

MAIN LINE

APRIL / MAY 2009

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS



**3RD ALARM
627 FELTON STREET**



WORKING FIRE

3RD ALARM - BOX 6342 - 627 FELTON STREET

FEBRUARY 5, 2009 - INC. No.: 09010661



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THE MAIN LINE

APRIL/MAY 2009 - Vol. 35, No. 8

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of the San Francisco
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CONTENTS:

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ...	4
UNION LETTERS ...	5
FROM THE DIRECTORS ...	7
SFRFSC PALM SPRINGS TRIP ...	7
CANCER PREVENTION FOUNDATION ...	8
RADIATION FOR LUNCH ...	9
65TH CLASS ...	12
INSIDE BOX ...	13
TOY PROGRAM ...	16
SPORTS ...	19
ANNOUNCEMENTS ...	20

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.



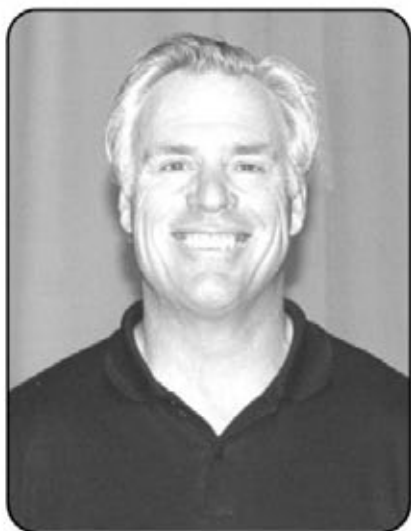
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are reporting to you that all of our members who were injured in the Felton Street Fire are on the road to a physical recovery. Your prayers and good wishes enhanced each of those members to surpass expectations of the doctors.

On a dimmer note, it is with great sadness that 4 of our brothers from the Oakland Police Department were murdered in cold blood. Our prayers and hopes go to their families that they will be able to manage this devastating act of urban terrorism.

With the upcoming Memorial Day holiday on May 31st we can honor our fallen service men and women and keep in our prayers our members, both active and retired, who are serving our country in war zones, as well as the sons and daughters of our members who are currently serving our country in the armed forces.

Your union is in the process of enlightening San Francisco residents of the value of their neighborhood firehouses. It's just human

nature to take us for granted; our bravery and fast response times. Yet there is discussion about the potential of closing our engines, trucks, squads, chiefs and ambulances. We have gone to print media, the Internet, the airwaves via radio and TV, explaining the hazards and dangers of closing a neighborhood firehouse. Dan Dunnigan from Engine 13 is in charge of field operations. I am sure that he will be in contact with your home companies regarding literature distribution. Thank you for your efforts.

With the crash of the stock market and the vast amount of layoffs in San Francisco, the City's shortfall has been claimed to be \$600 million. We will keep you abreast at union meetings and by Department email regarding the City's budget process.

Your Executive Board went to Washington DC and met with Speaker Pelosi, Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Congresswoman Speier. The position that 798 took is that San Francisco needs their fair share of the Stimulus package, specifically engine replacements and infrastructure components.

This year's St. Patrick's Day Parade was another grand success, with 30 firefighters from Limerick, Ireland marching with us. We even received a plaque for our military bearing and marching in unison. Thanks to all who attended. Thanks also to Station 8 for cooking and in particular to new Lieutenant Ramon Serrano for his continued excellence in cooking a traditional Irish breakfast for 300+ firefighters before the Parade. Thanks also to Ben Canedo and Andy Barron for use of the Bay View Boat Club – a great venue.

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

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Local 798,

During these tough economic times, special thanks to all the prior and present Local 798 leaders who have given us a very solid, stable retirement.

This donation is partly a request to reprint the letter my classmate, B.C. George Politis wrote on his retirement. His thanks to our Local 798 says it better than anything I can say, and it is a reminder to the active firefighters of our proud background.

God Bless the SFFD,
Bill Richardson

Local 798,

Please accept this contribution to the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation in memory of my father, Battalion Chief Gerald F. Murphy.

Also, a special thanks to Tony Stefani, Keith Onishi and all the members of the Board of Directors of the SFFCPF for their great work.

Gene Murphy

Local 798,

Please use the enclosed where needed in memory of Tony Sacco, a fine person and friend. He will surely be missed.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Panoini

Hello,

Thanks for sending the "Main Line". Always look forward to receiving it.

Regards,
Don Beck (Ret.)

Local 798,

Please accept this donation in memory of Jim Goodwin, Gene Bernstein, and Bob Kircher. Thank you Union Reps for all your hard work on our behalf.

Bob Blanchard (Retired)

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of my late husband Lou Mambretti (3/9/1995).

Thank you,
Diana Mambretti

Brothers and Sisters,

Please know the Carlsbad Firefighters thoughts and prayer are with you at this time.

Take care and be safe,
Rich Fisher
Carlsbad Firefighters

January 27, 2009

This donation is in memory of my brother Louie J. Garibaldi (Lt. SFFD).
Use as needed.

Steve Garibaldi
Old 16 Engine

1/28/2009

Local 798,

Thank you all so much for your hard work then, now, and in the future! Please accept this in memory of our dear brother Earl "Bud" Dunn.

Faternally,
Mike Cunnie

January 28, 2009

Dear President Hanley, Directors and Staff,

Please use this donation to help ensure the safety and health of our firefighters.

Thanks and Regards,
Mike McKinley

February 23, 2009

To All,

Thank you for all the hard work you put in on our behalf, I wish you continued success in the coming year.

Very Truly Yours,
Gary Musante

February 28, 2009

Local 798,

Enclosed is a check for the excellent Main Line. I appreciate knowing what's going on in the Fire Department, but it's tough to see the names in memoriam of guys I worked with.

Keep up the good work and use the money wisely as I know you will.

All the best,
Ron Judson

March 11, 2009

To My Brothers and Sisters,

As you may know, I was released from General Hospital on Friday, February 6th. I am now at home recovering from my injuries. I wish to express my deepest and sincere thanks to you for your support, prayers, and love.

Great job to all the Firehouses that cooked meals and brought gifts to the hospital. Special thanks to the guys at Local 798, my brothers and sisters at Engine 42, and the Command Staff for taking care of Sonia and my children. I couldn't be more blessed with a more loyal and loving Fire Department family. From the bottom of my heart thank you.

Chris Posey and Family

I would like to thank San Francisco Firefighters Local 798, and all the members of the SFFD for the wonderful support to myself and my girlfriend. The visits, phone calls, meals, protein powder, oatmeal and Power Bars really kept me going during my stay in the hospital. You guys are the best!

Respect,
Jim App

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 McCormack
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
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	Joe Cuff,
	Brian Ballard
BOE	Al Harvey
HQ	Kyle Merkins
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Members interested in becoming Station Stewards should contact the Union office at (415) 621 - 7103

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

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April 2, 2009

John and my friends at the San Francisco Firefighters,

Today, you guys really pulled one out of the hat. Just saw your banner headline and the copy which followed on San Francisco Gate.

Without question, this use of the internet for advertising is one of the best I've seen.

First, there is no question of the subject and the message you are stating.

Second, should you choose your advance through the message and you see an absolute top of the line

quality presentation.

Third, I bet you guys are getting results. No one reading SF Gate today is going to make it through without seeing the message of the San Francisco Firefighters.

I don't know a lot about many things. However, I must believe this will set a new standard for internet advertising. Congratulations!

And, by the way, congratulations to SFGate for being the site where it runs.

Allen White

San Francisco, California

George is racing for a cure for his kids!

Friends and Colleagues,

I am preparing to embark on a journey and I need your help. Until four years ago I had only a vague idea that Crohn's Disease existed. Then my son Brendan was diagnosed with the disease. After many tests and trying several medications his condition is well controlled. Just this January my daughter Katie was diagnosed with Crohn's Colitis as well. At this point I felt that I just had to take some action.

On July 19, 2009, I will complete the 13.1 mile Napa to Sonoma Wine Country Half Marathon to raise funds and awareness for research leading to improved treatment options and hopefully a cure for Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis.

Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis are collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease or IBD. Crohn's disease is a chronic disorder that causes inflammation of the digestive or gastrointestinal tract. Although it can involve any area of the GI tract, it most commonly affects the small intestine and/or the colon. Ulcerative Colitis on the other hand affects only the colon.

It is estimated that as many as 1.4 million Americans have IBD, however many suffer in silence due to potential embarrassment and alienation.

With your help, we can make a difference in the lives of these people. As a member of Team Challenge, I am in a training program and committed to completing the half marathon to help my kids and other sufferers.

I hope that I have convinced you of the importance of this cause. Please help support me by visiting my donation web page and giving to help find new treatments and a cure for this disease process.

www.active.com/donate/napa09/1GDreape

Thanks!

George Dreaper, RC3

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .



By Dan Gracia, Director

Brothers and Sisters,

In light of so much bad news ... budget, drought, budget, bail-outs, abuse of bail-outs, Wall Street, dollar vs. euro, locusts, floods etc., I felt compelled to write about some good things.

Let's start with our "Keep the Firehouses Open" campaign. The idea to get neighbors and supervisors involved in not closing "their" firehouses to me is a very grass roots and straight forward approach (visit our website www.saveourfirehouses.com) As a new Director at 798, I'm learning a lot, but one thing I know for sure is that all our firehouses must stay open and staffed as Prop F clearly states.

The upcoming Station 28 Open House Event on April 18th should be a nice introduction for people to get informed about what services we provide our citizens and how well we provide them. Captain Fred Walsh is the organizer of this spectacular event.

The Local 798 Shooting Club is having a moderate response thus far. We would like to see more member involvement in the future. (Again, please see announcement in this issue of the Main Line regarding upcoming events at Pacific Rod & Gun).

For you Car enthusiasts, Local 798 is also starting a "Car Club" for hot rods, muscle cars, classics, etc. (Yes, Mike Walsh can show up on his Harley). Contact Geoff Quesada or me at Station 1 for more details.

Lastly, the 798 Softball Season is up and running. Station 1, the defending champs are off to a somewhat shaky start but as long as Conrad Brosas, Johnny Sikora and I continue to verbally assault our own team, things should improve. So come out to the Park, check out some softball, meet some new people, get properly hydrated, and have some fun.

In closing, I would like to remind all of you that the social aspect of this job is also very important; it's what makes us different than the rest of the workforce - so get involved, get informed, and get out to all of our 798 Events!

Be safe, have fun.

SFRFSC PALM SPRINGS TRIP 2008



They braved sandstorms, rattlesnakes, mountain lions, gila monsters and tarantulas as they trekked the El Paseo, forged pristine waters and climbing 8500 ft. Mt San Jacinto Mountain. Seventy seven hardy souls endured the elements seeking gold, but just a few golfers came home with it. What everyone did come home with was a sense of pleasure sharing their hardships with old and new friends. Misery loves company and we would like you to share our misery with us next year, November 8th thru 12th, 2009. The picture was taken at our last night's campfire at LG's.



THE SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS CANCER PREVENTION FOUNDATION

A NOTE OF THANKS . . .

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of you that continue to contribute to the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation. From those of you that contribute from paycheck to paycheck through the "Combined Charities" program and to those of you who write a single donation check – thank you all!!

We would also like to send out a special thanks to Jim Vannucchi, Ron Apostoli, et al. for the "Bocce Ball" fundraiser and Tom Abbott and Dave Ritter, et al. for the "Escape from Alcatraz" fundraiser. All money raised and donated to our Foundation will be used for further screenings and studies for the early detection and prevention of cancer in our active and retired firefighters.

We would also like to thank the current Administration for their monetary support of our screening programs.

By now every active firefighter 40 years of age and older should have received and hopefully returned their colorectal screening kit. Colorectal cancer in firefighters

throughout our nation is on the rise over and above the general population. The colorectal cancer screening kits were also handed out to retired firefighters at the last luncheon in Petaluma. Any retired firefighter that would still like to receive this kit please contact us at SFFCPF@sbcglobal.net with your name and mailing address. All kits must be turned in by May 15th.

What's on the horizon? UCSF is taking the next step in their study of cancer in the genitourinary system of firefighters (kidney, bladder, ureter). This time the results from our tests will be combined with the results from the Houston Fire Department to present even more evidence that this type of cancer is more common in firefighters than the general population and is job-related.

Our Board of Directors has also approved to contribute up to \$250 to any firefighter, both active and retired, who requests a second opinion if diagnosed with cancer. This \$250 would be put toward any out-of-pocket expense not covered by insurance for a second opinion. We also have an excellent resource of the doctors of UCSF that our Foundation is in contact with should a second opinion be necessary.

The Department, through our Foundation, has also been invited to participate in a pilot study to determine if there are elevated levels of dioxin in the blood of firefighters after a working fire. Dioxin is a known cancer-causing agent and a by-product of combustion of articles treated with fire retardant. The study calls for five firefighters to voluntarily give 20cc of blood after a working fire and at the completion of overhaul operations. The study is being conducted by Dr. Kannan Kurunthachalam (Professor, Dept. of Environmental Health Sciences, SUNY at Albany; Director, Environmental Chemistry Track, Dept. Env. Health Sci.; Chief, Laboratory of Organic Analytical

Chemistry, New York State Dept. of Health). This was arranged by Dr. Arlene Blum, Visiting Scholar, Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley and Executive Director, Green Science Policy Institute.

This is an excellent opportunity for the fire service in general. If there are elevated levels of dioxin, Dr. Kurunthachalam will use this pilot study for a large proposal for funding an in-depth study. The costs incurred by the pilot study will be paid for by our Foundation.

The San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation will continue to look into and take advantage of any new non-invasive testing procedure that will help our active and retired firefighters lead a healthier life. We can be reached at SFFCPF@sbcglobal.net.

Tony Stefani
Board Chair



THE SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS CANCER PREVENTION FOUNDATION

RADIATION FOR LUNCH

By Anita Paratley

Six years ago, I found out I had breast cancer when Jen, who's now my wife, came to the firehouse with our deaf Dalmatian Joey to tell me. It was a really beautiful August day. I was at Station 9, when Jen came to visit and asked me to come out to the yard. She wanted to talk to. We sat in the car and she told me I had breast cancer, that the test results came back positive. My whole world spun around, my body felt weak, I was immediately in tears, devastated. Then I said, "Jen, it can't be. Not me." And she said, "I'm so sorry, it is you." I kept touching the dashboard, slightly slapping it saying over and over, "Jen, I have cancer."

Two weeks earlier I was concerned with something small, thick and unusual on the lateral side of my right breast. The next week I saw my gynecologist for a regular check-up. I told her about my breast, and she reassured me it seemed unremarkable. I was scheduled for a routine mammogram and asked if there was another way besides a mammogram to check that spot. Knowing my history of being very health conscious/hypochondriac she was understanding and said she would order an ultrasound as well. At the end of my appointment, she reassured me again it was probably nothing. Just a fibrous tissue, which I previously had.

After the mammogram, which came back negative, they performed the Ultrasound. The nurse had difficulty finding the spot I felt on the ultrasound. After several minutes, she asked Dr. Fry to examine me. He asked me to show him where I thought the spot was. He spent some time looking as well, then found a spot approximately .9mm long. He took an image of it. He reassured me it was probably an insignificant spot, saying 90% of these are benign. I asked him if he could take a sample of it, and he said he was going to per-

form a core biopsy. I wasn't worried, or really concerned at this point. But I was glad I would get a definitive answer. I was prepped. Then he made a small incision and used a trigger vacuum device to remove five tissue samples at the site. I felt discomfort, but we talked about softball the entire time. He played competitively, and I played socially. I told him the only difference between him and me was denial. He agreed and told me I'd know the results within two days. The nurses asked if there was someone at home that could receive the information if I wasn't home. I said yes, still not giving it much thought.

After Jen and Joey left Station 9, I called a meeting. I told everyone at the station the news, cried, and received a lot of kindness and support. Chief Serrano asked if I wanted to go home. I told him no, that I could work and I wanted to work. So I finished out my shift (had a gun shot medical call that night which made me aware of the absurdity of young men from the same neighborhood shooting each other) and drove home.

I had the lump removed, some tissue around the margins, as well as lymph nodes. The next three months was a regiment of 33 radiation doses, doctors visits, talks with nurses, talks with breast cancer survivors I knew both in the fire department and outside, acupuncture appointments, regular gym workouts, absorbing statistics, phone calls from friends and family, and treating the developing second-degree burns on my breast. I had radiation for lunch, and Station 38 allowed me to park for my treatment at Cal Pac. Aside from three watches I took off for surgery, I worked throughout my entire treatment. It was important to me to live life as normally as possible.

At times I felt very sorry for myself. One of my worst fears had come true.

I often thought about the day after I found out I had cancer. I was horribly vulnerable and trying to prepare myself for the radiation treatment I was told I would need to go through five days a week for seven weeks. I didn't want to leave the house, but was anxious and wanted to work out. Jen suggested I go to the gym because it was a familiar place, and then told me to come home right away for lunch. I agreed and drove myself to the gym.

I walked into the locker room to put on my gym clothes. In walks a member of the fire department I hadn't seen in a while. I asked her how she was doing. For the next 45 minutes, she proceeded to tell me how her mother had just died of cancer, about how "the radiation burnt her to death." She went into details: how her face became disfigured, it was so painful to watch her mother die. I was crying, naturally supportive. She must have thought I am the most empathetic person she'd ever met. Towards the end of the conversation, she asked me how I was doing. I said, "good," nodding repeatedly, not sure what to say. I didn't have the heart to tell her I was just diagnosed with cancer the day before. I put my clothes right back on and drove straight home. Clearly I was not ready for the real world.

There were many other anxious and later-on laughable moments: the volunteers who were there to be supportive by showing me their reconstructed breasts and tattooed areolas, using words like "lumpec" and "mastec" gleefully. Before surgery, one of the volunteers popped into my room for last-minute support. I turned to Jen and said, "Jen I can't handle this right now." Jen told me to cry for her, that she would then hug me and go away. So I did. And she did. The person who actually

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helped calm me most was the 7-year-old boy who was getting his tonsils removed. I asked him if he was nervous and he said, "No! I get ice cream afterwards!" And I thought, what a great idea.

I decided to stay at work during radiation treatment to help me feel normal. I needed the structure and comradery. My close work friends, even people I wasn't so close to, the Union, the administration, and the medical leave supervisor were all very kind and supportive to me. Everything from sincere checking in to, "How's the rack?" and, "I heard you kept them." It all made me laugh and feel loved.

Then came Worker's Compensation. I wanted to file a claim. Joe Moriarty offered so much kindness and an abundance of research—both medical and law research. Karen Heald gave me lots of coaching on the legal process and what I should expect. At the time (and still), there was little research linking breast cancer to products of combustion. Joe Moriarty gave me an article on a CHP officer who won her breast cancer case because she had worked in a rural county, exposing her to pesticides. Recently, our Dr. Terrazas, also found the lack of study involving breast cancer and firefighting. He's concerned with elevated Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) levels, a potentially carcinogenic compound, and cited research in wildland fires possibly linking products of combustion with breast cancer.

I filed a claim for coverage because I knew about so many other members with denied claims. I thought it would bolster awareness and put pressure on the department to influence the city's insurance company to follow California State law. I gathered information about my then 14-year history of fire exposure. We are all aware of those cancer claims are wrongly denied all too often. I was grateful I had the energy and where-

withal to logs all my fires. I wanted to do this not just for myself, but for all my peers battling cancer, sometimes in very ill states, trying to sit through journals to prove their exposure.

My appointment with the worker's comp doctor was less than satisfying. Before my appointment I was told by the caseworker that Joe Moriarty could not be present, and that Jen also could not go. I insisted my partner come with me. The caseworker relented, but instructed that Jen could not speak. During the "medical exam" the doctor asked about my grandmother who died of cancer, which I informed him was not true. He informed me the anti-depressants I had taken three years earlier for eight months (Zoloft) could be linked to increased risk of breast cancer. He told me there was an increased risk of breast cancer because I do not have children. He told me there is increased risk in Jewish-American women of Ashkenazi decent (Eastern Europe) which of course I had such ancestry.

By this point I am quietly furious, and it appeared he was trying to intimidate. (By the way, this appointment occurred during my first week of radiation.) I thought to myself, I guess the city should never have hired a Jewish-American woman who was never going to birth children and use, at some point, anti-depressants to get over a break up. She would get cancer, definitely.

Then came the pop quiz. What was I exposed to? Jen had been researching the chemical names of products of combustion. I had skipped this because it made me nervous to know what exactly we are absorbing in our bodies. So I didn't have the answers for him. I merely told him, "Look around, Doc, everything in the office that could burn, and then some. Actually just yesterday we had a mobile home fire. It was nasty." He asked again, almost smirking, "Well, what chemicals were you exposed to?" And I said,

"I'm not a chemist. I'm a firefighter. But I can tell you, it was nasty." I saw Jen sink into her seat, as she was not allowed to speak. She told me after we left she thought we had been set up. She also told me she noticed the doctor's fingernails were revoltingly dirty.

I wasn't surprised to hear my claim was denied. Right away I hired an attorney to file an appeal. Joe Moriarty, Karen Heald, and Mat McNaughton were right there to support me in this step by step.

During my deposition, they asked me tangential questions regarding my exposure to smoke. Aside from asking me why I don't wear a SCBA during overhaul, they didn't ask any questions about my exposure to smoke in fire service for 14 years. Instead, they asked me about smoke exposure in previous jobs: as a solderer in an electronic factory in college, as a cashier at Food Town on Long Island, as a social worker in mental health, and as a truck driver for FedEx. I had to tell them, no, I wasn't exposed in any of these jobs. I avoided the designated smoking areas. "So you were never exposed to workplace second-hand smoke?" Yes, I responded, "at Station 17, back in 1990 and 91. There were a good number of smokers there." Then they made a big deal about attending "public places of entertainment" prior to the State public smoking ban. I visualized myself dancing to Page Hodel's music at The Box, and didn't notice the smoke.

The deposing attorney's big ace in the hole was not wearing an SCBA during overhaul. Was I aware of the mandatory Scott rule? And had I willfully violated it? I responded, "Yes, I did. Along with 1,800 other members, including superiors."

About a year and a half later, it took a judge 10 minutes to rule in my favor because of the California Presumptive law and the burden of proof on the City, not me. You might think I would feel excited, but it was

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completely unsatisfying. The whole process felt like a waste of time and very unethical. I felt down and discouraged. I asked Jen to get me a smoothie. Jen too was tired. She held my hand and said, "Ah honey". "Come on Jen, I have cancer." And then she said, "You *had* cancer. It's out of your body. You only get to say that for another year. Then it's over."

To all the members of the San Francisco Fire Department who lost their lives to cancer, you are in my heart. And to all the members who have fought cancer and survived, you give me strength. We do the best we can with our lives. I ask all the readers of this article to hold up their end of the bargain—do your tests, press your doctors for information and don't let them be soft, and take care of yourself. In many ways, the only difference between me and the firefighters that didn't make it was luck. Thank you for all your support. I am proud to serve as a member of the San Francisco Fire Department, and I am proud to serve on the Cancer Committee. We are really trying to make a healthy difference in our profession. Believe it or not the Cancer Committee is a lot of fun too. ✕



March 29, 2009

To all Retired and Active Firefighters:

I am writing this letter to urge all the retired firefighters who have received the colorectal cancer screening test kits through the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation to please complete the test screening and forward them to the SFFD physician's office for processing.

There is no cost to anyone for this program, and it is a simple process that is important to your personal health and welfare. According to Tony Stefani, as many as two-thirds of all the screening test kits that have been given out HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED.

Why is this important to you? To make sure you don't have colorectal cancer, and if you do have something, early detection goes a long way to curing the cancer.

From a personal standpoint, I just

went through the testing process, which is why I am writing this letter urging everyone to do the screening. In my case, the test came back positive for traces of blood. I was advised to contact my own physician, who had me do a second test, which came back negative. My own physician also had me do a colonoscopy, which found a polyp in my colon. While it was benign, it was a type of polyp defined as cerated atanoma, which carries a higher risk for cancer of the colon. I will be checked in three years again for any changes.

I am sharing this information to motivate anyone who has a test kit to do the test process and return it for analysis. I also urge all members of the department to take advantage of all the health and safety programs made available by the department and Local 798.

Thank you,
Jim Connors
Retired

SUBMISSIONS:

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

JUNE - JULY 2009 / MAY 20, 2009

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2009 / JULY 20, 2009

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2009 / SEPTEMBER 2009

65TH CLASS - 30TH ANNIVERSARY

DOUBLE PLAY - FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Before



S.F.F.D. 65th Class - March 1, 1979

Top Row Left to Right

McMackin, O'Leary, Zaczek, Hicks, Lawler, Reynolds, Mialini, Ryan Bello, Petty, Assereto, Dailey, Rey, Lambrechts, Dugan, Lee, Sweeney, Shapona

Bottom Row - Left to Right

Evanoff, Dryden, Johnson, Doudiet, Capella, Borodin, Dolan, Ahern, Pitre, Kniese, Ramirez, Dente



Back Row: Mike Bello, Bill Kneis, Jim Sweeney, Gary Dolan, Brendan O'Leary, Brad Dugan, Mike Reynolds, Chris Zaczek, Bob Ahern.

Front Row: Tom Doudiet, Lou Ramirez, Terry Dailey, Mel Pitre, Pat Ryan, Jim Lambrechts.

Photos provided by Brendan O'Leary

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 . . .



JUNE 11, 1939 - SCHWARTZ-MEYERS

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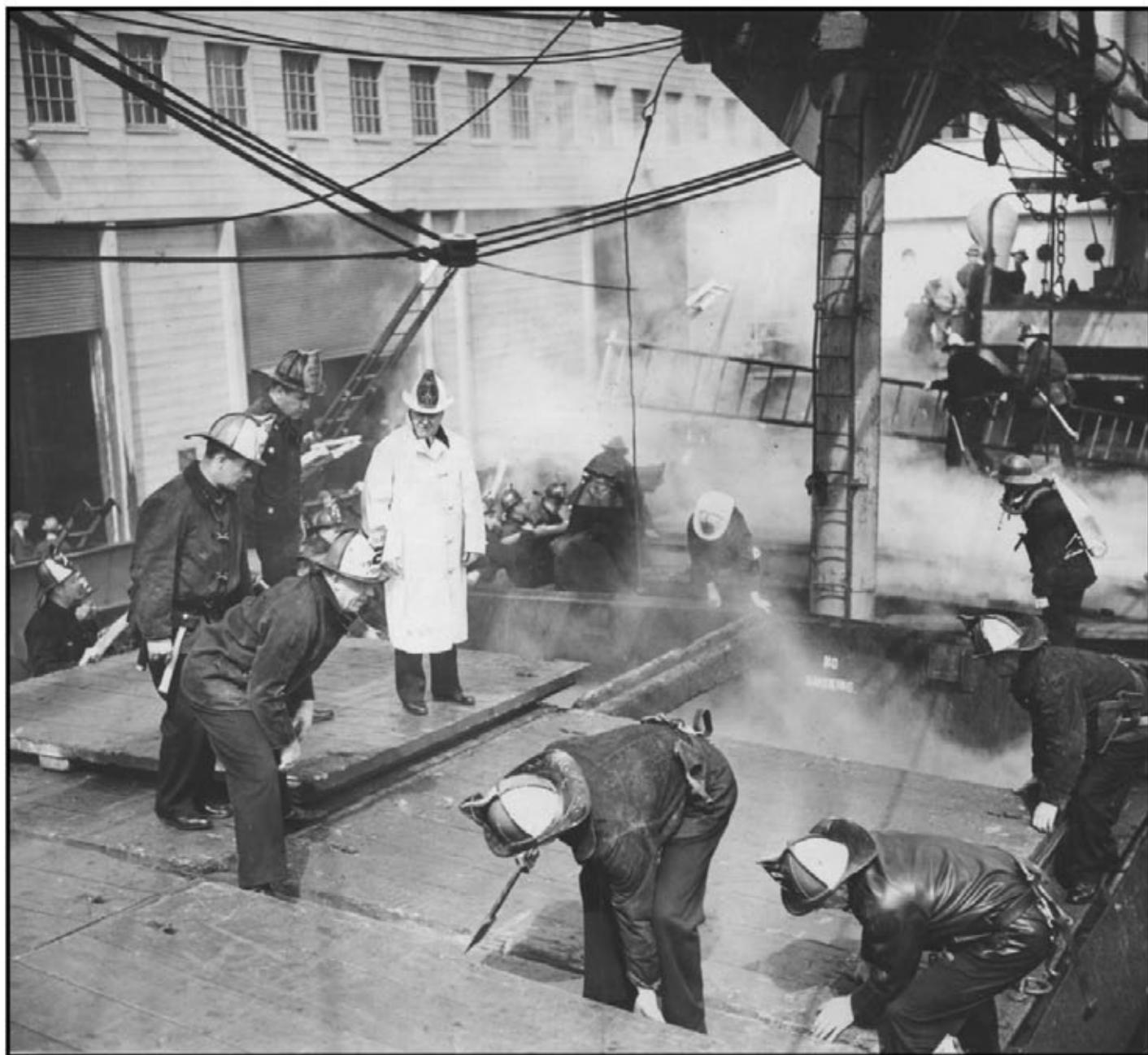


4TH ALARM - 110-112 GEARY BLVD. - MAY 27, 1939

THE INSIDE BOX

RETIRED MEMBER'S CORNER, LOCAL 798

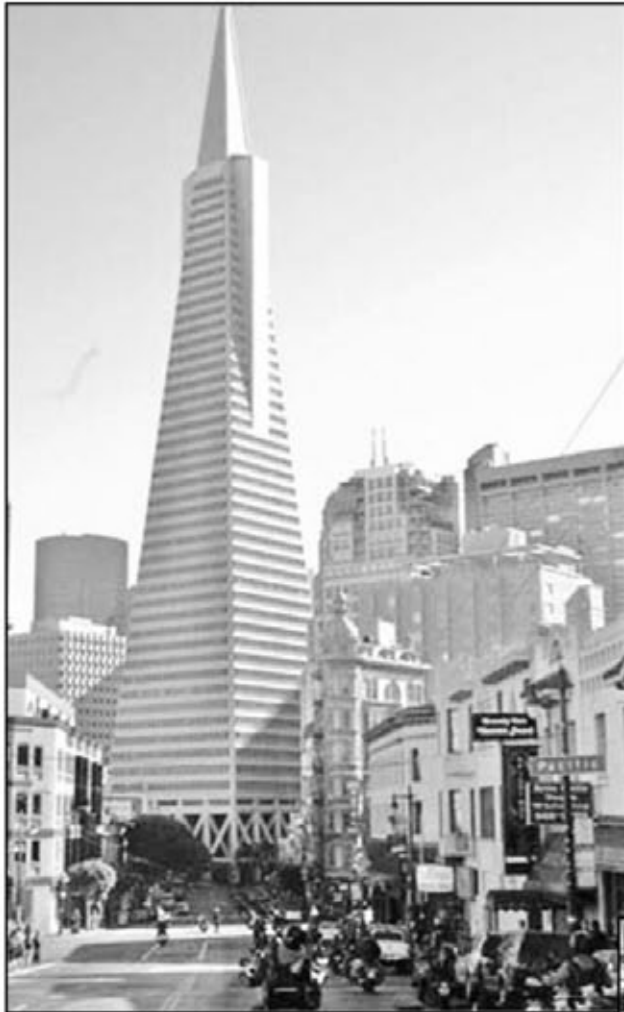
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JUNE 24, 1939

TOY PROGRAM

THE BARBARY COAST CHAPTER OF THE WIND & FIRE MOTORCYCLE CLUB 3RD ANNUAL JOHNNY "V" TOY RUN - NOVEMBER 22, 2008



Photos provided by Phil Leanio

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Photos provided by Phil Leanto

S P O R T S

2009 EIGHTH ANNUAL GUNS AND HOSES CHARITY TENNIS CHALLENGE

It's time for our Eighth Annual Guns and Hoses Charity Tennis Challenge. This year it will be held on April 25th, 2009. As last year, this endeavor should prove to be a fun-filled day of tennis, food, drinks, friends, and lots of silent auction and raffle prizes. Last year prizes included hotel stays, dinner certificates, Giant and 49er's tickets, wine, events, and much, much more. \$100.00 donation includes the entry fee, dinner and drinks. For just \$30.00 you can have dinner, watch the tennis and have all of the wine and beer you can drink. All players compete at their own level in a fun and friendly manner.

This tournament will benefit two very worthwhile charities: The Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (SFPD) and Fire Fighters Toy Program (SFFD).

The Tournament will be hosted by the San Francisco Tennis Club, San Francisco Police Officers Association (SFPOA) and The San Francisco Firefighters Union 798. (SFFD) A special thanks to all of them for their continued contribution to these worthy causes.

So join us for a good time of tennis and friendship, as we continue this fun tradition between the SFFD and the SFPD.

All players compete at their own level.

For an application or information contact:

Bob Lopez 650-315-8268
Inspector Robin Matthews 415-553-1093

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS GUNS & HOSES EIGHTH 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 25, 2009

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 (SFPD), Geoff Quesada at 415-558-3201 (SFFD), or Inspector Robin Matthews at 415-553-1093 (SFPD).

PLAYER/NON-PLAYER APPLICATION FORM

GUNS & HOSES CHARITY TENNIS CHALLENGE
To Benefit the S.F. Firefighters Toy Program and the
Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (BALEAF)
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009

Hosted by the San Francisco Tennis Club
645 5th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 777-9000

Player Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Tennis Rating: _____ OR Level: Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____

Tax Deductible Entry Fee: \$100.00 (Includes tennis, food & beverages)

Payment Method: Check: # _____ Cash: _____

NON-PLAYER/GUEST REGISTRATION:

Non-Player Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I will attend the Tournament and will have dinner: Yes: _____ No: _____

Tax Deductible Donation: \$30.00 each Number of Non-Players: _____

Payment Method: Check: # _____ Cash: _____

DONATION INFORMATION:

I will not attend the Tournament or Dinner. Please accept the following tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____, Check: # _____ Cash: _____

- Please make checks payable to "Guns and Hoses Charity Tennis Challenge".
- SFTC members may fax their application to (415) 777-2353 or submit to Weston Reese with payment. Non-SFTC members may mail their application and check to Bob Lopez, 828 Maple Ave, Burlingame, CA 94010.
- For more information contact Weston Reese (SFTC) at 415-777-9000, Bob Lopez (SFFD) at 650-315-8268, or Robin Matthews (SFPD) 415-553-1093.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 20, 2009

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.

Oakland Police Department Memorial and Trust Funds

Our sincerest condolences go out to the families of the fallen Oakland PD Officers during this difficult time.

The Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Alameda County (ACSODSA) and the Oakland Police Officers' Association (OPOA) have set up memorial and trust funds for the families of the fallen Oakland PD Officers. If you would like to donate to the funds, please reference the following information.

OPD Memorial Fund (Set up by the ACSODSA)

You can mail in your donation to:

**OPD Memorial Fund
C/O SF Police Credit Union
2550 Irving Street
San Francisco, CA 94122**

Please make checks payable to:

OPD Memorial Fund

SFPCU Members can also make donations in any of our branches, please ask an SFPCU Staff Member for assistance.

OPD Family Trust Funds (Set up by the OPOA)

You can mail in your donation to:

**C/O OPOA
Attn: Rennee Hassna
555 5th Street
Oakland CA, 94607**

Please make checks payable to one of the following:

**"Dunakin Children's Family Trust"
"Romans Children's Family Trust"
"Sakai Family Trust"**

Or for people who wish to wire transfers directly to Merrill Lynch Accounts, please reference the following accounts:

**"Dunakin Children's Family Trust"
Act# 204-04065**

**"Romans Children's Family Trust"
Act# 204-04066**

**"Sakai Family Trust"
Act# 204-04064**

As a long-standing financial provider to law enforcement agencies, we understand the effect this tragic event can have. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you.



800.222.1391

www.sfpcu.org

Members_Info@sfpcu.org

STATION 28 MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION

FF. HENRY HEFFERNAN - 1902
LT. CHARLES MCCARTHY - 1942
LT. PATRICK BRANNIGAN - 1963
FF. GARY NISIDIO - 1969

AND

96TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATION 28
AT 1814 STOCKTON ST.

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2009
AT STATION 28

OPEN HOUSE FROM 3PM TO 5PM
4PM PLAQUE DEDICATION AND REMEM-
BRANCE

For more info
Contact Captain Fred Walsh
Station 28: 415-558-3228
email: fwalshe2@sbcglobal.net

This dedication is for all active and retired SFFD
and for our neighbors we serve.

STATION 7 OLD TIMERS LUNCHEON



APRIL 28, 2009

PACIFIC ROD AND GUN CLUB
AT LAKE MERCED

LIQUIDS 11:00AM

SOLIDS 12:00PM

ACTIVE MEMBERS: \$35

RETIREES: NO CHARGE

RSVP TO STATION 7

415-550-9074

415-558-3207

SPACE IS LIMITED SO RESERVE EARLY



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	SF0	Hennigan
Investigation 1A	9/14, 21, 28/2009 & 10/5 & 13/2009	Mondays	FSC 72	77806	SF0	O'Leary
Prevention 1B (bridge)	10/16, 23, 30/2009 & 11/6 & 12/2009	Fridays	FSC 68B	77337	SF0	Yballa
Command 1A	11/18 & 19/2009 & 12/3, 10, 17/2009	(1) Wednesday (4) Thursdays	FSC 88A	73109	SF0	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)

STATION STEWARDS' LUNCHEON



The 30th Annual Station Stewards' Luncheon
will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2009
Watch 18
Refreshments 12 Noon; Lunch 1:00 p.m.

S I N B A D's
Pier Two on the Embarcadero
Parking Free with Validation
ALL STATION STEWARDS,
PAST and PRESENT,
ARE INVITED

If you plan to attend
RSVP BEFORE APRIL 13, 2009
TO
Barbara @ the Union office 415-621-7103
or email barbara@sffdlocal798.org

Shon Buford, Station Steward Chair

City College of San Francisco

California State Marshal Courses for Summer School 2009

Location: SFO Building 928 North Access Road-at Clearwater

SFM Course	Dates	Day of Week	CCSF course #	Course CRN	Course Locations	Instructor
ICS 200	June 2 & 3, 2009	T & W	F SC 115	<u>51903</u>	SF0	Connors/Long
ICS 300	June 9, 10, 11, 2009	T, W, Thurs	FSC 120	<u>51342</u>	SF0	Cardinale/Connors

Registration fees & material fees are:

ICS 200 – Total cost: \$50 (\$39 registration + *material fees \$11)

ICS 300 – Total cost: \$85 (\$49 registration fees + *material fee SFT Cert & book \$36)

*material fees paid the 1st day of class – checks made to: CCSF

Registration fees are paid separately to Admissions & Records online or in person
(instructors will not accept checks for both material fees & registration fees)

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
580 - 629	D

*Tiers are according to SF Fire Credit Union's guidelines. Credit Tier may vary from institution to institution.

FREE and Confidential Financial Counseling

Credit Union members have free access to financial counseling and education through the BALANCE Financial Fitness Program.

- Money Management
- Debt Management
- Toll-Free Financial Information Line



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 Been Taken Place



SF Fire Credit Union
3201 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118
(888) 499-FIRE
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

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!

LOCAL 798 SHOOTING CLUB



2nd Annual

SPRING BBQ and SHOOT

Location: Pacific Rod & Gun Club/ Lake Merced
Date: Wednesday, May 13th
Time: Shoot 11am
Refreshments (After Shoot)
BBQ (Following Refreshments)

\$45 At The Door (Includes 2 Rounds of Shooting)

INSTRUCTION & GUNS PROVIDED

Contacts: Danny Gracia (Station 1) or Cell 608-7921
Mike Quinn (Station 1) or Cell 298-8874
Terry Smerdel Cell 650-537-0096

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

SF Fire Fighters Local 798

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
April 14, 15 and 16 2009
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Irwin Center, 270 Masonic Ave

For more information contact:
Bob Arzave, Romelia Scott or Mark Sikora.

Give the Gift of Life
 Blood Centers
of the Pacific
Donate Blood

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



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.



FIRST ANNUAL *ROMEO* BOCCIE BALL TOURNAMENT *RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT*

Eligibility : Open to all Retired SFFD Local 798 Members in good standing

When : Saturday June 13th 2009...9 AM Start

Where : Marin Bocce Courts ...550 B Street..San Rafael, Ca.

Entry : \$50.00 per person or \$200 per four person team. If you don't have your own four man team .. names will be randomly drawn by the Most Honorable Don Russo Ex-Felons and most Chiefs are welcomed.

Non players : \$25 for lunch.

Refreshments : 8:30am coffee, pastry and libations
(only beer and wine permitted on premise)

Noon : Barbeque and more suds...

Guys : Spread the word and E mail me if you are interested so I can sign you up and continue to hold on to the courts for June 13th ...

Thanks ... Ron: rnt8@comcast.net

Send checks no latter than June 1st to :
Ron Apostoli
343 Woodside Ave.
Mill Valley Ca. 94941

(Limited number of players on a first sign up basis)

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 6, 2009

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: _____

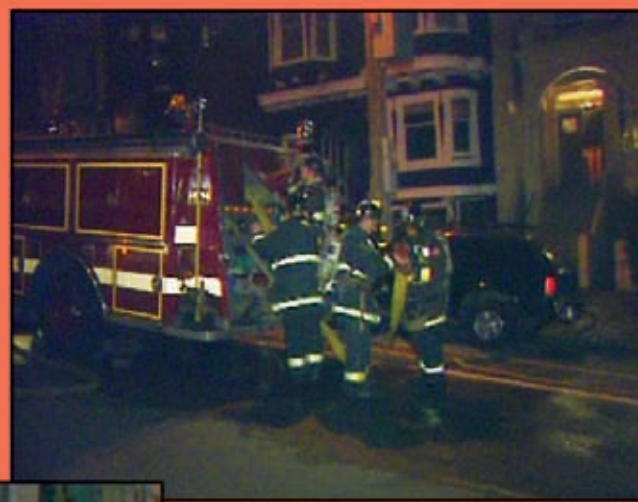
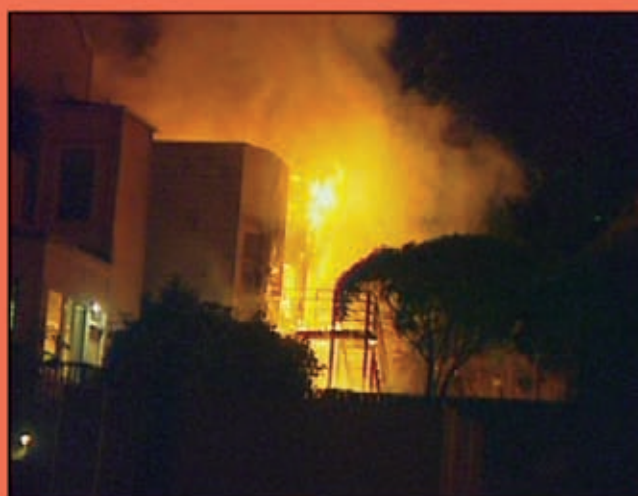
COLLEGE ATTENDING: _____

PARENT NAME: _____

WORKING FIRE

2ND ALARM - BOX 4254 - 738 BAKER STREET

JANUARY 23, 2009 - INC. No.: 09006776



Stills provided by Bryan Carmody



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

1139 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Francisco,
CA
Permit No. 6926

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

