

MAIN LINE

JUNE / JULY 2009

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS

3RD ALARM - 2265 REVERE AV.
1 FIREFIGHTER INJURED



WORKING FIRE

3RD ALARM - MAY 21, 2009

Box 6426 - 2265 REVERE AV. (X INDUSTRIAL ST.)

1 FIREFIGHTER INJURED



Photos by Ken Smith



THE MAIN LINE

JUNE/JULY 2009 - Vol. 35, No. 9

Official Publication
of the San Francisco
Fire Fighters Local 798

Union Headquarters
1139 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 621-7103
Fax: (415) 621-1578

Affiliated with IAFF and
AFL-CIO/CLC

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: John Hanley

Web Site:
www.sffdlocal798.org

Vice President:
Joseph Moriarty

Secretary: Jim Vannucchi



EDITOR

Stan Lee

email:

sffd.mainline@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

SFFF Local 798
Stephen Giacalone
(415) 621-7103

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Board Local 798

Treasurer:

Thomas O'Connor

Directors:

Shon Buford
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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.



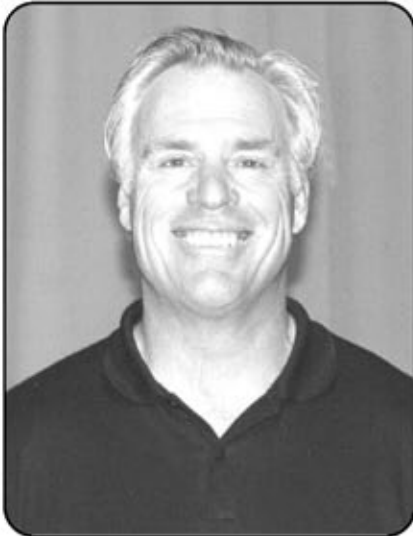
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The past month has been a busy one. With the failure of the State Propositions on the California Ballot, the City has been forced into a financial crisis. The City and Union are now talking about additional give backs in wages. One must remember that we gave back last year to help out our city. Talks are centered on something similar to what the POA gave. Any change will be voted on by you, the Membership.

While Budget talks have been on-going, our **Campaign to Keep the Firehouses Open** has been moving forward. Your Directors have done an excellent job and you, the Membership, have been outstanding at our 6AM Precinct Walks. Brothers and Sisters, our message is being heard loud and clear. So much so that Supervisor John Avalos introduced a Ballot Proposition to increase our hours to a 52 hour work week, the most of any comparable city in the country (see FACT SHEET on page 22 of this month's *Main Line*). Somewhat baffling is why we are the only labor group being asked to work more hours. This Ballot Proposition has not been voted on by our Supervisors at this time. Our friends in Labor are supporting us at the national, state and city level. In the boxing world this issue would be called "*The Main Event*"!

At a Board of Supervisors hearing the same Supervisor called us "sacred cows". The Union had used all of our time allotted during public comment and could not respond to this shocking and outlandish, use of words. The Chief of Department was at the podium and did not

respond to this attack on the brave men and women who are under her command.

I was shocked - that statement deserved an immediate refutation. Now is not the time to be timid or reflect on one's personal future in politics. An elected member of the Board of Supervisors reflected that members of the San Francisco Fire Department are sacred cows and our Department leaders ignored it. The Statement is on the record, and now so are we: This is unacceptable! Tell the men and women who fought a recent fire on Felton Street that they are "sacred cows" - tell Mike Estrada who had a burning building collapse on him that he's a "sacred cow". B.S. The Supervisor is wrong and it is our Chief's duty to respond to these attacks on our members! A leader leads from the front, not the rear.

Brothers and Sisters stay tuned - information will be disbursed at Union meetings and through Department Lotus Notes. We are in difficult times.

Local 798 has been in contact with *Amnesty International*, *Green Peace*, and *Americans for A Free Cuba*. These groups are all concerned about the "SF 3". Three men from Local 798 have been banned from the California Firefighter Olympics. It's been well over a decade. Jeff Barden has been designated the "Go To" guy to organize and set policies reflecting their participation in the 2009 California Firefighter Summer Olympics. Due to no fault of their own, years ago an uptight official lacking a sense of humor banned these brave men. It is my understanding that they were banned for watching "Gladiator" movies while at the Olympics. Those interested in a candlelight vigil may contact Jeff Barden at Engine 44.



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Local 798 Staff,

Please use the enclosed check in the memory of Harry Cohen and Guido Devincenzi (the Pongo). It was a privilege to have worked with these gentlemen.

Thank you,
Chares G. Lesca

Local 798,

As always many thanks for all your hard work. Please use enclosed where most needed.

Sincerely,
Roger Francesconi

Local 798,

In memory of Tom Tregenza and Bill Downing.

Use as needed.

Thank you,
Joe Delfino

SF Firefighters Toy Program,

In memory of Ed F. McHugh.

Station 7

Hi,

Enclosed check is for the continued support of Local 798, and the Main Line.

Thanks,
Jack Pender

Brothers,

A small donation for the Cause. And thanks again for our Union – past and present.

Bill Correll
Retired

Local 798,

In memory of Ed "Doc" Malone T-1 and Arthur F. McIntyre E-1. "The Alley"

Thanks for your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,
Jack Pacheco

John,

Thanks for all the hard work. Use where needed.

Ed T., Retired E-42

Local 798,

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of my late husband Jim Pierce, 3-19-2003.

Thank you,
Maureen Pierce

Use check where needed.

Marilyn Gregg

March 2, 2009

Local 798,

Use the enclosed check as needed. Thank you again for the great retirement benefits and the compensation for the lump sum retirement pay.

Thankfully,
Armando Mayorga

3/2/2009

Dear John,

Thank you for all the Union does for all of us! Thanks for the great effort in providing additional lump sum retirement pay.

It was great to see you and the brothers at the crab feed at the Monte Cristo Club. It raised a lot of dough for "Make a Wish" Foundation!

I work part time with a Kevin Hanley at Beronio Lumber in the City. Any relation?

Thanks again for everything!

John Bettencourt

P.s. Enclosed is a to help with whatever the Union needs.

3/12/2009

Firefighters Local 798

President John Hanley,

Thanks very much for the stimulus check from the Kelly Lawsuit.

Your hard work for our members is much appreciated.

Enclosed check is for future legal work or whatever Union business needed.

Keep up the good fight.

Thanks again,
Bob Vandis
Retired

April 9, 2009

Enclosed check in loving memory

of August Pierucci, 5/24/1995.

Thank you,
Joan Pierucci

4/3/2009

Local 798,

Please continue to send the Main Line. Keep up the good work for all of us retirees to read.

Len & Helen Meiswinkel
Retired E32

April 13, 2009

Dear President Hanley,

Please use the enclosed check as you see fit. Additionally I want to thank Joe Moriarity for the help he has provided me in helping me and my family navigate through the last year.

Sincerely,
Christopher Zaczek

4/21/2009

S.F. Local 798,

Please continue the Main Line. Enclosed to help out.

John Dellinges

April 23, 2009

Local 798,

I was very impressed at the dedication at Station 28 last weekend. I'd like to offer a special "job well done" to Captain Fred Walsh.

Use the enclosed as needed.

Sincerely,
Frank Grimley

5/12/2009

In memory of Captain Ed McHugh of Truck 6 who was a great boss, and strong leader of his crew.

Also, "Bucko" Desmond who was killed in the line of duty at a working fire at Castro and Market Street thirty one years ago.

Thank you. Keep up the good work.

Al McCarthy
Retired – Truck 6

Station Stewards

Station 1	Michael Quinn
Station 2	Carla Bisio Murphy
Station 3	Chris Salas
Station 4	CLOSED
Station 5	Jim Mellberg
Station 6	Michael Horta
Station 7	Jose Zalba
Station 8	Derio Dito
Station 9	Christina Gibbs
Station 10	Sherman Tillman
Station 11	Ben Canedo
Station 12	Mike Belcher
Station 13	Dan Dunnigan
Station 14	Bruno Walther
Station 15	Bill Madsen
Station 16	Patric Steele
Station 17	Huckleberry Ramsay
Station 18	Daniel Tauber
Station 19	Kendrick Low
Station 20	Dean Whittaker
Station 21	Steve Finnegan
Station 22	Open
Station 23	O.J. Leonardo
Station 24	Open
Station 25	Kinnie Jamerson
Station 26	Randy Hendricks
Station 27	CLOSED
Station 28	Jason Woo
Station 29	Bridget Cullinane
Station 30	CLOSED
Station 31	Marcella Mc Cormack
Station 32	Tracey Courtney
	O'Keeffe
Station 33	Robert Lopez
Station 34	John Grant
Station 35	Jeanne Pinto
Station 36	Fred Putt
Station 37	Dave Amituanai
Station 38	Dominic Shanley
Station 39	Open
Station 40	Janice Hoaglin
Station 41	Christian Murphy
Station 42	Mike Guajardo
Station 43	Open
Station 44	Nathan Shapiro
Station 48	Todd Plunkett
Station 70	James Mogannam
AP 1	Terry Woo
AP 2	Bobby Jackson
AP 3	Open
BFI	Laura Kelly
BFP	Tom Harvey,
	Joe Cuff,
	Brian Ballard
BOE	Al Harvey
HQ	Kyle Merkins
RADIO	Anesto Estrella

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

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Local 798,

Please accept this somewhat late donation in memory of Tony Sacco. He was a great fireman and he worked tirelessly to get better benefits and working conditions for both active and retired members. Tony and I shared the Engine officers room at Station Five for almost twenty years and we were both members of the "Lieutenants for Life" club.

Thanks in no small part to the efforts of Tony and the other officers of Local 798, I and all the other retirees have a well funded and solvent retirement fund. In these hard times that is one less thing we have to worry about.

I am working on my seventeenth year of retirement and have hopes of joining the "Thirty in, Thirty out" Club, God willing.

My best to all. Be safe.

God Bless,
Jack Conway
Ret. Engine 5

San Francisco Firefighter Local 798

Please use this check where it is

most needed. I enjoy the Main Line information and catch-ups. Thanks for all you do for us retirees and families. Keep up the good work.

Bill Schorr Ret.

May 12, 2009

Local 798,

Please accept this donation in memory of my husband, Michael R. Warren (#678). Mike loved to read the Main Line and before his passing I read it to him when he no longer could do it himself. He worked hard to get on the department in the early 50's and loved his time with SFFD and the lifelong brotherhood it offered him and his family. His friends still contact me and help me out when needed. His legacy lives on with his son-in-law, grandson and a granddaughter who all became firefighters. I love the Inside Box photos and continue to enjoy receiving and reading each issue of the Main Line.

Thanks to all who Answer the Call,
Christine (Meg) Warren & Family

WANTED: EDITOR OF THE MAIN LINE

Requirement:

- Local 798 member in good standing
- Typing 60+ wpm

Job Duties:

- Working with Local 798 Publisher - Layout materials in digital format
- Touch up photographs (print / digital)
- Proof read submitted articles
- Deliver prepress digital documents to printers and final proof prior to print
- Pickup freshly printed Main Lines and deliver to Local 798 meetings
- Respond to working fires and other S.F.F.D. / Local 798 functions to take photographs
- Attend Local 798 Meetings

Working Knowledge (or equivalent):

- Microsoft Word
- Quark Xpress
- Adobe Photoshop

For more information, please contact:
Stephen Giacalone @ the Local 798 Union Office
415-621-7103

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WHAT HAS THE UNION DONE LATELY?

It amazes me how appreciative most members are when they retire. You hear almost everyone thank 798 for what they have done during their careers and for the long hours the officers and directors put in on our behalf of the members.

But, for some of those who retire unhappy with 798, or for the whiners who are in now but seem to find a way to complain about everything, what follows is a list of propositions sponsored by Local 798 going back to 1978. Remember that these were propositions that affected wages, benefits, and working conditions:

June 1978 Charter Amendment Proposition C - mandated by Charter law that the maximum work week for firefighters to be set at 48.7 hours per week.

June 1980 Charter Amendment Proposition F - mandated the 24-hour shift. In November 1975, a Supervisor sponsored a Charter Amendment to put firefighters on a split shift of 10-hour days and 14-hour nights. Local 798 took the issue to court and held up implementation until we could go back on the ballot.

Nov. 1983 Charter Amendment Proposition J - provided for any time in excess of 48.7 hours per week would be paid time and one-half.

Nov. 1986 State Issues: Proposition 61 - this was a State Constitutional Amendment that would have reduced retirement benefits of all public employees. The union worked with the State Firefighter organization and other public employees and labor groups to defeat this proposition.

Nov. 1988 State Issue: Proposition 97 - Local 798 worked with many groups, labor, public

employees, concerned employers, etc., to restore California OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health for the workers in California).

Nov. 1988 City Ordinance: Pre-Tax Health Costs - This issue involved getting the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance to allow City employees to pre-tax their health benefits. It allows an employee to take out the costs of any health benefits before being taxed, therefore increasing their take home pay.

Nov. 1988 Charter Amendment: Pre-Tax Retirement Contributions - This Charter Amendment allows City employees to pre-tax their retirement contributions to increase their take-home pay.

Nov. 1989 Charter Amendment: Proposition E - Financially supported retirement benefits Charter Amendment for firefighters and police officers.

June 1990 Charter Amendment: Proposition F - Supported an initiative Charter Amendment for restoration of staffing.

Nov. 1990 Charter Amendment: Proposition D - Passed Collective Bargaining with binding arbitration for firefighters and police officers.

Nov. 1996 Charter Amendment: Proposition D - This Charter Amendment passed improved disability and pension benefits for Tier II; 2% at age 50 to 2.75% at age 55.

Nov. 2002 Charter Amendment: Proposition H - This Charter Amendment improved pension benefits; 3% at age 55, with a maximum of 90%.

Nov. 2005 Ordinance for the

Administrative Code: Proposition F - Same impact as a Charter Amendment. Created Neighborhood Firehouse Protection Act for 42 engine companies, 18 truck companies, 2 rescue squads, etc.

Nov. 2006 Charter Amendment: Proposition H - ended and prevented firehouse brownouts.

So the next time someone is singing the "I'm getting screwed" blues, show them this list of benefits, and remind them what is going on around us at this time both in the public and private sector concerning employment and how 798 is working hard to protect everyone.

As I said when I retired (Jan. 2007- does time fly by!), thank you 798!

Stay safe,
Jim Connors

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 @ Station 7 or by email:
sffd.mainline@gmail.com

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May 16, 2009

Local 798,

Since Local 798 is working on a campaign to save our firehouses, I thought my story might help. Feel free to use it, edit it or throw it away.

Thanks for the great work.

Robyn Gralicer

T14

They Closed My Neighborhood Firehouse Then My House Caught Fire

Instead of opening a new fire house for a new sub-division our city relocated our firehouse to accommodate both neighborhoods. Trying to save more money, they also shrank personnel from four and five firefighters to three firefighters on an engine and three on a truck.

When my house caught fire, the first engine arrived in five and a half minutes because they happened to be in their rig coming from another call. Unfortunately, the crew had to wait for other engines and trucks to come from across town and a neighboring city.

In San Francisco, the average time for water on the fire is under four minutes. Even though my fire department performed a stellar job with the resources they had, what would have been a small kitchen fire in San Francisco, became a total loss of my house and the lives of three family pets.

In addition to the obvious lost of our pets, all our belongings, family memories, and the emotional trauma, our lives were turned upside down for two and a half years. Yes the insurance company did pay for a rental the first year, but they took one and a half years to settle our claim. During that time, we were not allowed to remove the evidence or rebuild.

During that year and a half, I had to hire a company to prove the value of the structural damage and I was required to list every single item in my house, how long I owned it, where it was purchased, how much I paid, and the replacement cost. After

all of that, they still only paid sixty percent of the value.

Once the insurance company finally settled, the check was immediately handed over to the mortgage company who would not pay until months after the work was completed and proof was submitted. Basically, I became financially responsible for my mortgage, rent, and payments on a construction loan.

The hardest part of dealing with the enormous emotional and financial distress was the knowledge that this was just a kitchen fire. If our fire department had kept its resources, it would have been contained to one room.

If my story is not enough to convince you to keep your neighborhood firehouses open and staffed, think about the fact that my house was a detached property on one-third of an acre, in a quiet suburb, with flat topography. Place the same situation in San Francisco? The entire block would have been homeless.

SUBMISSIONS:

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

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2009 / JULY 20, 2009

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2009 / SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010 / NOVEMBER 20, 2009

FROM THE DIRECTORS . . .



By Dan Gracia, Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's getting to be summertime so I'll try to be brief. Let's start with Fred Walsh' Station 28 Plaque Memorial - it was a tremendous success, well attended with a very strong reception from the residents in that neighborhood regarding the Campaign To Keep Our Firehouses Open. Fred has since retired and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Speaking of the campaign, the turnout to walk

precincts has been fair to moderate this time around with our active membership but I am pleased to say that several of our retired members have shown up to help. Thanks guys! Hopefully in the future, membership participation will improve OR I might have to have Mark Sikora write another motivational letter.

There will be street fairs and other neighborhood events all summer. It will be in all of our best interests to attend these and educate the neighbors and business owners about the dangers of possible brownouts and/or closures.

Recently several supervisors have attacked our hours and are in the process of trying to change them through the Charter. This is something that affects all of us that work in the field and should be considered an attack on the working class. Hopefully our letter writing campaign to the Board of Supervisors will put a stop to this blatant assault on our working conditions.

Softball season is wrapping up. Hope to see everyone out at the Park June 16th for an exciting day of playoffs, championship game and BBQ, etc.

Remember, greatness and respect are earned not awarded.

Thank you. Hope to see you soon.

Dan Gracia

DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



By Michael A. Walsh, Director

Giving something back can mean so much in a person's life. As Fire Fighters, we are just ordinary people doing extraordinary work. The Executive Board of Local 798 asks that you consider supporting the following charities that have been set up to help others in their time of need. You can dedicate your donation in memory of a loved one, in their honor, or in their memory. Please give and make a difference in someone's life. Your Executive Board recommends the following charities:

1. San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 Surviving

Families Fund - FEIN# 95-4891917: This fund was originally called the Widows and Orphans Fund. This Fund helps families of fallen firefighters not only here in San Francisco but throughout the US and Canada.

2. San Francisco Fire Fighters Cancer Prevention Foundation - FEIN # 56-2608686: Helping fund research and finding the reason and possible cure for the high number of cancer cases among firefighters.

3. San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program - FEIN# 94-2598851: This program brings joy and happiness to over 20,000 children who would ordinarily not have any Christmas. This is the oldest organized toy program in the country.

In lieu of flowers, consider a Donation, and make a difference today.

To contribute to any of the above charities

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO the specific fund listed above. Please remember to make a notation on the check to whom the donation is made in memory of.

PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO: San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 1139 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Please call the Union office at 415-621-7103 if you have any questions. We will be happy to help you.

FROM THE DIRECTORS . . .



By Shon Buford, Director

Greetings

Brothers and Sisters, this is my first article since 2008. With that said, let me start off by acknowledging Frank Kelly for his time and service, and for everything he did for this union. Frank Kelly and Brendan Ward were both honored with plaques at the December 2008 union meeting for their outstanding service, and for the wealth of information they brought to the Board, and this Local. I would like to especially thank Frank Kelly for the extra time he would take out of his days to help me through my first few months as a new Board member.

The job as a member of our Executive Board takes you from 0 to 60 in about 4 seconds. For this reason, I was thankful to have other people, both past and present board members, who also invested their time to help me get up to speed. Men like John Hanley, Big Terry Smith, Jim Vannucchi, and Dennis Kruger to name a few. Dennis spent over 17 years serving as a Director for our Local. Dennis served on many committees, but the two that come to mind first are Health Services, and as the Director overseeing Station Stewards. It was with great pleasure that we were able to honor Dennis with a plaque of his own at this past 2009 Station Stewards Luncheon.

Family Matters

Like Brother Gracia stated in the past *Main Line*, "in light of so much bad news... I'm compelled to write about something good". That is easier said than done. The economy is bad, unfair labor practices have been waged against us, and we've suffered through two of the worst injuries to firefighters that we've seen in quite some time. That's enough to make the strongest person go insane.

Writing is not strength of mine. Out of all my duties as a Director, writing articles for the *Mainline* is my least

favorite. I often find myself having "writers block" and unable to carry on. I'll spend days, sometimes weeks, going back and forth in my head, trying to find the right words to convey my thoughts. It is not until the eve of the deadline that I usually pull out all the stops, trying to find that one topic that can pull me through. I've used everything from old issues of *Mainlines*, A Book of Quotations, the Bible, newspapers, photographs, and emails. It was one of my emails that led me to write about family matters.

"Family Matters" was the topic of my daily devotionals. Although the context of the devotional is of personal beliefs, the title itself got me thinking... and asking... - What is the most important thing to most people (family and for firefighters) that tends to be especially true? There's already something about us that allows is the put others first, and ourselves second. We are willing to take the life we have, and put it on the line to save another.

The word *family* is now used to describe many different types of relationships. You have your typical parent child relationship, siblings, cousins, in-laws, and sometimes close friends. I feel blessed to belong to such a large family (my Grandfather, the oldest of twelve who moved to San Francisco with my grandmother after WWII to raise a large family of their own). It is for that reason, belonging to a large family, that all I've learned how to share and get along.

There are many other types of relationships that people would consider to be *family*, but here I want to focus on the *family* in the fire service. I've been with the San Francisco Fire Department for 16 years now. Prior to that, I worked for San Francisco Unified School District as a Paraprofessional, aka Teachers Assistant. I've always had the desire to help other people and I believe this desire came about from my appreciation of the help others have given me... It's my appreciation for others that allows me to enjoy my job as a Director.

The economy is hurting, and people are going to need to band together. Brothers and sisters, we have a fight on our hands. A fight, if lost, will not just affect our "traditional families", but also our fire department, the fire service, and labor as a whole. Most importantly, it would affect the neighborhoods of San Francisco. I hear talks of protecting our most vulnerable, and I agree. The difference is I believe the most vulnerable is anyone who calls 911 for our assistance. When that tone goes off, and that dispatch is given, whoever is on the other end of that call becomes our first priority. The voters of San Francisco have spoken, let City Hall listen. They want to have their protection intact when needed.

It is for that reason that I'm asking for a little more out of you. It is time for all of us to take up a little more slack,

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

and make sure the voices of San Franciscans are heard. Please take out time to come by, or call the Hall to see how you can help. The members of the Executive Board have been working long hours in the communities, up at City Hall, and talking to other labor groups to see how we can do our part. I know how difficult it is at times, especially with younger kids, but remember, it's their future will are fighting for.

Updates

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that Brother Chris Posey and Brother Mike Estrada are both in good spirits, and they continue to work endlessly towards a speedy recovery. The truth is, they both have a long road ahead of them, but they also have the will and determination to get through. I spent some time with Chris this past weekend, and it's nice to see him able to talk a little longer, and walk a little further. Chris, know that we are here for you.

Mike Estrada asked me to share a few words with you. The last time we met, he asked me to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, and kind words. Michael has been provided with the best care possible by the medical staff at both San Francisco General and St. Mary's Hospital here in San Francisco. Let's remember to thank them...kind words go a long way. Mike also asked me to remind people that he loves the visits, so please come by. I just ask that when his family is around, let's be mindful of their time.

In conclusion, I have attached an article written by Natalie Levchenko, on behalf of the Physical Fitness Committee. Enjoy.

Climb California 2009 One step at a time...

On Saturday, March 28, 2009, 63 individuals representing the San Francisco Fire Department Team climbed 52 flights of stairs (1,197 stairs, to be exact) in honor of Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Posey and in support of the American Lung Association.

It was the third annual Climb California Stair Climb Event and the third year that the SFFD has participated. This year we raised \$15,799. The SFFD was the third fastest team with an average climb time of 14.2 minutes, the highest in fundraising among company teams and the sixth highest out of 120 total teams.

There were champions among us such as Mike Estrada, Mariano Elias, Steve Finnegan, and Thomas Johannesson who made incredible time in full turnouts and SCBA's. We, the participants of Climb California 2009, would like to acknowledge Max Talmadge, son of Mindy Talmadge, who won first place in his age category; go Max.

Thanks to the Team Captains, Greg Collaco, Rafael Gordon, Kathy Gilbraith, Lance Martin, Patrick Hannan and Pablo Siguenza for their leadership and recruitment of team members. Many individuals raised a substantial amount of money and everyone contributed and we would like to say thank you for your efforts and time spent fundraising for this great event. A special thanks to Lalanne Fitness who helped with the trainings and warm-up prior to the climb.

Lung cancer kills more men and women than breast, cervical, ovarian and prostate cancers combined. Additionally, 20,000 Californians die prematurely every year from poor air quality. One in six Bay Area children are afflicted with asthma, a statistic which has doubled in the last 20 years. The Climb Team of the San Francisco Firefighters is proud to support the American Lung Association in their continued efforts to raise money for research and treatment for those suffering from lung related illnesses.

This year's climb had a special significance in that one of our brothers now struggles with lung disease after his injury in the Felton Street fire. After being in a coma and ventilator dependent for weeks, Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Posey has made a remarkable recovery, but still battles with the repercussions of lung damage. An especially poignant moment at this year's climb was the sight of Chris, his wife, and his four children at the top of the 52 flights amidst clamoring and cheers by all. It was well worth the climb to see Chris so well and smiling!

The event was capped with a celebration party amidst the breathtaking views of the Carnelian Room where everyone was able to enjoy delicious food, good music and complimentary massages. Climb California is a great event. We hope to see you there next year!!

San Francisco Fire Department Team Climb Participants

Scott Barney	Fred Bothe
Karla Brennan	Shon Buford
Norm Caba	Greg Collaco
Tim Collins	Paul Conroy
Megan Conroy	Georgina Costales
Jeff Covitz	Mike Day
Patti Doleschal	Ken Dunn
Dan Dunnigan	Mariano Elias
Mike Estrada	Steve Finnegan
Michele Frederick	Kathleen Gilbraith
Rafael Gordon	Michael Gordon

Continued on page 17

2009 FERGUSON SCHOLARSHIP



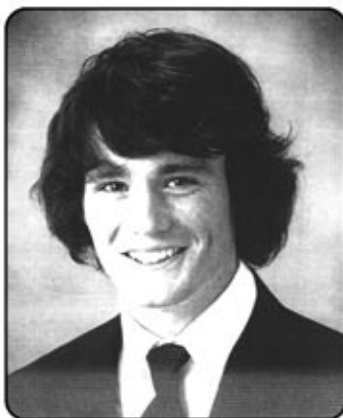
Austin Hallgren

Union members earn better wages and benefits than workers who aren't union members. On average, union workers' wages are 30 percent higher than their nonunion counterparts. While only 14 percent of nonunion workers have guaranteed pensions, fully 68 percent of union workers do. More than 97 percent of union workers have jobs that provide health insurance benefits, but only 85 percent of nonunion workers do. Unions help employers create a more stable, productive workforce – where workers have a say in improving their jobs. Workers want to form unions so they can have a voice on the job to improve their lives, their families and communities.

Dear Local 798,

Thank you for awarding me the James T. Ferguson Scholarship, this award make paying for college that much easier. For my dad as a firefighter, Local 798 does great things; now, as I enter college, Local 798 has done something great for me! Once again, Thank You!

Sincerely,
Austin Hallgren
UCSD – Class of 2013



Jeff Mitchell

Why My Dad Belongs to a Union

My father, Captain Bill Mitchell, has been a member of San Francisco Firefighters Union since joining the fire department in 1980. He believes that the strong bond formed by the many union members has been a cornerstone of the union's success over the years, giving members benefits such as: fair wages, good health benefits, and a practical retirement plan. As the primary supporter of the family, these benefits have allowed us to live comfortably as a middle class family. I am a firm believer that the union has been an integral part of his success.

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I wish to convey my gratitude to SFFD Local 798 for awarding me the James T. Ferguson Scholarship. At this time next year I will be studying engineering at UCSB. The Ferguson Scholarship will assist in defraying the increasing cost of college tuition. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Jeff Mitchell



Nina Reyes

I have seen how demanding yet rewarding being a SFFD can be. Local 798 look out for their members. They provide their members with benefits while they are currently on duty as well as into their later years into retirement. One thing that sets Local 798 apart from the rest is providing great retirement plans for all their members. Local 798 has fought hard for their members to provide them with a better retirement plan compared to private sectors. My father, being a member, know he is in good hands with people who have his best interest at heart.

Dear Local 798,

I would like to take the time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Ferguson scholarship. Winning this award means a great deal to me. This scholarship will help me further my education, which is imperative in this day and age. While writing the essay, I learned a great deal about the Firefighters' Union and how essential it is to its' members. This was a great experience that I am truly grateful for to be a part of. Thank you again Local 798!

Sincerely,
Nina Reyes

Why My Dad Belongs to a Union

By: Amanda Vannucchi

Wages. Safety. Benefits. Working Conditions. These are but a few of the reason why my dad has chosen to belong to a union.

A day rarely goes by when my father reinforces the reasons why belonging to a labor organization is vital to any worker in American society. He reminds both my brother and I that it was not so many years ago when firefighters did not have dental coverage, a fair pension or basic time-and-a-half when one chose to work an overtime shift. Overtime was always paid as straight wages.

Working together as one in the form of a Union changed the entire playing field to make it level and fair for all workers involved. Belonging to a labor organization helps to provide a solid life for the worker and his or her family. Without it, I would not have enjoyed the opportunities to move forward in life.



ACADEMY of ART UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS



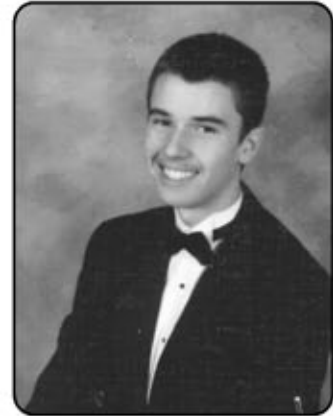
Mara Gracia

April 28, 2009

Dear Local 798,

Thank you so much for giving me this scholarship. I never thought I would be so fortunate and lucky. Words really can't explain how happy and thankful I am. I'm very anxious to get started with school and show you all my talents at the Academy of Art. This opportunity is one in a million and I am truly blessed. Thank you so much and God bless.

From,
Mara Gracia



Jared Amdahl

DRAGON BOAT RACE - SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

The AFA sponsors a Dragon Boat (Firedragons) team to participate in the annual Dragon Boat Festival at Treasure Island on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009. The last two years the Firedragons won the novice division led by Patty Lui. She decided to step down. It takes 20 paddlers (12 men and 8 women) to paddle the boat. There are three races that the team will compete in. It's a fun

time to bring family and friends and make a day out of it. There's food and free activities at the festival. For more information about the Dragon Boat Festival copy this link <http://sfdragonboat.com>. If you want to paddle, contact me at Station #7 or email me at firemango@hotmail.com.

Doug Manguiat

62nd Anniversary Memorial Mass

Date: Sunday, September 13, 2009

Time: 10:30 am

Location: St. Monica's Church

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 @ Station 7 or by email: sffd.mainline@gmail.com

THE INSIDE BOX

RETIRED MEMBER'S CORNER, LOCAL 798

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 - 110-112 GEARY BLVD. - MAY 27, 1939

THE INSIDE BOX

RETIRED MEMBER'S CORNER, LOCAL 798

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 . . .



JUNE 24, 1939

FIRE IN THE CITY: THE SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT, ONCE AGAIN, COMES TO THE RESCUE

By John Gollin

On December 29, 2008, the unexpected and unthinkable happened. At 5 a.m., a fire began in, and eventually consumed, a three-story building at 41 Barcelona Avenue in San Francisco, and quickly spread to the adjacent two-story building, which I co-own and where I reside.

I decided to write about my fire experience as a testament to the men and women of the San Francisco Fire Department who saved my home.

For the more than thirty years I've lived in San Francisco it has seemed as if almost every day I hear the blare of fire engine sirens somewhere in the City. In the past I didn't think much about it. But now after "my fire", when I hear those sirens, I say a little prayer asking God to protect the firefighters who are speeding to save lives and property. And then I thank God, for sending that group of firefighters to me four months ago, when they saved my property, and most likely saved my life.

My Fire Story

I'm not much of a sleeper, so it wasn't unusual for me to be half-awake in the early morning hours of December 29.

I heard what I thought were raindrops hitting the bushes just below my bedroom window. The rain soon graduated to hail, which, a few minutes later was pinging against the window. I glanced over at my little dog, Max. In his younger days, any foreign sound in the dark would have gotten him up and barking. This day he lay still on his back in deep sleep, snoring.

Minutes passed. The hail grew in intensity. "It must be a storm," I thought. I waited for a crescendo of thunder. Thunder never came. The hail hitting my window got louder and didn't let up. I got out of bed to investigate. Pulling open my heavy blackout drapes, I saw bright orange

walnut-sized bits of burning wood striking my window. The backyard was lit up like daylight. "What the hell is going on?" I thought to myself.

I raced from my room, down the hall to a door leading to the backyard. Stepping out onto the porch I saw the totally unbelievable sight – a massive fire engulfing the building directly north of mine. Shocked by the sight, all I could think was that I had to get Max and get out. I ran back to my room, pulled on some clothes, grabbed the still-sleeping Max, and bolted for the front door. Before exiting, I took a few seconds to scan for my prized "Obama for President" cap. It was nowhere in sight. Out the door I went, thinking, "I'll never see this place again."

The air smelled of smoke. The street filled with activity – firefighters running, pulling fire hoses to the blaze, neighbors emerging from houses, police and media helicopters hovering, with sirens in the distance getting louder. Reinforcements were on the way.

I maneuvered myself to the opposite side of the street, carefully stepping over the snaking fire hoses. I took a position between my neighbor, Gregg, and new neighbors, Lauren and Javier. Then I turned to look at the fire – still an unbelievable sight for me – flames shooting into the night sky.

Scores of firefighters attacked the inferno head-on. It was an impossible battle. (I was later told by one of the firefighters that by the time the SFFD had been called and had arrived at the building, it was already fully engulfed in flames.)

Someone standing behind me pointed out that the fire had spread to my roof. "That's it," I thought, "my house is a goner for sure!" The firefighters had their hands full with the main blaze and didn't seem to notice the fire on my roof. Someone gingerly suggested to me my life would

never be the same. He was assuming what I was assuming: that because of the power of the fire, my building was doomed to the same unfortunate fate as my neighbor's building. We were wrong.

At that moment a phalanx of firefighters marched down the entrance walkway to my building. I couldn't see, but could hear, the ramming down of the front doors to the apartments above mine. My upstairs neighbors, building co-owners and best friends, Dean Ferguson and Elizabeth Gardner, who occupy the second floor apartments along with their daughters, Marina and Alina, were away in Southern California for the holidays. For extra security they had bolted their entrance doors shut before heading south to L.A.

Lights went on in the front apartment. About 10 firefighters poured into the living room, pulled down the drapes, opened the windows, and began chopping into the walls and ceiling with their axes. Ladders went up onto our roof. Fire hoses were pulled up after them. More hoses were pulled up the front steps into the apartments. Within what seemed like only a few minutes, firefighters had doused the hot spots and the fire in my building was out. The worst had not happened for me. "Thank God" and "God bless you, firefighters," I thought to myself.

An hour or so later when the fire was fully extinguished in both structures, the firefighters rolled up their hoses, packed up their gear, and headed back to their stationhouses.

At the fire's peak, the SFFD estimated 92 firefighters were fighting the blaze. Chief Joanne Hayes-White was onsite much of the morning.

After the fire, throughout that day, SFFD vehicles and department personnel returned to our street, checking the scene, making sure the blaze

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Continued from previous page

hadn't flared up. Each time they waved "hello" and asked, "How are you doing, sir?" "Is there anything we can do to assist you?"

The diligence and dedication of the SFFD has continued during the 17 weeks since December 29, the day of the fire. On at least 10 occasions when I happened to be in front of my building, a fire truck with crew has pulled up. They disembark and walk over to 41 Barcelona, the site of the main fire.

They check the building and talk to the owners or contractors when they're around, and they check in with me, wanting to know how things are going. "When will your reconstruction begin?" they ask. I always think how amazing it is that, weeks after the fire, they still show up. They still care.

These firefighters took, and are still taking, my fire very personally. It's as if it happened to them. While researching the facts for this story, I've talked to numerous firefighters. They've told me they view themselves as guardians of the city: protectors of life and property. They've indicated that they do take every fire personally. If a fire happens in San Francisco, their city, then it's happened to them. It's that simple.

We San Franciscans are so fortunate to have this fire department with these firefighters and Chief Joanne Hayes-White at the helm, protecting us and our city.

Support the San Francisco Fire Department

Two months ago San Francisco Firefighters Union Local 798 began running full-page ads in various community newspapers including this month's Northside San Francisco and the Marina Times. They're asking for our readers' support to prevent the return of "brownouts" – the practice of decommissioning between

four to six fire engines every day on a rotating basis.

In 2005, the citizens of San Francisco voted in favor of a ballot initiative, Proposition F, also known as the Neighborhood Firehouse Protection Act. This initiative mandates that all of San Francisco's firehouses remain fully staffed and continually in operational order 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Prior to its passage, the City had the authority, for budgetary reasons, to temporarily close fire stations and/or take fire department vehicles out of service.

In these financially challenging times, when budget cuts are being called for, there may be some politicians who are considering creative ways to circumvent the will of the people, and again make brownouts a standard practice. These politicians may feel that in some neighborhoods part-time firehouses would be adequate to protect the citizens of those particular San Francisco communities.

That's just not an option that I think we San Franciscans can accept. Please see the firefighters' full page ad in this issue and give the San Francisco Fire Department and its heroic men and women your full support. They deserve nothing less.

Reprinted from the May 2009 Edition of the Northside San Francisco

Buford

Continued from page 11

Smarty Grealish
Francisca Hamilton
Thomas Haney
Patrick Hannan
Carole Hays
Annie Hoddinott
James Jenkins
Thomas Johannessen
Danielle Johnson
Clint Johnson
Marie Jones
Alexander Jones
Mary Kucel
Natalie Levchenko
Cyndy Lucero
Michael Marks
Lance Martin
Todd Martin
Kimberly McKeon
Cliff Merrill
Deya Montalvo
Kristina Nelson
Brendan O'Leary
Jill Peeler
Dana Pompeo
Ricky Purviance
Amea Rusche
Julio Salgado
Greg Savin
Pablo Siguenza
Ellen Skiles
Richard Smith
Darrell Stone
Brad Straw
David Sweeney
Mindy Talmadge
Max Talmadge
Timothy Trush
Arnold Traynis
Kailin Waterman
Donovan Whitehurst
Joshua Wilson



FIRE IN THE CITY: SAY NO TO BROWNOUTS

By John Gollin

Since the fire in my home on December 29, 2008, I've taken a special interest in everything related to the San Francisco Fire Department.

I've been paying particular attention lately to the City's budget process, which in part has focused on the Fire Department and Supervisor John Avalos's intention to reinstitute brownouts in the City. Brownouts are an approach to managing firefighters' work schedules that would frequently shut down neighborhood firehouses, as a way to trim the department's budget.

On Tuesday, May 12, ignoring the opinions of the vast majority of the most knowledgeable fire-fighting professionals in the nation and city voters, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 7 to 3 to recommend to the mayor that he institute brownouts.

In his presentation to the full board urging them to support brownouts, Budget and Finance Committee chairman, Supervisor John Avalos, took City firefighters to task for their two-month campaign alerting San Francisco citizens to the potential that this Board of Supervisors might attempt to bring back brownouts.

Avalos was clearly annoyed that the firefighters had initiated their campaign as he said, "before there was any real discussion at the Board of Supervisors or in the budget committee about brownouts," and that the firefighters had targeted "the Board of Supervisors as politicians who were playing with the public safety."

The fact is that months ago word from City Hall was that certain members of the Board of Supervisors were talking about bringing back brownouts. When the firefighters got wind of this they took action. That's what firefighters do: they take action. When they see or anticipate a threat to public safety, they take action. San Francisco firefighters (and a majority of San Franciscans) view brownouts

as a serious threat to public safety.

After taking the firefighters to task for what has turned out to be an obviously necessary campaign, Avalos did what he said he wasn't going to do: He began to play politics with the issue of brownouts.

He went through a list of other City departments and programs detailing their significant, and in some cases, devastating, cuts and layoffs. Then Avalos played the political card as he attempted to pit these departments against the Fire Department, referring to the other departments' program cuts and job losses as "blackouts." Then he said that if these departments have to endure blackouts, the Fire Department can surely accept brownouts, which in Avalos's assessment would have minimal or no impact on public safety. He told his fellow board members that he believed brownouts could be done in a "precise" and "thoughtful" manner.

Avalos characterized the firefighters as unwilling to share the pain of other City departments. He complained that the Fire Department is "only" taking a 12.5 percent budget reduction while other departments are absorbing "upwards of 25 percent" in cuts. In his comparison, Avalos was suggesting that the Fire Department is looking after its own interests to the exclusion of those of the greater community, implying that San Francisco firefighters are solely concerned with protecting their own turf.

What Supervisor Avalos fails to understand is that the San Francisco Fire Department's interests are our interests. Their turf is our turf. They are our first responders, our first line of defense against the utter devastation fires can potentially bring to anyone here in San Francisco, at any time. Fires are unpre-

dictable. I know this firsthand.

John Avalos is wrong when he states with almost certainty that "brownouts of Fire Department services can be done with minimal or no impact to public safety." Fires do not hold to any particular schedule or any particular pattern. San Francisco's fire-fighting professionals, from Chief Joanne Hayes-White through the ranks, know this. That is why they are unanimous in their opposition to brownouts.

San Francisco's citizens are very wise. We know that it makes good sense to listen to the professionals when it comes to fire preparedness and policy. It is not just firefighters who think that brownouts are bad policy. We the citizens of San Francisco think brownouts are bad policy. We made that very clear in the election of 2005, voting in landslide proportions of 58 percent to 42 percent against the implementation of brownouts. Instead of respecting that vote, the majority of this Board of Supervisors has chosen to ignore it. Supervisors Bevan Dufty, Michela Alioto-Pier and Sean Elsbernd were the three exceptions who chose to listen to San Francisco citizens and voted against brownouts. Supervisor Carmen Chu has a personal connection to the SFFD so she abstained from the vote, but most surely would have voted against brownouts.

The ball is now in Mayor Newsom's court. He will decide the brownout issue. I urge you to contact him (415-554-6141 or gavin.newsom@sfgov.org). Let him know that you support Chief Joanne Hayes-White and the firefighters of the San Francisco Fire Department in their opposition to brownouts.

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FIREFIGHTING HEROES

When I was writing the story about the fire in my house, which appeared in the May issue of Northside San Francisco ("San Francisco firefighters save the day: A personal story"), I was planning to print the names of all the individual firefighters, who on December 29, 2008, fought the fire at 41 Barcelona Avenue and in my house at 33 Barcelona. I wanted to call them out individually, and include their names with the story as my way of thanking them for all that they had done for me. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to gather the names in time to make the deadline for the May issue. Thanks to the much-appreciated assistance of SFFD Public Information Officer, Lt. Mindy Talmadge, I can now share with you the names of all of those firefighters.

This great group includes:

Lt. Brian Walsh
FF Kathleen McElheney
FF Kimberly Grinton
FF Edward Amit
Lt. Dennis Sullivan
FF Dee Lau
FF Rick Figari
FF George Kouremetis
Lt. Richard Gering
FF Thomas Fogle
FF Gerald Gauer
T/Lt. Annie Hoddinott
FF Jamie Boyle
FF Patricia Fallon
FF Todd Prakin
FF Leonardo Harris
BC Matt McNaughton
BC Monica Fields
ISS Al Joe
AC Johnny Lo
ISS Arnold Woo
T/Lt. Eric Botelho
FF Barry Lo
FF Jerry Chiang
PM Pedro Nuno Vieira
EMT Matthew Faris
Lt. Matthew Cannon
FF Dominic Shanley
FF Denise Pemberton
FF/PM Denise Bailey

RC Daniel Casey
T/Lt. Jason Mishler
FF Paul Saitz
FF Ramon Simon
FF Edgar Covarrubias
Capt. Patrick Mullaney
FF William Carle
FF/PM Frederick Putt
FF/PM Brook Mancinelli
T/Lt. Stephen Giacalone
FF Sean Visser
FF Privado Gumbay
FF John Stanfield
T/Lt. Aaron Stevenson
FF Denny Acosta
FF Theodore Creighton
FF Dewayne Eckerdt
Lt. Mark Castagnola
FF Henry Scoble
FF Brian Barden
FF Ivan Gomez
FF Paul Daijo
BC Rudy Castellanos
PM Joshua Hoyt
EMT Arthur King Jr.
Lt. Andrew Saitz
FF Colin Mackenzie
FF Keith Onishi
FF Conrad Brosas
T/Lt. Patricia Lui
FF Emmon Lew
FF Michael Kricken
FF Timothy Tiernan
Capt. Jonathan Low
FF Douglas Manguiat
FF Mariano Elias Jr.
FF Thomas Busby
Lt. Pierre Francois
FF Gil Jacobs Jr.
FF Michael Castain
FF Daniel Fleming
Lt. Frank Cercos IV
FF Mark Sikora
FF Timothy Sullivan
FF Chris Salas
FF/PM Brian Murphy
BC Dennis Sutter
RC Perry Saxton
Lt. Frank Hsieh
FF Brian Jesson
FF Deryk Lee
FF Dave DeJesus
FF Garret Lucier
PM Veronica Riddick
PM Joshua Smith
SC Sebastian Wong

And their companies are:

1st Alarm

Engine 21
Engine 10
Engine 5
Engine 38
Truck 10
Truck 5
Battalion 4
Battalion 2
Division 2
Rescue Squad 1
Medic 88
Rescue Captain 2

2nd Alarm

Engine 6
Engine 36
Engine 12
Engine 3
Truck 6
Battalion 7
Medic 67

3rd Alarm

Engine 1
Engine 41
Engine 7
Engine 40
Truck 3
Truck 12
Battalion 3
Rescue Captain 4

*Reprinted from the June 2009 Edition
of the Northside San Francisco*



STATION 28 MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION - APRIL 18, 2009

On Saturday April 18th members of Station 28 and I hosted our firehouse memorial plaque dedication and a celebration recognizing Station 28's 96 years of service at 1814 Stockton St.

The event was a huge success for our Union, our Department, our North Beach neighbors, and most importantly for the 21 relatives, of the line of duty death firefighters named on Station 28's Memorial Plaque, who attended our event.

I would first like to acknowledge retired firefighter and former Local 798 Union Rep. Dennis Kruger for his hard work in creating the memorial plaques in front of every firehouse in San Francisco. All of us owe a debt of gratitude and thanks for his vision to create a lasting memorial to each of these San Francisco firefighters who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

I made Engine 28 as Captain in January of 2008. In the Comm. Room/kitchen of Station 28 there is an historical photo of the opening day ceremonies of the dedication of Fire Station 28 at 1814 Stockton St. The date was March 9, 1913

I kept on looking at this photo during the summer of 2008 and thought some sort of anniversary street party would be good for the neighborhood. Our firehouse plaque had 4 names on it. My brother Mike and Station 7 had organized an excellent well attended plaque dedication in October 2001. Mike and I and a few of us from Station 28 started to come up with a plan in the late fall of 2008 to have a 96th anniversary and a plaque dedication in 2009.

Following is a brief history of the 4 firefighters named on station 28's plaque:

- FF Henry Heffernan fell off the 3rd story of the old department training tower at 300 Francisco Street in 1902. He died at the scene.
- Lt Charles McCarthy died at a multiple car fire in an auto dealership on Van Ness Ave. in 1942.

- Lt. Patrick Brannigan died at the Simmons Warehouse fire on Bay and Stockton Streets in 1963.

- FF Gary Nisidio died of a heart attack at Station 28 after coming back from fighting an apartment fire in the public housing projects in Chinatown in 1969.

Several retired firefighters that I knew had known Lt. Pat Brannigan and his family from 26th Ave. Jack O'Leary, Al Quartoli, John Guiral and Jim McHugh had been friends with Nancy and Jimmy Brannigan. Nancy and Jimmy's sister Jeannie was 3 months old when Pat died in 1963. Nancy was in 8th grade and Jimmy was in 7th grade.

In early January, I wrote Nancy a letter with our idea of a plaque dedication to honor her father. Jimmy had died in 1987. Nancy contacted me several weeks later and said she would love to see this event happen.

The Nisidio family was contacted and also was very excited about this event.

I had a vision of closing off the 1800 block of Stockton Street to traffic and turning our block into a photographic display of old and present day fire photos and historical photos of North Beach and San Francisco presented on art easels lined up and down the street. Some antique fire apparatus on display. We could decorate the front of the fire station with red white and blue bunting. This was donated by a company in Santa Rosa. I had seen their flag display, during the Sonoma county fair in July of 2008.

This event could allow all of our neighbors to meet and visit retired and active sfdd members. I had to have some great background music on a good sound system. Tony Bennett, Glenn miller, carol king. Lt John Chung gave me the name of Jaime McGoldrick who volunteered his sound system and was our music guy. I then needed to have 2 bagpipers and a woman to sing Danny

Boy. I found a great combination.

Clone graphics in Santa Rosa developed a really effective eye catching flyer on post card size and 8x11 size. We put a box in front of the firehouse and started handing them out and talking it up. A groundswell of interest started. The chamber of commerce publicized this event on their website. The S.F. Fire Credit Union donated \$500.00. Local 798 was behind this event from the beginning and gave us more financial support. There were other details to be worked out.

It worked. The weather on April 18th was perfect. The relatives had traveled a long way from different parts were clearly moved by the number of neighbors, friends and firefighters who came to honor their lost loved ones. These relatives reconnected with each other in a positive way. Neighbors met new friends. Many of our neighbors brought cookies to share.

All of the people were moved by the San Francisco Fire Department fire photos, and the poster of the FDNY firefighters who died on 9/11.

Acknowledgements

A very special thanks to Local 798 and President John Hanley for their financial and moral support from the beginning.

A big thank you for Chief Joanne Hayes-White and Deputy Chief Pat Gardner and everyone at the Chief's office for their support and trust.

Thanks to Supervisor David Chiu for attending this event and giving an excellent speech.

A big thanks to Div 2 Chief Art Kenney who supported us along the way and helped out on the day of this event.

Thanks to our Union Reps. Dan Gracia, Tom O'Connor, Jim Vannucchi, Shon Buford, Floyd Rollins, Mike A. Walsh (my brother is Mike M. Walsh) and Stephen Giacalone.

A huge thank you to my brother retire Firefighter Mike M. Walsh who

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

was with me from the start, even on those "what if it rains" or the "what if no one comes or even cares" concerns that I thought about at 3am for 2 months (ask my wife).

A special thanks to those members of Station 28, who volunteered their time and interest.

A big thank you to Capt. Jerry Keohane and Paul Barry for helping with the street closure and the 1937 SFFD Rescue Squad apparatus.

A special thanks to Station 2 Captains Mike Rolovich, George Garcia and all of the guys at Station 2 who helped with the event set up on April 18th

Thanks to Battalion 1 Chiefs Al Lee, Mike Morris, Steve Smith and Vic Wyrsh.

A big thanks to the San Francisco Fire Reserve people who did a great job handing out fire safety information to visitors

A big thanks to Capt. Mike Bello and all the guys at Rescue 1 for attending this event and helping out.

Thanks to Firefighter/Paramedic Kathy Gilbraith for all of her help on the apparatus floor

A special thanks to Phil Reed of the Phoenix Society and retired Firefighter Bill Koenig of the Historical Society and Fire Museum for their research on Engine and Station 28.

Thanks to all of the retired and active SFFD firefighters who took the time to attend this event.

Thank you to retired Firefighters Jack O'Leary, Al Quartoli, John Guiral and Jim McHugh. Nancy Brannigan really loved seeing you guys. It truly meant a lot to her.

All of us are proud of this event. We did it for the families of the deceased firefighters, our neighbors, our friends and for all of us in the San Francisco Fire Dept.

I retired on May 14th. Thanks to all of the members of Engine 41, Station 1, Station 7, Station 11 ... And everyone I had the pleasure to work with. Thank you.

In closing, I want to thank all of those firefighters and officers I have worked with in my career, who truly

gave their heart (even during some frustrating times) their laughter and their pride to our job. You will never be forgotten.

Thank you,
Fred Walsh



Photos by Dawn Rosales





SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIREHOUSES

FACT CHECK

San Francisco Firefighters Work the Longest Hours of Any Major Urban Fire Department¹

1. When compared to American cities of greater than 350,000 residents, with more than 10,000 people per square mile, San Francisco firefighters work the longest hours of any major urban Fire Department.

City	Average Work Week	Population (2000)	Residents/ Square Mile
SAN FRANCISCO	48.7	776,733	16,633
Miami	48	362,470	10,160
Chicago	44.8	2,896,016	12,749
Philadelphia	42	1,517,550	11,223
Boston	42	589,141	12,165
New York City	40	8,008,278	26,401

2. Increasing the average work week results in fatigued firefighters answering calls, decreases public safety for residents and increases the risk of firefighter injury. If more firefighters are injured in the line of duty, worker's compensation and disability payments would skyrocket.
3. San Francisco firefighters have already deferred wage increases through contract amendments in 2008 that saved City taxpayers \$3 Million in FY 2008-2009, and \$1.5 Million in FY 2009-2010².
4. Any change to work hours requires voter approval because the hours are in the San Francisco Charter. Such a change could not happen until 2011. No budget savings would occur this year.
5. The existing system allows professionals to set work hours. Any proposal to change hours should properly be reviewed by the Fire Commission. No such review has occurred.

¹ Sources: International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO (work hours)
Demographia, www.demographia.com/db-uscity.htm (population/density)
² Source: Controller's Letter of 6/30/08 related to Ordinances 181-08 and 182-08

SF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS SONOMA COUNTY -1973-



PALM SPRINGS – 2009

SAN FRANCISCO RETIRED FIREFIGHTER'S OF SONOMA COUNTY

WELCOME YOU AND YOURS TO OUR 4TH TRIP TO THE BEAUTIFUL COACHELLA VALLEY

DATES: NOVEMBER 8-9-10-11-12

STAY: EMBASSY SUITES IN PALM DESERT

COST: \$550 PER PERSON-DOUBLE OCCUPANCY WITH KING BED.
\$580 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. 100% Prime cuts.
- **Pool, spa, fitness center, six tennis courts.
- **Good cheer and camaraderie with old and new friends.
- **It's more than golf. Get off the couch and give it a whirl.

GOLF: \$415 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 WWO (women without ghin). Price includes prize money and shotgun fee. Optional daily skins tournament. \$60. Pay Ed Tatarian there.

- NOV. 9 WESTIN MISSION HILL-PETE DYE COURSE 8:30 shotgun.
Rated in top 100 resort courses in US. Gold tees - 69.6/126 6158 yds.
- NOV. 10 INDIAN WELLS – CELEBRITY COURSE 8:00 shotgun - 2008 Skins game.
Beautiful course with flowers, waterfalls and mountain views. White tees 69.9/124-6029 yds.
- NOV. 12 SILVERROCK-8:00 shotgun. Home of PGA Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. Golf Magazine rates it one of top 10 new courses. Gold tees-68.8/123 5984 yds.

DEPOSIT: Group room rates need to be reserved by APRIL 1st. \$300 per person. After this date, room availability determined on receipt of deposit.

BALANCE DUE, by September 25th. \$250 or \$280 **ADD** \$415 for golf.

WEDNESDAY ADVENTURE: WINDMILL TOUR. Interesting and educational. Learn about this ancient source of power, the weather and geology of the area along with the different features of the windmills themselves. A last stop at a power plant where you will learn about the economics and politics of wind energy. Air conditioned bus. If you're interested, we must know by Sunday night's dinner.

GOOGLE: palmdesert.embassysuites.com – lgsprimesteakhouse.com – desert hills outlet mall missionhillsgolf-indianwellsgolf-silverrock golf.

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.

FREE FINANCIAL SERVICES BROUGHT TO YOU BY SF FIRE CREDIT UNION

FREE Quarterly FICO Credit Scores

SF Fire Credit Union offers members the option of viewing their FICO Credit Scores on a quarterly basis free of charge. Scores are included on quarterly statements and displayed within Online Banking.

Find Out if Your Score Makes the Grade:

FICO Score	Credit Tier*
720 - 850	A
660 - 719	B
630 - 659	C
0 - 629	D

*See now according to SF Fire Credit Union's guidelines. Credit tiers only vary from institution to institution.

FREE Identity Theft Victim Resolution Services

Members are offered free resolution services that assist with recovery from every aspect of identity theft and help protect from recurring fraud.

Victim Resolution Services provides:

- Two Case Specialists that Work on Your Case From Beginning to End
- Actions to Stop Fraud - Contact Creditors and Credit Bureaus, Close Affected Accounts and Help Open New Replacement Accounts
- Assistance establishing fraud alerts with the 3 major credit reporting agencies
- Web-based Access to Monitor the Progress of Your Case
- Preparation of Supplemental Police Reports
- Two-Year Follow Up on Your Case to Ensure Complete Case Resolution and That No Further Fraud Has Taken Place



SF Fire Credit Union

3201 California Street, (888) 499-FIRE
San Francisco, CA 94118 | www.sffirecu.org

For more information on any of the programs listed above, contact the Credit Union at (888) 499-FIRE (3473) or www.sffirecu.org

Station 12

3rd Annual Hall of Fame Luncheon



The Class of 2009 Inductees:
John Clifford, Dennis Fauss,
Gordon Gagliasso, & Art Giovana
In Memoriam: Tony Pulvirenti

DATE: Thursday, October 29, 2009 **Watch 29**

PLACE: Forest Hills Lodge

254 Laguna Honda Blvd, San Francisco

TIME: Open Bar: 11:30am - 2:30pm **Lunch 12:30pm**

PRICE: \$35



Call Station 12 at 564-4847 to sign up. Payment must be received by October 15th to guarantee a seat. Please send checks to Station 12 at 1145 Stanyan St, 94117.

BFI Retirement Banquet



Just the facts ma'am:

- Who:** SCANNELL, Joe, CARR, Elmer CALLAGHAN, Kevin KING, Dennis, PISTOIA, Chuck, SELCHAU, Karl.
- What:** Drinks, Dinner, Laughs.
- Where:** The San Francisco Italian American Athletic Club
1630 Stockton St. S.F. 94133.
- When:** Thursday, October 22, 2009,
Liquids 18:30hrs. Solids 19:30hrs. Gases?
- Why:** Because it's about time.
- How:** \$65 call: BFI 415-920-2933, send check to
BFI Fund, 1415 Evans Ave., San Francisco, CA. 94124
Beef or Chicken. **Pay early, pay often...**

Menu

Salad

Hearts of Romaine, Croutons, Shaved Parmesan, House Dressing
Assorted Italian Antipasto

Pasta

Penne Bolognese

Main Course

(served with roasted potatoes & sautéed vegetables)

New York Strip Au Jus

Roast of New York Strip, Natural Juices

Or

Rosemary Chicken

Roasted Rosemary Flavored Half Chicken, House Specialty
dolce

Spumoni

Coffee or Tea Service

Carafe of Wine for Every Four Guests, No Host bar \$5-\$8

Two memberships available for the upcoming 2009-2010 waterfowl season

In the exclusive "Clip Clop Club"

More than just a hunting experience

Tony Smerdel
415-672-6970

City College of San Francisco

California State Marshal Course Offerings for fall 2009

(classes begin August 19, 2009)

SFM Course	Dates	Day of Week	CCSF course #	Course CRN	Course Location	Instructors
Fire Management 1	8/19, 26/2009 & 9/2, 9/9, 16/2009	Wednesdays	FSC 84	78343	SFO	Hennigan
Investigation 1A	9/14, 21, 28/2009 & 10/5 & 13/2009	Mondays	FSC 72	77806	SFO	O'Leary
Prevention 1B (bridge)	10/16, 23, 30/2009 & 11/6 & 12/2009	Fridays	FSC 68B	77337	SFO	Yballe
Command 1A	11/16 & 19/2009 & 12/3, 10, 17/2009	(1) Wednesday (4)Thursdays	FSC 88A	73109	SFO	Jalbert

All courses are one-day per-week. "Student Material Fees" are \$85 - pays for cert & book (These are not registration fees which are paid directly to CCSF - no checks for both, paid separately Material Fees are paid 1st day of class-checks to: CCSF)

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 94103
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!

ATTENTION CAR ENTHUSIASTS

All Local 798 Members (Active & Retired)



We are looking to start a Car Club for gatherings and events and to meet people who are interested in:

Muscle Cars
Hot Rods
Classics
Etc.

If interested, please contact:

Danny Gracia
Geoff Quesada

Station 1 or Cell (415) 608-7921
Station 1 or Cell (415) 860-6197

S. F. F. D. SHOOTING CLUB



Location: Pacific Rod & Gun/ Lake Merced
Date: 1st Wednesday of every month (rain or shine)
Time: 11am to 3pm

INSTRUCTION & GUNS PROVIDED

Contacts: Mike Quinn – Station 1
Danny Gracia – Station 1
Tony Smerdel – Battalion 6



ENGINE 42 DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Engine 42 would like to thank all retired members of Station 42, Local 798, SFGH, SFFCU, members of the SFFD, Los Bomberos, the SFFD Stress Unit and the SFFD Administration. Thanks to all of you for the donation of funds, meals and the support generously given to our Brother Chris Posey and his family. Thank you again for your overwhelming support during this crisis.

Due to requests for T shirts supporting Chris Posey, Station 42 is selling these T Shirts to raise funds for Firefighter Chris Posey and his family, all monies go the Posey Family.

The t-shirts are \$20 each, you can email Mike Guajardo at Mikeguajardo@msn.com, include in your contact info., number of shirts, sizes, name and station.



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- KEN JONES • DOYLE MILLER

The EAP/Stress Unit 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

Annual

James T. Ferguson Scholarship



Applications must be received by April 2010

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: _____

WORKING FIRE

3RD ALARM - MAY 21, 2009

BOX 6426 - 2265 REVERE AV. (X INDUSTRIAL ST.)

1 FIREFIGHTER INJURED



Photos by George Smith

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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3RD ALARM - MAY 21, 2009

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1 FIREFIGHTER INJURED



Photos by Ken Smith

