUNTY
PRESENT THE FIFTY FIRST SEMI ANNUAL LUNCHEON FOR RETIRED
AND ACTIVE SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS AND FRIENDS

DATE: APRIL 7, 2008

LOCATION: ELKS LODGE IN PETALUMA - 2105 SO. McDOWELL
(FROM HWY. 101 - EAST ON LAKEVILLE HWY. 116 - SOUTH ON SO. McDOWELL BLVD.)

MENU: LUNCH SERVED @ 12:30 PM

COCKTAILS: No HOST BAR OPENS @ 11:00 AM

PRICE: \$15.00 PER PERSON - RESERVATIONS STRONGLY REQUESTED -
- - - - - \$20.00 PER PERSON AT DOOR - - - - -

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: S.F.R.F.S.C.

MAIL TO: CHAIRMAN - 245 GROVE ST. - WINDSOR, CA. - 95492

***** DEADLINE: MARCH 22, 2008 *****

NOTE: A BUS FROM S.F. LEAVES LAKE MERCED AT 10 AM.
ANYONE INTERESTED CALL JIM DOWD AT: 1-415-265-5010 - FIRST 55 ONLY!!!!

PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES FOR NAME TAGS

NAME: _____

NAME OF GUESTS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF YOU HAVE ONE) _____

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 Phone Number Has Changed!

The location has remained the same:

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

The General Information telephone number
at this location has changed:

(415) 487-7050
(415) 487-7058

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?

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Please forward to the Union office:
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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: _____

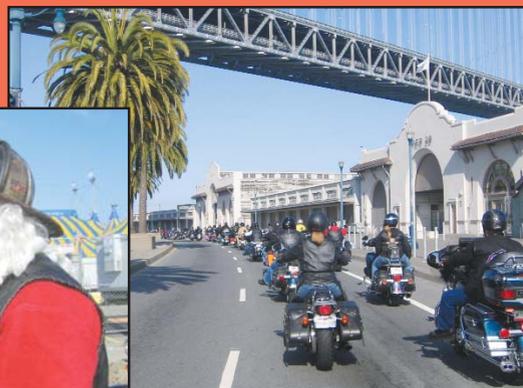
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ AGE: _____

COLLEGE ATTENDING: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

2ND ANNUAL JOHNNY V MEMORIAL TOY RUN



Photos provided by Phil Leanio



WORKING FIRE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRES
OCTOBER 21, 2007 - OCTOBER 27, 2007



Photos By Frank Cardinale

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 *MAIN LINE*

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San Francisco, CA 94103

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