



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters • California Labor Federation • AFL-CIO | Volume 17 No. 4 Fourth Quarter 2009



CPF Wins Major Workers Comp Victory

FIREFIGHTERS RETAIN RIGHT TO CHOOSE WORK COMP DOCTOR

The right of an injured worker to choose their own doctor shouldn't have a date stamp. Now, thanks to CPF-sponsored legislation, it doesn't.

In a major reform of the punitive 2004 workers' compensation law, CPF won for firefighters (and many other injured workers) the right to see their own doctor when injured on the job.

Senate Bill 186, by Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), repeals the "Sunset" provision that previously allowed this vital physician choice only until December of 2009. California Professional Firefighters has been the driving force behind this effort, which rolls back one of the most onerous provisions of Governor Schwarzenegger's 2004 workers' compensation "reform".

"Under the old workers' comp law, firefighters could soon have been forced to see a doctor chosen not by them, but by their city manager," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "We're gratified that the governor has seen the importance of insuring that working people can choose their own doctor on and off the job."

CPF co-sponsored this bill with the California Labor Federation last year (SB 1338 which was vetoed by the Governor) and sponsored SB 186 this year.

CPF's active role in the passage of this measure generated substantial Republican support in the Senate and Assembly and active communications with the governor's office facilitated the governor's signature.

Predesignation ... Why It Matters to You

For firefighters, on-the-job injuries go with the territory. The ability to predesignate your workers' compensation physician could be the single most important precaution you can take to protect yourself before you're injured.

With it, you are assured that your injury will be evaluated with an eye toward your health, rather than management's bottom line.

"By having a predesignated doctor, I was able to avoid four (ankle) surgeries," said one Rancho Cucamonga firefighter. "I used less than 10 hours of 'l-time' on my injuries."

Despite their poor-mouthing, management also benefits from predesignation. Studies, including one by the independent Public

Policy Institute of California, have concluded that predesignation doesn't cost local agencies any more money than using the "company doctor." Predesignation does, however, result in higher employee satisfaction and a quicker return to work. That translates to lower cost.

"Firefighters want to get back to work as soon as possible," noted Paulson. "Predesignation means a better diagnosis, better treatment and a quicker road back to the firehouse."



**Coming in 2010:
CPF Firevision**

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President's Perspective



Lou Paulson

It is that Time Again

The new year has started and 2009 will quickly fall away in the rear view mirror as we head into 2010. I know we have said this before, in different times and on different issues but believe me when I say it again: 2010 is a pivotal year for all of us.

Let me give you an idea why.

First, the economy. In California the recession is not over. Public agencies are still feeling and will be feeling the pain of an economic calamity unlike any of us has ever seen in this state (or any other, for that matter).

The shrinking state revenue will put continued pressure on services, mutual aid, wages, hours and working conditions for our brothers and sisters who work for the state.

It will also have Sacramento looking for ways to find revenue from local government. All of this puts our ability to save lives and protect property in jeopardy.

Complicating the basic threat posed by the fragile economy is the renewed focus on retirement security.

Our enemies are pulling out their playbook on how to attack our hard-won benefits. Ballot measures have been filed that would devastate our pension benefits (*see story, page 5*). Proposals are being floated to eviscerate the health care security of active and retired firefighters.

As usual, none of these "reforms" address where our members would go to be treated, or what

happened to all of the concessions that we made to get these benefits.

As if this all weren't enough, we once again face an effort to silence the voices of firefighters and other middle class families by trying to choke off your access to the political process.

These renewed efforts follow the same well-worn path trod by other defeated and discredited efforts. In

families from these ruthless attacks is paramount for 2010.

I will tell you that your CPF Executive Board is focused on the challenges in 2010. Through our legislative and political action, we will be fighting to protect our mutual aid system and stop local governments from capricious bankruptcy filings designed with the sole purpose of evading the hard work of budget balancing.

Proposals are being floated to eviscerate the health care security of active and retired firefighters.

1998, voters said a resounding NO to Proposition 226. Seven years later, they again said NO when Governor Schwarzenegger tried to muzzle your voice with Proposition 75.

Clearly, the voters have spoken. But that doesn't matter to our enemies; they want to eliminate our ability to defend ourselves from attacks so they can control our future. It's a new take on the "Golden Rule": Those with the gold want to keep you from having a voice in making the rules.

Against the backdrop of this turmoil, 2010 is an election year. The governor's race will be pivotal on how many of these issues will be addressed over the next four years. Our ability to support a candidate that will defend firefighters, public employees, organized labor and working

We know the stakes are high. We will be communicating to you all year ... through this newspaper, our website, on Facebook and yes, even Twitter. As you will read here, we are also launching CPF Firevision – a bi-weekly video podcast. This new feature is designed to keep you up to date on what your union and your profession are doing. Whether it's in Sacramento or in your hometown, you need to know what's happening and how it affects you.

As always, your role is critical. Through your local union, you can have an impact on these events, and help all of us work for a better future for you and your families.

Thank you for your support and be safe.

Letters to the President

2009 Memorial Ceremony

That was most spectacular. I think we are already planning our trip for next year so we can really watch the event.

Much of what we experienced were feelings – it's hard to recall exactly what happened, except to say that it was beautiful and emotional. It was especially emotional as I tried to put the experience into words for your interviewer after the ceremony. It's strange how it works.

I just wanted to say thank you for all your support through it all.

Joy Keen

(wife of Edward Wise Keen, San Bernardino County Firefighters, Local 935)



I just want to thank you for all the hard work, attention to detail, and organization that went into making Saturday's ceremony so special.

I didn't really know what to expect, and I am so thankful that Neil was honored in such an awesome way. My family and I were truly touched.

Thank you again.

Karla Honeycutt

(wife of Neil Honeycutt, Oakland Firefighters, Local 55)



The ceremony was incredible! My family was very impressed and felt very honored to be a part of it. Terrific planning and organization! It was very emotional, moving, and healing. (VERY healing and wonderful for my son!!!)

It was a little crazy at times since we had such a huge amount of family there, but absolutely priceless!

Thank you so much for everything! I so appreciate all you did. I just might see you at a future ceremony. Many of us talked about coming back again.

Thank you again!

Mary Caswell

(wife of William Vance Caswell, Victorville Fire Dept.)



I just wanted to thank you for the great job you did. It was an amazing ceremony and my family and I will never forget it. Please pass my thanks on to everyone involved.

Maureen Laurence

(wife of Dennis Jerome Laurence, Victorville Fire Dept.)



Thanks so much for all of the work you did in making the Memorial in Sacramento a beautiful experience. I will never forget the thoughtfulness and kindness your staff showed us while we were there.

Thank you again for everything else you do for our firefighters and their families.

Valerie Lawrence

(wife of John E. Lawrence, United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, Local 112)



I just wanted to let you know the Ciucci's, as well as my family and friends were quite moved by the memorial. For many it was the first time they ever attended so they had no idea of what to expect. Most of my family hasn't been back since 2004 when my brother John and nephew Robert's names went on the wall.

At that time the attention to detail was impressive. It seems each year the numbers have grown but CPF and the California Fire Foundation has kept in stride making this a very respectful and classy affair.

I just want you to know we greatly appreciate all the work you and your staff did to pull this off. I am proud to say I am part of such a great organization.

Thank you.

Frank Walsh

Santa Clara City Firefighters, Local 1171 (ret.)



Emergency Response Initiative

On behalf of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, I am writing to thank you for your expert testimony at our Wednesday, September 23, 2009 hearing in San Diego.

I appreciated your very direct comments on the impact that budget cuts are having on California's mutual aid system, and the importance of passing AB 196, the Governor's Emergency Response Initiative. I will be sure to communicate your message to the members of the Joint Committee who were not able to attend the hearing.

I also want to thank you for the update you provided on the status of the recommendations of the Governor's 2003 Blue Ribbon Fire Commission. Clearly, there is more work to be done to realize the Commission's full recommendations, but I applaud the Blue Ribbon Task Force for its achievements to date. Please keep me advised on your progress and what the Legislature can do to assist the Task Force in its efforts. In addition, if there is anything more I can do to assist in the passage of AB 196, please do not hesitate to contact me.


Again, thank you for your participation, and for your written responses to my questions. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these critical fire prevention efforts.


Sen. Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego)


Chair, Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management


CPF on the Web

As one of the first fire service organizations to have a Web presence, California Professional Firefighters is on...

 Official CPF page features links to latest news, videos, photos and incident updates. Access page through www.cpf.org, or log in to www.facebook.com and search "California Professional Firefighters".

 Accessed either by computer or through text message. Quick updates on latest news, with links, etc. <http://twitter.com/CAFirefighters>

 Dedicated channels feature CPF videos, as well as those from the California Firefighters Memorial and the CFFJAC. <http://www.youtube.com/user/caproffirefighters>, <http://www.youtube.com/user/CFFJAC>

 Still your central source of information on all things relating to firefighters and their families. Our "Find it Here" section on the CPF home page takes you to locations of greatest interest and links to other CPF locals. You can also link up with other CPF-affiliated sites (www.cffjac.org; www.cafirefoundation.org; www.ffprint.org; www.firestarproductions.org).

www.cpf.org



CPF's Twitter page features quick updates on our latest news.



CPF Firevision is a twice monthly video podcast, available at www.cpfirevision.org

Secretary-Treasurer's Desk



Lew Stone

Pension-Slashing Initiative Introduced

The other shoe has dropped in the campaign against your retirement security.

An organization dedicated to slashing retirement benefits has submitted two alternative versions of

an initiative that would dramatically roll back the retirement security of future generations of front line firefighters and their families.

The proposals, which have been submitted to the Attorney General

for official title and summary, would mandate a two-tiered retirement system on state and local agencies, with a cavernous gap between the tiers.

- **Boosts the minimum retirement age** for firefighters to 58, forcing front line personnel to work as much as eight more punishing years;
- **Reduces maximum benefits by about 1/4** for new first responders. Over 30 years, new firefighters could receive up to 60% less than current firefighters;
- **Dramatically restricts retiree health benefits**, with a longer vesting requirement;
- **Restricts your local's right to collectively bargain benefits.**
- **Requires 2/3 statewide voter approval for any retirement benefit improvement.**

In short, it's a wish list for those looking to steal your retirement security.

The group spearheading the ballot campaign – the Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility – was founded by former Assemblyman Keith Richman ... the same Keith Richman who attacked retirement security in 2005.

While the campaign doesn't have any obvious major financial backing at this point, it has aroused the interest of many organizations hostile to firefighters and other working families.

What We're Doing

As it did during the 2005 pension protection battle, California Professional Firefighters is helping to lead a united front of working people coming together to fight these new attacks.

CPF is one of the founding members of Californians for Health Care and Retirement Security (CHCRS). That's the same group that led the successful fight to block Governor Schwarzenegger's pension privatization plan.

CHCRS is building a grassroots network that includes not only firefighters and law enforcement, but teachers, nurses, bus drivers, janitors, transportation workers and others who believe that retirement security should be expanded to all, rather than stolen from hard-working middle-class families.

In addition to its work with CHCRS, CPF is also working the halls of the Capitol to insure that any "reform" measures are geared toward building a more stable and secure retirement system for the long haul.

To keep current on the battle to protect your retirement security, look for Pension Updates at www.cpf.org, under "Find It Here".

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CPF Legislative Update

2009 Legislative Highlights

Workers' comp predesignation ... crackdowns on insurance-company privateers ... protection of 4850 time. These are some of the significant CPF sponsored or co-sponsored measures that won approval this past year in Sacramento.

Below, arranged by bill number, is a run-down of a handful of bills sponsored or supported by California Professional Firefighters that were approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the governor.

**AB 671 (Krekorian):
Public Safety Golden Shield Award.**

Annually requires the governor to award and present, in the name of the State of California, a Golden Shield Award to the next of kin or immediate family members of every public safety officer, including a firefighter, who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity, was killed in the line of duty in that year.

**AB 1214 (Nava):
Private fire personnel.**

Requires personnel retained by an insurance company to protect structures threatened by fire to check in with, and follow the instructions of, the incident commander in charge of fighting the fire. We co-sponsored this bill in response to concerns over private insurance companies that were trying to gain credible standing in fire operations at the fire scene. CPF co-sponsored AB 1214 with CDF Firefighters Local 2881.

**AB 1227 (Feuer):
4850 time.**

Extends temporary disability payments (4850 time) to public safety personnel employed by agencies that are not currently covered by CalPERS, the L.A. City retirement system (LACERS), or '37 Act umbrella for county retirement systems. CPF co-sponsored this bill with PORAC last year (AB 419 which was vetoed by the Governor) and co-sponsored AB 1227 this year.

**AB 1440 (Swanson):
Elections: provisional ballots.**

Requires that elections officials in counties under a state of emergency on Election Day, issue provisional ballots to specified emergency workers, including firefighters. Elections officials are then required to transmit the ballots cast to the elections official in the county where the voter is registered to vote.

**SB 52 (Correa):
Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.**

Adds California Professional Firefighters to the California Public Safety Medal of Valor Review Board. Also allows the Board to meet more than once a year and recommend more than five candidates for the Medal per year. This bill further provides the governor the ability to award a Medal of Valor to more than one public safety officer a year.

**SB 186 (DeSaulnier):
Predesignation Sunset repeal.**

Maintains the right of some injured workers, including firefighters, to see their own doctors if they get injured on the job by eliminating the workers' compensation predesignation sunset date of December 2009. (See story on page 1).

**SB 538 (Senate Public Employment
and Retirement Committee):
Los Angeles County mandatory
retirement.**

Makes a technical clarifying change in the '37 Act law permitting the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) to receive the necessary physical certification of a safety member, upon returning from a disability leave, before making a determination as to whether that member is subject to mandatory retirement.

**AJR 10- (Torlakson):
Social Security Fairness Act.**

Encourages Congress and the president to enact the Social Security Fairness Act of 2009 -- federal legislation that eliminates two provisions known as the WEP and the GPO, which may unfairly prevent public employees from receiving a portion of earned social security benefits. (Because this measure was a resolution, it did not require the governor's signature to take effect.)

To follow CPF's priority legislation for 2010, check the "Politics and Legislation" section at www.cpf.org.

New in 2010 – CPF Firevision

Keeping pace with your profession ... online and on the go

Want to stay connected with the stories that matter to you? Then you need to connect to CPF Firevision.

Beginning January 13th, California Professional Firefighters will bring the California fire service directly to your computer and smartphone.

Twice a month, CPF Firevision will offer a lively video update on the issues and stories that affect your life on the job and the safety and security of you and your family.

- *The latest info on what's happening at the Capitol and why it matters to you;*
- *Stories and images from the men and women on the front lines;*
- *The firefighter take on critical issues, including the protection of your retirement security;*
- *Tributes to our fallen brothers and sisters and our commitment to serving those they leave behind;*
- *Feature stories on how CPF and its affiliated organizations are building a better fire service;*
- *An Events Calendar with information on what's happening in your local, and giving back to their communities.*



"We're constantly looking for new ways to keep firefighters current and well-informed on the issues that affect their lives," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "CPF Firevision offers a fast-paced, Web-based resource for our active membership."

You can get CPF Firevision online directly at www.cpffirevision.org, or through dedicated CPF Firevision pages at YouTube, and Facebook. You can also download the podcast at iTunes or at www.cpffirevision.org.

Tell us your stories!

If you've got an event coming up, or are doing something you'd like to tell your brothers and sisters about, we are always on the lookout for the latest from the locals.

Drop us a line at cpffirevision@cpf.org and tell us what's going on. We'll post your event on our calendar at www.cpf.org and in the Firevision update. And if you've got photos and/or video, we'd like to see it!



Emergency Response Initiative Re-Introduced for 2010

Late last year, a united California fire service came together to lobby state lawmakers for passage of a measure designed to put more money directly into first responder services.

When the bill died in last minute, late-night maneuvering, we said we'd be back. And we are.

As part of his 2010-2011 budget, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is planning to re-introduce the CPF-backed Emergency Response Initiative. This unique plan could funnel as much as half a billion dollars directly into state and local fire services ... all designed to build up the state's mutual aid system.

"California wrote the book on mutual aid, but that system is on a knife's point thanks to the economy," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "The ERI will put much-needed funding into mutual aid services, and also help protect our statewide fire response."



The ERI would be funded by a surcharge of less than \$50 a year on the average property insurance policy over a three-year period. Up to \$150 million a year would go directly to local fire agencies to help pay for their mutual aid services. Additional money would go to continue modernizing CAL FIRE's increasingly dated air and ground fleet.

Support for the ERI runs the fire service gamut ... from CPF to CalChiefs to the League of Cities. CAL FIRE and Cal EMA also support, and new Cal EMA director Matthew Bettenhausen has made ERI a top priority.

"We're all together, and we're in it for the long haul," said Paulson. "California is an all-risk state ... we need an all-risk mutual aid system. That's what the ERI is all about."

For the latest on the ERI, check the "Find It Here" section at www.cpf.org.

California Firefighters Mem



More than 1,000 uniformed firefighters, family members and dignitaries from throughout California gathered this weekend to pay tribute to those who gave their lives to protect the lives and property of Californians.

"Today, we honor the supreme sacrifice that our brothers and sisters have made to protect us in California," said Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation. "They are true heroes and embody the spirit of honor, courage, duty and sacrifice."

In a solemn ceremony featuring honor guards and the traditional pipe and drum salute, 82 firefighters who fell in the line of duty – some from as far back as 1899 – were added to the California Firefighters Memorial.

Some 20 firefighters who died from traumatic injuries or job-related illnesses in the past 18 months were also honored. In addition, more than 60 fallen heroes from earlier years are being honored – men and women who were brought to the California Fire Foundation's attention in 2009.

Located in historic Capitol Park, adjoining the California State Capitol in Sacramento, the Memorial carries the names of more than 1,100 firefighters who died in service since California became a state in 1850.

Honor



Courage



orial Annual Ceremony 2009



CPF President Lou Paulson addresses family members and members of the fire service to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for "the sake of all of us."



Governor Schwarzenegger speaks about the danger involved in protecting the people and property of California and the heroism he sees in the firefighting profession.



Modesto Chief James Miguel speaks about his friend Kenneth Smith, his long battle with cancer, and his deep love and dedication to his profession up until the very end.

Duty



Sacrifice



California Fire Foundation

Fresno Firefighters reach out to Senior Citizens with Disaster Preparedness Help

Earthquakes. Fires. Floods.

For Fresno's senior citizens, these are just a few disasters that can strike at any moment and Fresno Firefighters Local 753 has launched its latest program to reach this vulnerable community with disaster preparedness help.

The program was created in partnership with the California Fire Foundation as part of its "Firefighters on Your Side" program, aimed at educating diverse communities about different fire safety issues and helping communities with charitable projects.

In October, Fresno Firefighters held a workshop at the community center of Senior Citizens Village to

discuss the possible disasters that Fresno residents may encounter. During the course of the workshop, Local 753 offered planning tips, including making a medication list, putting together an evacuation kit and designating an emergency contact.

"This will be the first of many visits that we're planning to target seniors throughout the community," said Fresno Firefighters President Jerry Smith. "Our goal is to equip our city's elderly population to be prepared in the event of a disaster. Preparedness is key."

Fresno Firefighters are also starting a program to promote the File of Life, a mini-medical history that can be posted on the refrigerator for first responders. The file includes the resident's name,

doctor's name, allergies, medications, insurance information and more, in the event that the resident is sick, unconscious or unable to provide this information in case of emergency.

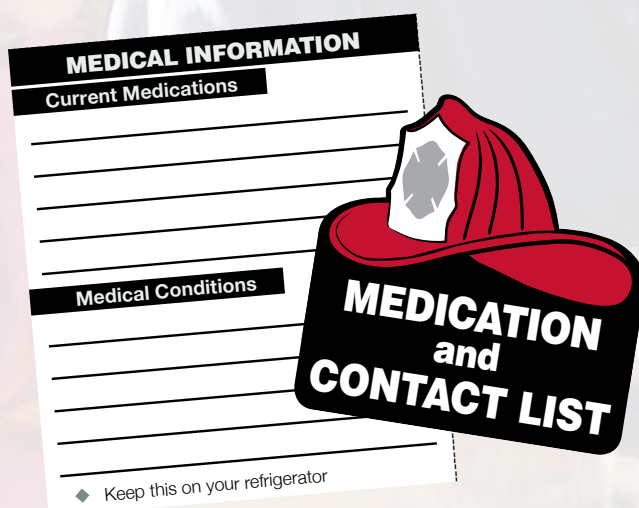
The File of Life is available to elderly residents at all Fresno fire stations.

This project has been featured on KSEE's "Central Valley Today" and Fresno Firefighters plan to offer more workshops to senior citizens in January.

For more information or to bring Firefighters on Your Side to your Community, please visit www.firefightersonyourside.org or contact Vanessa Robinson at 916-921-9111 or vrobinson@cpf.org.



Fresno Firefighters President Jerry Smith



Presenting the File of Life to interested Fresno seniors

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Making a Difference

Firefighters Help Boy Scouts Feed The Hungry

Firefighters have a reputation for being “Boy Scouts” – always doing good deeds. This year, California’s first responders are helping Bay Area Boy Scouts do their own “good deeds” by contributing to the annual Scouting For Food program.



Scouting For Food involves scouts in the collection of food for needy families throughout Northern California. This year, the California Fire Foundation’s “Firefighters On Your Side” program helped make the Scouting For Food program a success by providing printing services and a network through which to distribute donations.

“As firefighters, we get a close up look at the need in our communities,” said CPF President and Foundation Chair Lou Paulson. “We see the inequities, we see the hunger and we wanted to do something about it.”

Scouting Councils from all over Northern California participated in this event. More than a million door hangers, underwritten by the Foundation, were distributed in mid-November by uniformed Boy Scouts. The leaflets urged residents to bag up food donations for collection on November 21st.

On the 21st, scouts pounded the pavement again to pick up a total of 176,726 pounds of food left for them. Donations were brought to local fire stations throughout the area, and distributed to local food banks. According Joan Tomasini, Food Drive Coordinator for

the Solano and Contra Costa County Food Bank, this makes for 141,381 meals for the hungry this holiday season.

“In past years, the program has collected hundreds of tons of food for those in need,” said Paulson. “We’re proud to be a small part of a service that provides so much comfort to so many in these difficult times.”

Are you supporting a charitable cause in your community? “Firefighters on Your Side” may be able to help you tell your story. Contact Vanessa Robinson at 916-921-9111 or email vrobinson@cpf.org.



Local 2881 Doubles MDA Fill-The-Boot Donations in 2009

In 2008, CDF Firefighters Local 2881 netted more than \$140,000 for MDA in its statewide series of Fill-The-Boot fund raisers. For Local 2881, however, it appears 2009 was twice as nice.

According to MDA, Local 2881 members raised nearly \$285,000 this past year. The results were drawn from drives held in most of the CAL FIRE regional units, from Riverside to Santa

Cruz to Amador County and as far north as Chico.

“We’ve more than doubled last year’s total, and we are going to do even better in 2010,” said Local 2881 President Bob Wolf.

Many of the drives were organized within the CAL FIRE units themselves. This past December, a Fill-The-Boot

drive was organized within a month by Local 2881 members in the community of Jackson, located in the Sierra foothills.

“During those five hours, we raised \$11,715,” said Scott McLean, Local 2881’s statewide MDA coordinator. “People were stopping by and giving firefighters money before they even had a chance to set up.”

IAFF is a national sponsor of MDA, and this past year IAFF and its affiliates contributed more than \$28 million to the cause.

Send us your stories and photos!

If your local is planning a Fill-The-Boot drive, let us know, and send us your stories and photos. Contact us at info@cpf.org.



Firefighters Rob Cox, Levi Menley and James Michels, work the vehicles contributing to the December Fill-The-Boot drive in Jackson.



Local 2881 members from CAL FIRE’s Santa Cruz Unit step up in recent Fill-The-Boot drive.



Local 2881 members brave the December fog in Jackson to raise more than \$11,000 for MDA.



St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa (r) addressed the CFFJAC Banquet benefitting the California Fire Foundation



Cal EMA Director Matthew Bettenhausen keynotes opening session of CFFJAC Conference

CFFJAC Conference Spotlights Labor-Management Partnership

RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR 10TH BIENNIAL APPRENTICESHIP GATHERING

For more than a quarter century, the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) has been a leader in apprenticeship, training and recruitment in the fire service and has set a professional standard for firefighters throughout the state.

This November, more than 300 fire service professionals gathered in Cathedral City to explore new partnerships at the CFFJAC 10th Biennial Conference.

The conference brings together management and labor, training officers and SubJAC members – all united in the CFFJAC’s ongoing mission of creating excellence in the fire service.

The CFFJAC – co-sponsored by California Professional Firefighters and the Office of the State Fire Marshal – is the nation’s model labor-management firefighter training partnership.

Featured speakers included a moving presentation from Elizabeth Eckford, a member of the “Little Rock Nine” -- nine African-Americans who famously desegregated Little Rock High School in 1957.

Participants also heard updates on the CFFJAC’s program and a discussion of the state of California’s emergency response system from Matthew Bettenhausen, newly-appointed as Director of California’s Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA).

As in past years, the conference presented a special partnership award to an agency and a local union that best epitomizes the CFFJAC’s spirit of collaboration. This year’s award was presented to CAL FIRE and was accepted jointly by CDF Firefighters Local 2881 President Bob Wolf and CAL FIRE Chief Del Walters.

“The CFFJAC conference focuses on building a better fire service in tough times,” noted CPF President Lou Paulson. “The conference also offers an opportunity to forge the critical labor-management collaboration so vital to our profession.

Prior to the conference, many attendees participated in the

golf tournament and banquet benefitting the California Fire Foundation. This year’s featured speaker -- St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa -- regaled the banquet audience with stories of his days managing the Oakland Athletics as well as his current gig managing the Cardinals. La Russa is the 3rd winningest manager in major league history.

“I’m thrilled to see labor and management come together in such numbers,” said CFFJAC Chair Dan Terry. “It is a tribute to the commitment of all in our profession to the mission that has driven the CFFJAC’s quarter-century of success -- creating excellence in the fire service.”



CFFJAC Chair Daniel A. Terry outlines highlights and challenges facing firefighter apprenticeship



CDF Firefighters Local 2881 President Bob Wolf (l) and CAL FIRE Chief Del Walters with 2009 Partnership For Success Award

Roseville Hosts Realistic Bomb Demo for Training Update

Web-based Terrorism Consequence Management Takes Training to Next Level

When our homeland security is attacked, it is firefighters who are on the front lines. But in order to respond, firefighters need to know what to expect when responding to a terrorist attack.

It was in pursuit of that realism that Roseville's Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar was transformed into the scene of a nightclub car-bomb attack ... complete with smoldering vehicles, blood-spattered "victims" and real first responders.

Video crews with FireStar Productions, aided by some two-dozen actors and Roseville firefighters and police officers, shot footage to provide instruction on critical first response decisions that must be made within the first five minutes of a response to the sort of explosion that indicates possible terrorist attack.

It's all part of a new Web-based component of the successful Terrorism Consequence Management (TCM) training. TCM provides cutting-edge terrorism response training that has already reached more than 20,000 front line first responders throughout California.

The new Web-based component that is being developed will provide continuing education for those firefighters who receive the TCM classroom instruction.



"This type of scenario can really engrain in our responders the importance of being aware," said Russ Fowler, a Butte County CAL FIRE battalion chief who is part of the CFFJAC's TCM Curriculum Committee. "It's not just seeing what's in front of you, but thinking about all of the other aspects from a terrorist's point of view."

Created in 2003, the original Terrorism Consequence Management training was the first post-9/11 terror response system specifically geared toward the fire service.

The update of that program -- and the new Web-based continuing education component are funded by a \$2.5 million homeland security grant approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor in 2007.

"It's very important that the scenes be realistic," said Chet Bertell, a San Diego City firefighter and certified bomb technician who is the TCM bomb-tech expert. "These sorts of incidents are rare in the U.S. and so firefighters need to see something that is as close to the real thing as possible."

The new Web-based training is slated to be available in early 2010.

To find out more and learn how to take the training, check out the Terrorism Consequence Management link at www.cffjac.org.



FireStar Productions works to make Roseville TCM demonstration as close to the real thing as possible.



Fire and law enforcement collaboration is emphasized in TCM curriculum.

Our Profession

Local 112 Mourns Sudden Loss of Founding Member

United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 is joined by California Professional Firefighters and the entire fire labor community in mourning the loss of one of UFLAC's "founding fathers."

Brother Jim Perry, who served the citizens of Los Angeles and the members of Local 112 for close to half a century, died in December in a traffic collision.

Jim began his fire service career in 1961, and became one of the founding members of Local 112. Over the course of his career, he served in nearly every capacity on the UFLAC Executive Board. Jim's two decades on the front lines included his receipt of a Life Saving Award of Merit from President John F. Kennedy. After his retirement in the early 1980s, he continued to serve Local 112 in the decades to follow and was eventually voted a Life Member of Local 112.



Jim Perry
1939-2009

Brother Perry was best known as the editor -- for nearly four decades -- of UFLAC's award-winning newspaper, the Los Angeles Firefighter. Jim was also an honorary life member of the Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles and received more than 150 "Awards for Excellence" from that organization.

A tireless advocate on behalf of UFLAC and the labor movement, Brother Perry used his bully pulpit to champion not just his firefighter brothers and sisters, but working men and women everywhere.

"Jim's principles, strength, friendship and brotherhood will be forever remembered and cherished by each one of us who had the pleasure of working alongside him," said Local 112 President Pat McOsker. "He literally worked every day of his adult life to make firefighters lives better, safer and more secure."

CPF-Backed Candidate Wins CalPERS Board Runoff

J.J. Jelincic wins narrow contest with help from first responders

California's firefighters and other hard-working public employees have a new voice for retirement security on the CalPERS Board of Administration.

In a close runoff election, CalPERS investment officer J.J. Jelincic won the election for the CalPERS Board seat being vacated by retiring Charles Valdes. Jelincic - who served several terms as head of the California State Employees Association - was endorsed by California Professional Firefighters.

CPF believes Jelincic's background as an investment officer will help insure that the \$200 billion retirement system stays on sound fiscal ground. His background with CSEA, meanwhile, will insure that CalPERS will remain committed to secure retirement benefits for all of the state's current and future employees.

"I've had the opportunity to work closely with J.J., and his commitment to a strong, stable and secure pension system is

unsurpassed," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "Electing him will strengthen your voice on this vital board."

Jelincic was the top vote-getter in the initial Board election, held in October, securing 37% of the vote. The runoff election pitted Jelincic against Cathy Hackett. The runoff was close, but Jelincic prevailed with 51% of the vote.

Jelincic takes his position on the CalPERS Board of Administration in January.



To keep up with news from CalPERS and other retirement issues, check the Retirement Update link at www.cpf.org.

Report your **chemical** and **biological** exposures at www.peronline.org

Protect Yourself!

As a firefighter, you are frequently exposed to a broad range of environmental and biological toxins, which put you at greater risk of contracting cancer, tuberculosis, blood-borne and other contagious diseases. Several of California's presumption laws require that firefighters document occupational exposures to hazardous agents.

In short, you need proof!

The Personal Exposure Reporting (PER) program keeps track of all of the exposures you report. It's a safe and secure way to protect yourself!

For more information, visit www.peronline.org call (916) 921-9111 or e-mail PER@cpf.org.

CALIFORNIA



Your Online

Fire Service Connection

FIRE DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

The California Fire Department Directory is your free up-to-date online resource for basic information about the fire service in California.

Complete: Current contact info, web addresses and even MACS designations

Up-To-Date: Directory is updated monthly

Searchable: Search by county or department name

Downloadable: Those who need it on paper can download a copy for FREE!

www.cpf.org

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS
1780 CREEKSIDE OAKS, SUITE 200 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95833

Fire and Police Duke It Out In Ventura

“Battle of the Badges”

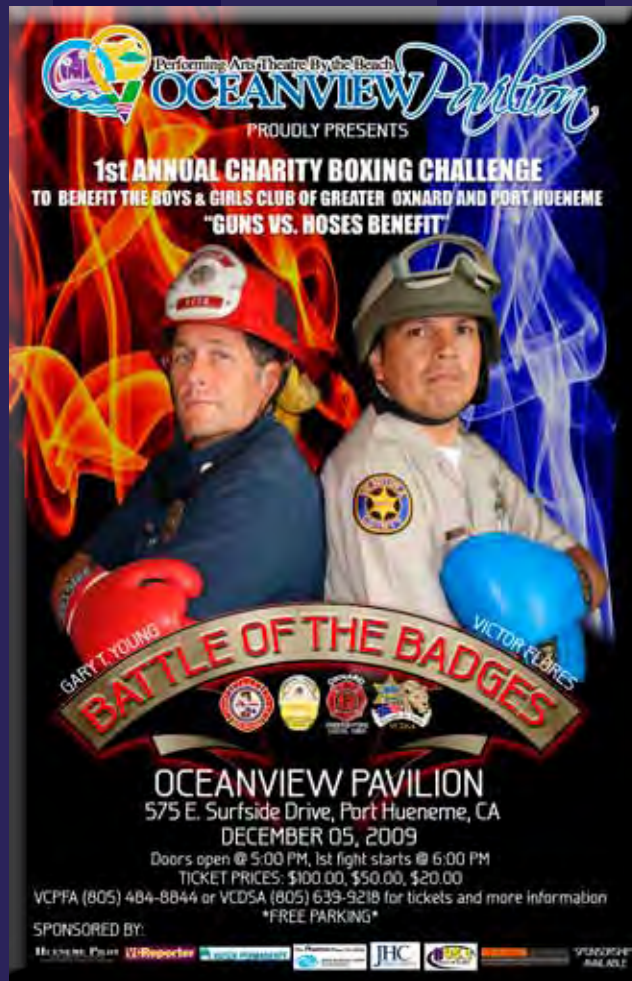
On the front lines, firefighters and police are trained to work as a team.

Last month, however, Ventura County’s firefighters and law enforcement officers were mixing it up ... for a good cause ... in their first-ever “Battle of the Badges” boxing match.

The December 5th event featured a series of amateur bouts pitting law enforcement against firefighters. The fights were the real deal – the event, and the officials, were sanctioned by the California State Boxing Council.

“Everyone who fought came out with an amateur record,” said Jason Hodge with Ventura County Professional Firefighters Association, one of the organizers of the event.

The sold-out event netted more than \$20,000 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oxnard and Port Hueneme, and featured celebrity judges and honorary refs, among



them former major leaguers Rob Dibble and Jose Cansenco. Several local legislators even got into the act as judges, and local DJ Bo Jaxon served as emcee for the event.

The 11-bout card included firefighters from VCPFA Local #1364 and Oxnard Firefighters Local #1684. Fire won the night, according to VCPFA President Chris Mahon.

“We were tied two matches to two at intermission, and then we went undefeated,” said Mahon. “One of the deciding bouts was won by our office manager, April (“The Slugging Secretary”) Guerrero.

Ventura firefighters included Randy Gilbert, Mike “Junk Yard Dog” Hansen, Mike “Studfinder” Fuller, Marcos Aviles, Mike “The Dozer” Cosio, and Joel “Cadillac” Hanson.

Oxnard firefighters included Paul “The Method Man” Macen, Nick “The Flauchulence” Eubank, Phil “The Vanilla Gorilla” Palmer and Dan Nahmias.



Local 1364 office manager April “The Slugging Secretary” Guerrero scores a TKO against her Ventura Co. sheriff’s counterpart at December charity boxing match.



Ventura Co. firefighter Randy Gilbert strikes a blow for the Boys and Girls Clubs at Ventura County’s “Battle of the Badges” charity boxing match in December.

Moments of Truth

Since 2002, California Professional Firefighters has honored those whose images capture the essence of what it means to be a first responder. This year, we again pay tribute to those who – often at risk to their own safety – capture the courage and commitment of California’s bravest.

2009 CPF PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



1st Place – Jeff Zimmerman A breathtaking portrait of teamwork in the face of blistering heat, this iconic image epitomizes courage under fire.



2nd Place – Will Lester A quiet moment of serenity startlingly captured with an ominous threat looming just over the hill.



3rd Place – Craig Rose A stunning wide-angle perspective on a structure fire: a coordinated response from a single firefighter’s point of view.

HONORABLE MENTION

Mike Meadows



Martin Rawner



Thanks to all who participated in this year’s contest. Keep the cameras handy and keep an eye out for next year’s contest, which will be announced in the spring. To view a gallery of images from the 2009 photo contest, go to the media center at www.cpf.org.