



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

THE FIREFIGHTER INFLUENCE

CPF is strong under the Capitol dome, but the firefighter influence in Sacramento extends well beyond the legislative floor



Political influence.” To most people, the phrase probably conjures images of canyoned hallways packed with lobbyists and stakeholders eager to catch the ear of elected politicians. While this image represents a certain aspect of the political process, a good deal of the work that goes into shaping laws and regulations here in California happens in a far less public setting.

In the meetings of state boards and commissions, decisions are made that have direct impact on the day-to-day lives of every Californian, especially our state's first responders.

Here, as in the Legislature, CPF has made sure the firefighter voice is part of the conversation.

As part of its governmental advocacy, CPF has promoted the appointment of firefighters and firefighter advocates to key posts affecting first responders.

CPF members currently occupy slots on seven sepa-

rate statewide committees that affect the lives and livelihoods of firefighters. Additionally, the program manager of the CPF co-sponsored California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) is on the state's top apprenticeship body, while CPF's governmental advocate sits on the state's top health and safety and workers compensation commission.

“Having front-line firefighters on these commissions makes all the difference in the world when it comes to the quality and safety of the state's fire service,” said CPF President Lou Paulson. “Most Californians have probably never heard of these bodies, but they're the ones making the decisions that shape our profession. It only makes sense that firefighters would have a seat at that table.”

Perhaps the best example of the firefighter influence in Sacramento can be seen on the state's Emergency Medical Services Commission. The EMS Commission

Continued on page 2

**PRESIDENT'S
PERSPECTIVE**
Page 3



**LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP
INTERVIEWS**
Page 7



**PHOTO CONTEST
WINNERS**
Page 8-9



**PENSION
THREAT**
Page 11

**DON'T BREAK
PROMISES
TO RETIREES**





INFLUENCE BEYOND THE CAPITOL'S DOME

California Professional Firefighters has long been known as a major player in the halls of California's Capitol, but many of the state's biggest decisions aren't made on the Assembly or Senate floor.

For years, CPF has sought to place its members in key appointments, ensuring that the firefighter voice is heard not only at the time the laws are written, but also when they're being implemented.

On the right is a collection of those currently representing your interests:

STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

What it does:

- Develops training performance standards
- Accredits curriculum
- Establishes policy for fire service certification
- Advises Fire Marshal on regulations
- Decides appeals over fire regulations

CPF Representation:

Lou Paulson, California Professional Firefighters
Dave Gillotte, Los Angeles County Firefighters, Local 1014

CFFJAC Representation:

Dan A. Terry, CFFJAC Chair

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION

What it does:

- Reviews and approves EMS regulations
- Influential role in state EMS policy, including discipline policy
- Advises EMS Authority on range of EMS issues
- Hears appeal on local EMS agency plans

CPF Representation:

Chair: Lew Stone, California Professional Firefighters
David Rose, Captain, Santa Clara City Fire Fighters Local 1171, Joy P. Stovell, Fire Engineer, United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Local 1230, Dave Teter, CalFIRE Local 2881

SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

What it does:

- Investigates and evaluates damage from earthquakes and reconstruction efforts
- Manages state's Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
- Directs policy on earthquake-related programs for government at all levels
- Recommends earthquake-related legislation

CPF Representation:

Chair: Tim Strack, Riverside City Firefighters, Local 1067

EARTHQUAKE AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD

What it does:

- Advises California Earthquake Authority on insurance coverage issues
- Evaluates affordability and availability of earthquake coverage

CPF Representation:

Rose Conroy, Davis Firefighters, Local 3494 (ret.)

BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

What it does:

- Reviews, adopts and implements California's building codes
- Hears appeals resulting from administration of building codes
- Adopts and approves model codes for state buildings

CPF Representation:

Cheryl Roberts, Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters Local 2274

COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AND WORKERS' COMP

What it does:

- Continuous study of California health and safety and workers compensation systems
- Recommends administrative and legislative improvements
- Joint labor-management body

CPF Representation:

Christy Bouma, CPF Governmental Advocate

CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL

What it does:

- Issues rules and regulations on specific apprenticeship subjects
- Advises Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) on apprenticeship issues
- Hears appeals of DIR decisions on apprenticeship disputes

CFFJAC Representation:

Yvonne de la Peña, CFFJAC Program Director

BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS

What it does:

- Licenses and regulates the pilots who guide ships in the San Francisco and San Pablo bays
- Oversees the Pilot Continuing Education Program, requiring updates of knowledge and skills
- Appoints the administrators of the pilot pension plan

CPF Representation:

Jennifer Schmid, Oakland Firefighters, Local 55

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (WETA)

What it does:

- Responsible for operating and expanding ferry service on the San Francisco Bay and for coordinating the water transit response to regional emergencies

CPF Representation:

Jeff DeBono, Alameda Firefighters, Local 689

COVER STORY: THE FIREFIGHTERS INFLUENCE

Continued from page 1

oversees the standards, regulations and guidelines developed by the state EMS Authority, while also playing a critical role in determining disciplinary standards for paramedics and EMTs.

Four-front line firefighters sit on this Commission, including CPF Secretary-Treasurer Lew Stone, who became the commission's chair in 2014.

"At every meeting, the EMS Commission is making critical decisions about patient care and issues affecting

first responders," Stone said. "As the ones who are 'first in' on the vast majority of these calls, firefighters should absolutely be leading this conversation."

The strong firefighter presence on the EMS Commission has been especially important in the fight to protect the due process rights of firefighters in paramedic and EMT disciplinary proceedings. It has also ensured that the high standards established by fire-based EMS remain the industry standard in California.

CPF members also hold a strong voice on other boards, including the State Board of Fire Services.

The Board develops technical and performance standards for training, as well as accrediting curriculum. It also serves as an appeals board on regulations from the State Fire Marshal. President Paulson, CPF President Emeritus Dan Terry and 7th District Vice President Dave Gillotte all sit on this board, representing both local and state firefighters.

Having a strong voice in these bod-

ies helps ensure that the intent of the bills carried by CPF's legislative team are seen through to fruition, and act as key extension of the advocacy process.

"Without strong implementation and oversight, the legislation we work so hard to pass in the Capitol could easily fall short of its goal," Paulson said. "Having our members and allies appointed to these committees helps ensure that our members are being heard during every step in the legislative process."



All Politics is Local

If you aren't directly involved, the process of governing a state like California can seem strange indeed.

Take for instance the current flurry of activity in Sacramento.

Right now, there are hundreds of bills being vetted by various legislative committees, all hoping to be referred to the floor before next month's committee deadlines.

Once the bills are referred to the floor, their authors must muster enough support to gain passage for that bill from its house of origin. Once June 5th comes and goes, any bill that doesn't make it out effectively dies for the year. The rest move on, only to start the whole process over again in the opposite house of the Legislature.

To an onlooker, this annual circus of government can be downright mind-boggling.

Things grow even more confusing when you factor in the work of the dozens of state boards and commissions responsible for implementing these laws. From the State Board of Fire Service to the Emergency Medical Services Commission, these hidden halls of power make decisions that can have as great an impact on our lives as those under the Capitol dome.

CPF is actively engaged in every phase of the process, legislative *and* administrative. Our members and advocates serve on nearly a dozen of these boards and commissions. You can read more about their involvement, and gain a better idea of what these entities do, in the cover story of this very newspaper.

So how can you fit in to this complex web of governmental advocacy?

This April, leadership from locals across the state will be descending on Sacramento for CPF's Daniel

A. Terry Legislative Conference. The biennial conference gives your leadership an opportunity to meet with their legislators about issues directly impacting firefighters and their families.

It's an excellent way to engage in the political process, but there are actions you can be taking the remaining 364 days of the year.

There's an old adage that says "all politics is local," and for firefighters, this couldn't be more true.

When you really get down to it, an overwhelming majority of what affects the day-to-day lives of our members – from staffing, to benefits, to contract negotiations – is the result of a decision made by politicians at the local level.

If it's here that the key decisions are made, then it's here that we should be engaging most aggressively.

Locals up and down the state know the importance of engaging and endorsing in political races, as every year we hear stories of them moving councils in a new direction or winning key, swing seats because they've run effective political campaigns.

Supporting candidates who will stand with firefighters can change a local's relationship with City Hall in the matter of an election cycle. It's happened time and time again.

Remember, too, that the networks you build in your cities, counties and districts can pay dividends when it comes time to fight statewide battles, such as Proposition 32 or the pension reform measure being proposed for 2016.

For all of these reasons, I encourage you to get involved locally. Attend your local union meetings to learn where you can help. I think you'll find that it can go a long way.

Thank you, and stay safe.

SAME AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION, NOW AVAILABLE AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

California Professional Firefighter's digital newspaper to include exclusive, bonus content

Beginning with this issue, CPF will be publishing a digital edition of *The California Professional Firefighter* to accompany the award-winning print issues.

The digital versions will be available through CPF's new publication-specific app. By downloading either the Google or Apple version of this app, you'll be able to access all the content available in the print newspaper, as well a variety of content and interactive elements created specifically for the digital publication.

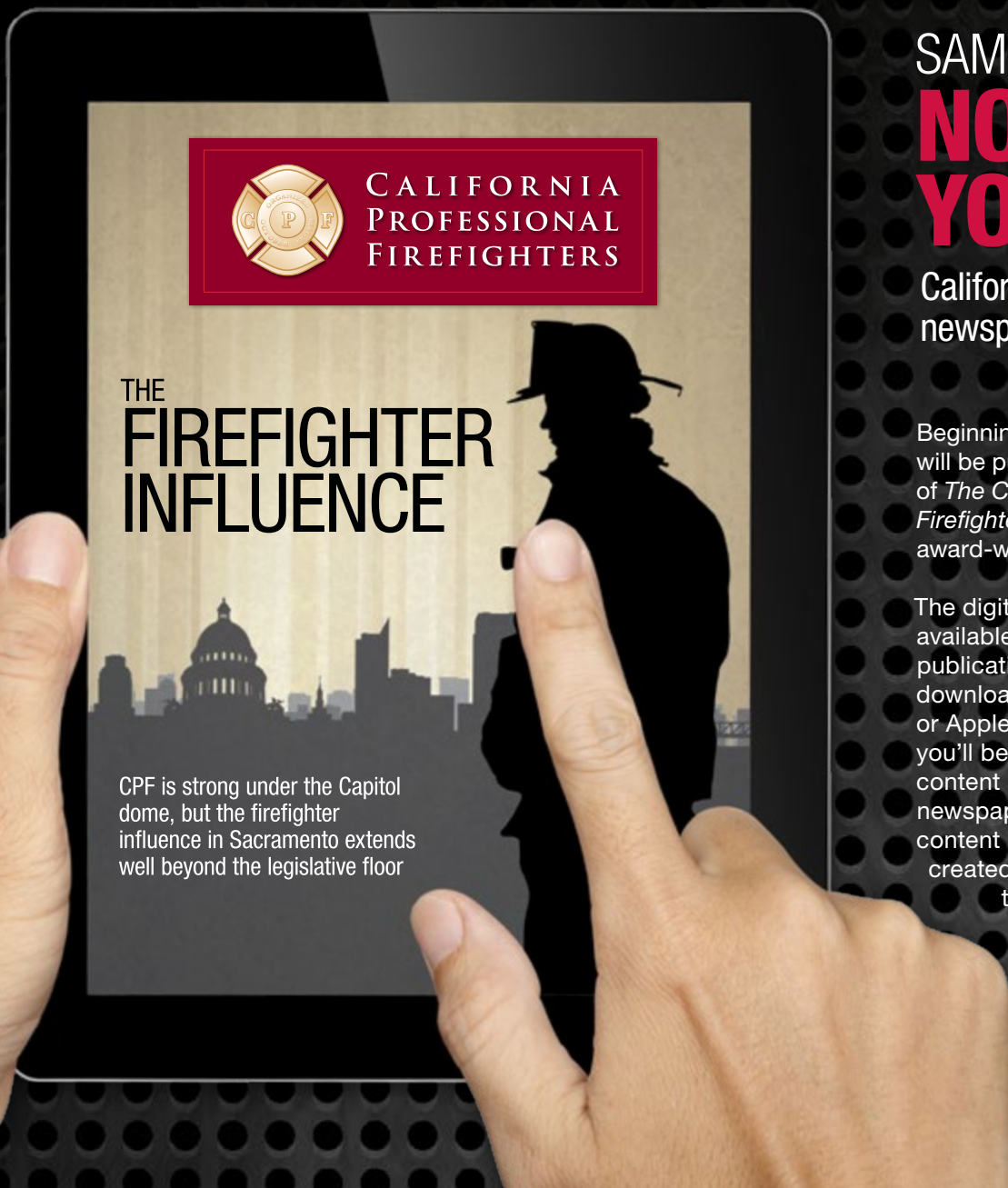
"The world of media is moving in the direction of digital," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "By moving our publications with it, we

hope to give our members the best experience possible and keep them up to date on the issues affecting our profession."

To gain access to the new digital publication, search for the "CPF Publications" app on either the Apple App Store or Google Play. Please note, the "CPF Publications" app differs from the existing CPF mobile app.

Readers who prefer hard-copy editions of the paper have little to fear over the new digital roll-out. *The California Professional Firefighter* will continue to distribute more than 30,000 issues on a quarterly basis.

For more information on the digital publication, including download instructions, visit www.cpf.org.



CPF SECRETARY-TREASURER HONORED WITH CALIFORNIA'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Recognizing 30 years of 'dedicated and sustained EMS service'

A member of California Professional Firefighters' top brass earned some hardware of his own this past year, evidence of a long career advocating for California's first responders.

Lew Stone, CPF's secretary-treasurer and chairman of the state's Commission on Emergency Medical Services, was awarded the state's Distinguished Service Medal in December. The award was presented in recognition of an EMS career that spans more than three decades.

The medal – one of the state's top honors for EMS professionals – is reserved for individuals demonstrating "distinguished service or achievement affecting statewide EMS for an extended period of time."

In presenting the award to Stone, the state's Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) highlighted his more than 30-year career, during which time he has demonstrated "unique insight and knowledge of California's EMS issues, statewide leadership and representation of public safety personnel."

Stone began his EMS career with the Burbank Fire Department, where he served for over 30 years, 24 of them as captain. During that time, he also spent 25 years as president of Burbank Firefighters, Local 778. Stone was elected CPF Secretary-Treasurer in 2008, after serving as the 2nd District Vice President for seven years. He began his service on the state's Emergency Medical Services Commission in 2003, and became chair of the commission in 2014.

The award was presented during the California Emergency Medical Services Authority's annual EMS Awards ceremony, where 24 Californians were honored for their various contributions to the state's EMS system.

"It's an honor to receive this award," Stone said. "Through my service on the state's EMS Commission, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to represent the interests of California's front-line firefighters who continue to deliver the best in patient care. I look forward to continuing my service and leadership with their interests in mind."





SOME THOUGHTS ON EMS DISCIPLINE

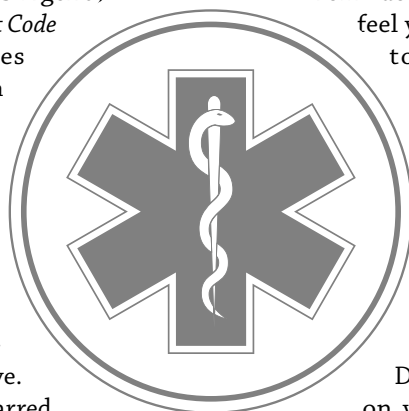
Are you confused as to how the "Firefighters' Procedural Bill of Rights" (FBOR) applies to you in your capacity as an EMS professional? If so, you are not alone.

Unfortunately, those performing the investigations are often more confused than you are. Since the passage of AB 220 in 2007, department administrators have become much more adept in dealing with internal disciplinary actions, but incidents involving your EMT certificate or EMT-P license are another story altogether.

In observing EMS discipline across the state, the biggest problem is that many agencies lump training issues into their disciplinary process. The first step in any incident is to evaluate whether or not training is the real deficiency. I have found that most EMS problems can be quickly corrected via additional training, not punitive action. If training is

not the issue, then due process under FBOR must be followed.

If the investigation is conducted by your employer, the State EMS Authority or the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA), *Government Code Sect. 3253* mandates that the investigation adheres to the provisions of FBOR. This includes your right to be represented by the person of your choice. You have the right to use your union's designated representative. He or she cannot be barred from the interrogation because they are not an attorney, unless there are potential criminal charges. In that case, an attorney must be retained to fully protect your rights.



Increasingly, both the Authority and LEMSA's are coordinating their proposed discipline with that of the department (i.e. an attempt to refrain from "double jeopardy"). If you feel you are being exposed to double jeopardy, immediately have your union contact CPF for assistance.

If you are a paramedic, remember that your license is issued by the state, not your department. This is parallel to the DMV controlling action on your driver's license.

If you do get into a disciplinary situation, it would behoove you to go to the EMSA website and look at the "Model Disciplinary Orders." That guideline will forewarn you regarding

the proposed level of discipline. We all hate surprises.

I'll end with one final observation and piece of advice.

In the vast majority of the serious disciplinary matters, the problem is not the actual infraction, but rather the less-than-honest approach to dealing with the situation. It can take the form of a creative writing project (aka "patient care report"), which can end in fraud. It can be the Dirty Harry "frankly, in all the confusion..." defense that equates to lying in the course of an investigation.

You get the idea. Tell the truth and it will go much better.

We all strive for excellent patient care. Sometimes, for a variety of reasons, we fall short. Only on a few occasions is an event deserving of discipline. Hopefully this reading has given you more insight into the process that you'll never participate in.

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

Published Quarterly

Publication Office

California Professional Firefighters
1780 Creekside Oaks • Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 921-9111
Web: www.cpf.org
Email: info@cpf.org

Editor: **Carroll Wills**

Managing Editor: **James Noonan**

Graphic Designer: **Robbie Panco**

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Board

Lou Paulson President
Lew Stone Secretary-Treasurer
Tim Strack 1st District Vice President
Chris Mahon 2nd District Vice President
Bobby Weist 3rd District Vice President
Randy Sekany 4th District Vice President
Michael Massone 5th District Vice President
Mike Lopez 6th District Vice President
Dave Gilotte 7th District Vice President
Frank Lima 8th District Vice President

Trustees

Rick Swan
Erik Baskin
Tony Gamboa

Staff

Teresa Ortiz Managing Director
Christy Bouma Governmental Advocate
Amy Howard Legislative Director
Chris Patterson Political Director
Carroll Wills Communications Director
James Noonan Communications Specialist
Kevin White EMS and Health & Safety Director
Pharris Treskunoff Assistant to the President
Rosalia Lopez Administrative Assistant

Apryl Swanberg PER Coordinator
Irene Chu Finance Director
Kathy Shipley Full-Charge Bookkeeper
Ting Ting Hui Senior Accountant
Stacy Smith Receptionist

CPF Callback Association

Cynthia Clark Projects Coordinator

Firefighters Print & Design

Mariena De Anda Director
Autumn Emond Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Clark Promotional Products Representative
Robbie Panco Graphic Designer
Natalie Mercado Production Manager
Victor Jimenez Press Operator
Todd Archer Digital Press Operator
Taylor de la Peña Delivery/Shipping Clerk

California Fire Foundation

Hedi Jalon Executive Director
Kaitlin Conrad Program Specialist

California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Yvonne de la Peña Executive Director

FireStar Studios

Kelley Trujillo Vice President

NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION KICKS OFF IN SACRAMENTO

The state's 2015-16 legislative session is only a few months old, but California Professional Firefighters hit the ground running with new proposals that will benefit first responders throughout the Golden State.

Ranging from familiar issues such as limiting exposure to cancer-causing toxins to growing threats like oil train derailments in California communities, CPF's legislative package touches upon multiple elements of the firefighter profession, helping ensure that the concerns of our members will be addressed in Sacramento.

So far, CPF is sponsoring six new bills.

- › **SB 534** (Richard Pan, D-Sacramento): Ensures that public agencies providing ground emergency medical transportation to Medi-Cal patients receive reimbursement for their share of expenses. Funding would be provided by the federal government.
- › **SB 763** (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco): Would require manufacturers of cer-

tain juvenile products to disclose, via a product label, whether or not their products contain added flame retardant chemicals. The bill would also codify current fire retardant regulatory exemption applicable to certain juvenile products.

- › **AB 1031** (Tony Thurmond, D-Richmond): Requires an employer that contracts with CalPERS for health care to provide any collectively bargained, statutorily required or vested post-retirement healthcare contribution, including reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums that are owed to an employee when they become eligible for Medicare.
- › **AB 1203** (Reggie Jones-Sawyer, D-Los Angeles): Applies a modest 3- or 5-percent special disaster response surcharge to property insurance premiums in California that are issued on or after January 1, 2016. The bill also repeals the existing \$150-per-parcel State Responsibility Area (SRA)

fee in favor of the broader disaster response surcharge. The revenue generated by this bill would be allocated directly to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for distribution to state public safety agencies and local governments meeting certain criteria for the express purpose of sustaining and enhancing their mutual aid fire and disaster response capabilities.

- › **AB 883** (Evan Low, D-Campbell): Prohibits private and public employers from publishing or posting a job advertisement or announcement, which states or indicates that a current or former public employee is not allowed to apply. It also prohibits these employers from communicating that the applicant's status as a current or former public employee disqualifies him or her from employment eligibility or from basing employment decisions on the applicant's public employee status. The bill applies the same prohibition to anyone operating a web site that posts jobs in California.
- › **SB 239** (Hertzberg): Expands the jurisdiction of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCo) to include contracts for fire protection

services between public agencies. In doing so, this bill ensures that the details regarding fire protection service delivery and costs are appropriately examined, thereby resulting in the best outcome for residents, the public agency and the firefighters in all affected areas.

CPF is also supporting a state audit request made by Assemblyman Bill Dodd (D-Napa), which was approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee in March. The audit will examine the impact of lost property tax revenue on local fire departments that stems from tax exempt UC and CSU campuses expanding and acquiring properties that were formally private, tax-paying properties.

The audit will begin in July and evaluate four CSU and three UC campuses over a period of about seven months. The campuses that will be examined by the State Auditor's Office are UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, UC Merced, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Stanislaus, San Diego State University and San Jose State University.

For more information on any of these bills, or to hear about developments throughout the legislative session, visit www.cpf.org.

LOCAL NEWS

CITY-IMPOSED CONTRACT PUTS PUBLIC, FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AT RISK IN YUBA CITY

After months of stonewall tactics at the bargaining table, local politicians in Yuba City have placed fiscal savings over the safety of their citizens.

In January, with a 3-2 vote, the city council imposed a contract on Yuba City Firefighters Association, Local 3793 that calls for unsafe, two-person engine staffing at two of the department's five stations. After 8:00 p.m., a third engine company is dropped to two people, leaving the city woefully understaffed in the event of an emergency.

"These cuts greatly reduce our ability to act when arriving on scene of an emergency," said David Jans, president of Local 3793. "With fewer firefighters on scene, it means more risk to both residents and the firefighters who have

sworn to protect them."

Adding to the local's frustration is the fact that the city's data shows that savings from the imposed contract are largely being used to help fund other city departments, Jans said.

"The citizens were told that this was for the fiscal viability of the city, but it's really a shifting in priorities, away from fire/EMS services to other areas of the city," he added. "It's not the fiscal doomsday situation they presented to the public."

While the city's motivation is questionable, one thing is now certain – public safety is at risk.

Under the imposed staffing cuts, incidents such as vehicle accidents, which call for a minimum of three firefighters on scene, will now require two engines to respond. With the resulting shifts in

coverage, even a routine medical aid call would mean an entire district would be left vacant and uncovered due to the reduced staffing.

When tied with mandates such as OSHA's "two-in/two-out" the staffing cuts will also result in a slower initial attack on structure fires.

"This means an increased risk to both lives and property in the city," Jans said.

In addition to placing the public at risk, the council's decision also jeopardizes the safety of the firefighters themselves.

"There's empirical data that proves that, with the reduction in staffing, comes a slower, less effective response," Jans said, referencing a study by the National Institute for Science and Technology that shows two-person companies to be 30 per-

cent less effective than three-person companies.

"That's going to mean more time on the roof, it's going to be more time inside, it's going to be more time doing these dangerous activities," he added.

Jans and the members of Local 3793 are trying to get the word out to Yuba City residents about how the council's decision has jeopardized their safety. Off-duty firefighters are now regularly knocking on doors and distributing literature about how the cuts impact the Yuba City community. The local has also established a website, www.pro-tectyubacity.com, which houses this information.

"We'd like to remind residents that this mayor and this council were elected largely on a platform of making public safety a priority," Jans said. "Reducing staffing levels to what they were a decade ago does not meet that goal."

Read more local news on page 10

NEW SESSION, BRINGS NEW LEADERSHIP TO THE CAPITOL

With the dawn of the new 2015-16 session, Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins have taken the reins of their respective houses of the California Legislature.

Earlier this year, CPF caught up with both Atkins and de León to talk about priorities for the coming session, some major issue areas for CPF, and their past experiences working with firefighters.

Q: What are some of your priorities for the Assembly/Senate during the 2015-16 legislative session?

Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León:

One is to deal with the issue of climate change. We've seen so many wildfires throughout the state of California. We had the hottest year on record last year. So, we really have to move forward progressive climate change policies to help grow the economy and curb the harmful impacts of CO2 emissions into our atmosphere.

Another really high priority for me, as well as our Senate, is investment in higher education. We want to make sure that every single child regardless of who they are or where they come from has the opportunity to go on to higher education.

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins:

The priorities we're focused on this year are along the theme of reinvesting in infrastructure and people in California.

Along the lines of infrastructure, we're trying to find a revenue stream to help rebuild. We currently have about a \$60 billion roadway infrastructure deficit. We're going to be focused on affordable housing and low-income housing for struggling Californians. We're going to be focused on higher education, (so) California's students and their families have the ability to get a reasonably priced, affordable education at UC and CSU. And certainly we support our community colleges, as we've reinvested significantly there.

Q: A major issue to first responders is the preservation of retirement security. What do you see as the Legislature's role in addressing this issue?



SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM KEVIN DE LEÓN

de León:

It's a really important issue for me, given that I was the author of SB 1234, which will allow workers in the private sector to have access to a modicum of dignity and respect when it comes time for retirement security planning.

The reality is that firefighters don't receive Social Security benefits. They're first responders who put their lives on the line every single day. When the men and women who protect our lives, who protect our property, and run into the burning building, when they don't have retirement security for themselves, (or their families), it's an issue of justice; it's an issue of dignity. It's about giving every firefighter a modicum of respect. Firefighters and retirement security, it's absolutely critical, and absolutely essential for *all* individuals.

Atkins:

I come out of local government, and have a long history of supporting retirement security for all public employees, and especially for public safety employees who put their lives on the line every single day.

When you talk about retirement security, it's something that we really need to be committed to, because it affects more than just the immediate family. We don't want to create poor people in California, so we have to be committed to making sure that we support reasonably retirement for public safety.

Q: Over the course of your legislative career, you've had the opportunity to work with California's firefighters on a variety of issues and causes. Talk about your experiences working with CPF on these issues. How would you rate firefighters as partners in your legislative efforts?



ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TONI ATKINS

de León:

I think they're fantastic. I think they move forward with bold proposals, and help craft policy that makes a difference in improving the human condition, whether it's safety issues for firefighters or residents in general throughout the state of California. When there are working condition issues, their voice needs to be heard.

I think it's every young boy's dream to be a fireman, and I've always held a tremendous amount of respect for firefighters. When they are present in the state Capitol, it has an impact. It makes a large difference when we hear, face to face, from a man or woman who puts his or her life on the line every day.

Atkins:

I have a long history of working with the local firefighters in San Diego, and that has continued in my journey to Sacramento. They have really helped me to understand the nature of the job, and what it takes to do the job.

You have incredible advocates and you have incredible people at the organization. They do a great job representing the issues.

But I would say it's really the stories, it's the stories from the first responders, the people on the line doing the job that make the difference, and convince us of what is necessary. I look forward to a continued relationship.

Obviously, what you're doing works.

To read more of CPF's legislative leadership interviews, or to hear the messages Atkins and de León delivered to attendees at the CPF's 2015 Legislative Conference, please visit www.cpf.org.

2014 PHOTO CONTEST *Winners*



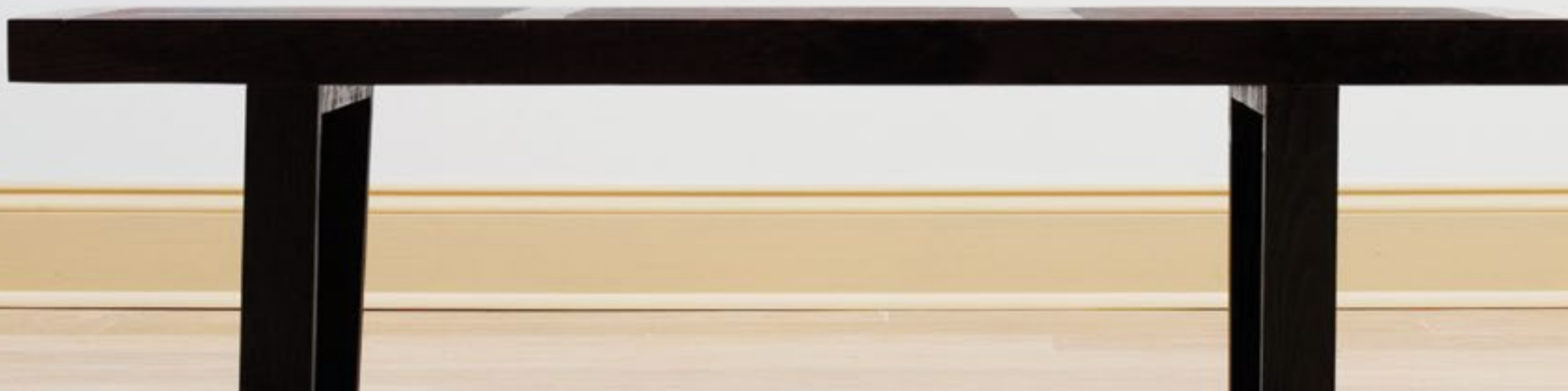
WINNER "FIREFIGHTERS ON THE JOB"

Brandy Carlos started as a volunteer photographer in 2012 and is employed by CAL FIRE at the Riverside County Fire Training Bureau. She has specialized training and experience in photography and has used her background to capture all aspects of the fire service.



WINNER "FIRE ACTION"

Martin Nate Rawner is a photographer and videographer in the Los Angeles area and has developed a special interest in firefighting and fire photography over the past 20 plus years. On Flickr, YouTube and Twitter he is also known as the FireLensMan.





WINNER
"FIREFIGHTERS IN THE COMMUNITY"

Adam Gutierrez is a firefighter with Fresno City Fire Department, where he has served since 2007. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Amber, and has three amazing children, Gavin, Olivia, and Colette. His children are the sole reason for him picking up a camera and learning photography.



HONORABLE MENTION

- 1) **Tod Sudmeier**
- 2) **Wes Schultz**
- 3) **Steve Gentry**
- 4) **Chris Lynn**



ALAMEDA CO. ELECTED OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES FEEL THE HEAT AT FIREOPS 101



Dozens of elected officials, candidates and journalists got a front-row view of the fire service this summer, thanks to Alameda County Fire Fighters Association, Local 55's FireOps 101.

Held in mid-September at Alameda County's San Leandro training tower, this year's FireOps 101 saw more than 40 officials gather to try their hand at the activities that men and women of the fire service are called upon to do on a daily basis. This year's attendees included members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, members

and staff from the state Legislature, elected and appointed officials from city's that contract with the Alameda County Fire Department, as well as all candidate that were being endorsed by Local 55.

For many, it was their first look into the firefighter profession.

"Everyone who attends walks away with a new level of respect for firefighters and the work that they do," said Alameda County Firefighters Association, Local 55 President Sean Burrows. "The feedback we get is tremendous."

While Alameda County has been hosting FireOps 101 for years, one of the

aims for this year's installment was to demonstrate the "added value" services provided by the Alameda County Fire Department, included HazMat training, urban search and rescue, heavy rescue capabilities and swift water rescue.

"We wanted to demonstrate that what our contract agencies get with us is more than what they would get elsewhere," Burrows said.

By allowing key decision makers the opportunity to take part in these highly technical activities, FireOps 101 hopes to not only create respect for the profession, but also provide a better understanding of how valuable

a trained, professional fire service is to the community.

With supervisors, mayors, city managers and others in attendance, this new level of understanding can pay dividends for both the local and the department.

"To put these officials in an environment where they're not comfortable, and show them what we do on a daily basis, allows them to take a whole new perspective back to their office," Burrows said. "When it comes time to make decisions on things like staffing or the budget, that added perspective really makes a difference."

MOUNTAIN HOUSE TURNS BACK ON TRACY RURAL FPD, RESIDENTS

In early February, members of the Mountain House Community Service District Board of Directors told to a standing-room only crowd of supporters that they would continue contracting with the Tracy Rural Fire Protection District.

Four days later, in the dead of night when nobody was looking, they voted to reverse course.

As a result, residents in the Mountain House will see a dramatic decrease in their level of service when the district begins contracting with the French Camp Fire District. French Camp is a non-contiguous department that does not offer ALS service. "Basically, we lost the contract, but the real losers are the residents of Mountain House" said Tony Perez, president of Tracy Firefighters, Local 3355, which represents the Tracy Rural FPD as well as the City of Tracy.

The decision to contract with French Camp brings to a close a nearly three-year ordeal in Mountain House, one which saw a pair of hard-liner district general managers attempt to whittle down operating costs, ultimately at

the expense of the public safety.

Under the past service agreement, the Tracy Rural FPD provided three-person engine companies, as well as a support system that could place an additional 12 firefighters on-scene within eight-and-a-half minutes. French Camp will be providing two-person, non-ALS engine companies and currently has no established mutual aid agreements. It doesn't even share a border with Mountain House.

"The levels of service aren't even close," Perez said.

Throughout the entire process, members of Local 3355 worked to inform community members how dire the drop in service would be. The board's initial vote to continue contracting with Tracy Rural caused "the standing-room-only crowd to erupt into applause."

Unfortunately, the board was unwilling to stand by its action.

"We walked the community services district, going door to door to let residents know what the consequences would be," Perez said. "The community was very supportive of us, but in the end, it was a board decision based on money."

ELECTION SUCCESS IN LA CITY UFLAC GOES "EIGHT FOR EIGHT" ON ELECTION DAY

Election season has come and gone in the City of Los Angeles, and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, Local 112 (UFLAC) were actively engaged in several local races.

Of the fifteen seats on the Los Angeles City Council, seven were up for election during the city's March primary, meaning there was a significant opportunity for UFLAC to promote the firefighter agenda in the community. UFLAC made the decision to endorse candidates in six of these races, opting to stay neutral in the District 4 race, which is now headed for a May runoff.

"As a testament to our member engagement and campaign process, all six of these endorsed candidates were elected to office, ensuring that Local 112 will have multiple champions for firefighter issues on the council," said Local UFLAC President Frank Lima.

UFLAC also supported two charter amendments relating to city elections, which were passed by voters, meaning Local 112 went a perfect "eight for eight" on Election Day.



STANDING UP *for* RETIREMENT SECURITY

Pushing Back As Pension Foes Plot New Attack on Retirement Security

“I’ll be back.” It was what then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said when his 2005 effort to privatize pensions and firefighter death benefits famously flamed out. Now it’s the refrain for a new breed of pension “Terminators” targeting the hard-earned retirement security of first responders and other public workers.

True to their word, these new wave pension slashers – led by former San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed – are indeed coming back with a statewide initiative. And like 2005, they will face a fight.

Bolstered by the prospect of big money support, a new initiative to roll back retirement promises for current workers is being drafted, targeted for November of 2016. As envisioned, the proposal would be framed as an attack on CalPERS, but its primary objective would be to eliminate the constitutional protection for vested pensions and retiree health care for current employees.

“For significant reductions in cost, you

have to deal with the current employees,” said former San Jose Mayor Reed, in a 2014 speech.

Reed is the figurehead of a “Rogues Gallery” of anti-pension activists who have joined forces to launch this latest attack, a group that includes failed San Diego mayoral and congressional candidate Carl DeMaio and David Grau, the architect of an anti-pension measure in Ventura County.

When the group gathered with the anti-pension Reason Foundation in April for an un-advertised strategy session in Sacramento, they were greeted by an unwelcome surprise: About 150 firefighters, school employees, teachers and public workers. Marching, chanting and carrying signs, the protesters brought a clear message to the anti-retirement crowd.

Keep your promises.

More than 60 firefighters came to Sacramento to take part in the Rally for Retirement Security and stand up against Reed’s divisive efforts. Locals

represented at the rally included Davis Firefighters, Local 3494, Sacramento Area Firefighters, Local 522, Lodi Firefighters, Local 1225, Modesto Firefighters, Local 1289, Salinas Firefighters, Local 1270, Mountain View Firefighters, Local 1965, Alameda County Firefighters, Local 55 and San Jose Firefighters, Local 230.

“I have seen firsthand what Chuck Reed’s ‘vision’ of pension reform looks like, and it’s not pretty,” said Patrick Chung, a San Jose fire captain and member of San Jose Firefighters Local 230. “His agenda is really to demonize public workers and create an insecure retirement for everyone.”

Reed has become the self-proclaimed Pied Piper of pension attacks in California. The former mayor had sought to put a pension-slashing measure on the 2014 ballot, but withdrew the measure after its title and summary accurately unmasked its potential impact on retirement promises to current workers. Reed’s much-touted “Measure B” in San Jose has largely been rejected in the courts.

“Mayor Reed has a long and ugly history with our brothers and sisters in San Jose,” said CPF President Lou Paulson. “His idea of pension reform is to break the promises made to employees mid-career.”

The new attack on pensions also figures to have big money support from billionaire ideologues like the Koch Brothers and Texas hedge-fund billionaire John Arnold. In addition to big-money support, state election law also gives Reed’s attack an easier path to the statewide ballot. The record-low turnout in 2014 means Reed and his allies will be able to qualify their measure with 40% fewer signatures.

“The same people that went after our public voice in Proposition 32 also want to take away our pensions,” said Paulson. “These are billionaires who have their own retirement sewn up but have taken it upon themselves to steal yours.”

In rallying against the big money pension grab, firefighters and other public workers also took a stand in support of retirement security for every Californian. A recent analysis by the National Institute for Retirement Security showed that more than 40 million Americans have no retirement savings at all, and the average retirement nest egg in the U.S. is \$2,500. The frightening figures are, according to NIRS and others, a direct consequence of the wholesale privatization of retirement in the private sector – the same vision Reed and his allies have for firefighters.

While there are no public workers that can write million-dollar checks, the Rally for Retirement Security suggests there are other ways to get attention. The more than 60 firefighters CPF is helping to lead a statewide coalition that will fight against this dangerous proposal. As in the past, much will depend on the unity and commitment of firefighters, teachers, nurses, law enforcement and other public workers. In other words, pension foes can expect that firefighters won’t back down from the fight to protect their retirement security and that of every worker – public and private.

“We all need to stand together,” said Frank Lima, president of UFLAC Local 112. “It’s the only way firefighters have won in the past, and that’s the only way we’re going to win in the future.”

Keep track of how you can join the fight at www.cpf.org and on Facebook and Twitter.



Dozens of firefighters from at least eight locals join more than 100 public workers in standing up against the coming attack on retirement security.



SAVE PROGRAM EXPANDS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

Across the state, the SAVE program is making a difference.

With the program's second open enrollment period having come and gone, Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency, or SAVE, cards are now in the helping hands of over 40 departments across California. To date, more than 125 families and individuals have been provided relief in the wake of tragedy.

"The success of the SAVE program comes as little surprise to members of the fire service," said Lou Paulson, chair of the Foundation board and president of CPF. "For years, firefighters around California have expressed a desire to assist victims after the fire is out. There was a gap in service, and SAVE helps to fill that void."

Earlier this year, representatives from both labor and management came together to discuss the success of the SAVE program thus far with members of the Sacramento-area media.

"You've put out their fire; you've tried to collect their belongings, but at the end of the day, these fire engines go back to work, and really you feel at a loss," West Sacramento Fire Chief Rick Martinez told reporters. "This program offers, for the people we serve, some hope, and for us, a feeling that we're doing something that matters."

For those on the front lines, the ability

to extend an extra helping hand makes a world of difference.

"We've all been in those situations where it's three in the morning and a family is standing outside at the curb and they've lost everything, said Brian Rice, president of Sacramento Area Fire Fighters, Local 522. "A SAVE card can be a lifeline for these families, allowing them to get a hot meal, buy some clothes or maybe find a place to stay the night."

The SAVE program allows on-scene firefighters to provide immediate financial assistance to victims of fire or natural disaster in the form of a \$100 gift card. These funds can be used to purchase basic necessities such as food, clothing or medicine.

"SAVE isn't going to make anyone whole, it's not designed to be that way," said Cosumnes Fire Chief Tracey Hansen. "This program allows us to offer some degree of immediate assistance in getting through those first difficult hours after a disaster."

The next deadline for departments and locals to enroll in the SAVE program is July 1, 2015. The program is funded through the California Fire Foundation. Chevron, Inc. is a major corporate sponsor. More information about the program, including how to begin participating, can be found at save.cafirefoundation.org.

APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR DANIEL A. TERRY SCHOLARSHIP

The California Fire Foundation is currently accepting applications for the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship program, which is intended to help children of fallen firefighters attend college.

The deadline to apply for the \$2,000 scholarship is July 6, 2015.

Named for past California Professional Firefighter President and California Fire Foundation founder Daniel A. Terry, the scholarship program helps benefit children of parents who have fallen in the line of duty. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$120,000 in scholarship funds, helping more than 70 students realize their dream of a college education.

For more information on how to apply for a Daniel A. Terry Scholarship, please visit <http://www.cafirefoundation.org/go/cff/california-firefighters-endowment> or call (800)-890-3212.

For additional information on survivor benefits, please visit www.cafirefoundation.org.



FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS

Select the California Fire Foundation as a beneficiary for your next fundraiser and we can help you promote your event. For more information, contact Foundation Executive Director Hedi Jalon at 800-890-3212 or hjalon@cpf.org.

EVENTS

Proceeds from the following events support the mission of the California Fire Foundation.

Visit

www.CAFireFoundation.org

to purchase your tickets today!



**LOS ANGELES
DODGERS
FIREFIGHTER
APPRECIATION
GAME**

WHO: California Fire Foundation

WHAT: 2nd Annual LA Dodgers Firefighter Appreciation Game

WHERE: Dodger Stadium
1000 Elysian Park Ave, Los Angeles, CA

WHEN: June 8, 2015

**SAN FRANCISCO
GIANTS
FIREFIGHTER
APPRECIATION
GAME**

WHO: California Fire Foundation

WHAT: 5th Annual San Francisco Giants Firefighter Appreciation Game

WHERE: AT&T Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco, CA

WHEN: July 6, 2015



**EARNED WITH
COURAGE
DISPLAYED WITH
PRIDE**

The California Firefighter License Plate is available **ONLY** to active and retired firefighters. Get yours today!

Call (800) 890-3213 and order your firefighter license plates today!

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION**



PHOTO: ROBBIE PANICO

CFFJAC WRITTEN TESTING IS UNDERWAY

The vision of comprehensive candidate testing for California's fire service has become a reality, as the CFFJAC's Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) began offering their first written tests to candidates in February.

The fully-validated test, which was developed by the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee, was administered to candidates at FCTC's two Northern California locations as

well as one in Southern California, bringing the culmination of a more than year-long effort to develop an entry-level exam for firefighter candidates in California.

Throughout the development and validation process, CFFJAC garnered input from industry experts and conducted multiple rounds of beta-testing using fire service personnel, resulting in a fair, rigorous and fully validated exam that can now be offered to can-

didates across the state.

"FCTC's comprehensive approach, which now includes both written and physical testing, falls directly under JAC's mission of building a well-qualified, well-trained fire service for our state," said CFFJAC Executive Director Yvonne de la Peña. "We're proud to offer this service to California fire departments."

The advent of FCTC's written exam services not only streamlines the test-

ing process for candidates, but also dramatically reduces the burden placed on departments through the creation of a new statewide hiring list.

After taking the written exam, candidates receiving a passing score – who also possess a valid driver's license and valid CPAT card and have completed an online application – will have their names added to FCTC's statewide hiring list. Departments can then access this list and be sure they are only reviewing candidates who are qualified for new openings.

Since 2004, CFFJAC has served the needs of departments and firefighter candidates through its Candidate Physical Ability Test, or CPAT, which has become the acknowledged standard for physical ability testing of prospective firefighters. After adding the written test, FCTC is poised to become a "one stop shop," offering an integrated, secure service that makes it easier to match qualified candidates with the departments who need them.

"CFFJAC is in the business of helping to bring professionals into the fire service," de la Peña said. "Offering our new, fully validated written test allows us to take another major step toward that goal."

For more information on CFFJAC's written test, as well other services provided to candidates or departments through the FCTCs, please visit www.fctconline.org.

SAVE THE DATE

The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee's

13TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



NOVEMBER 4-6TH 2015

New Venue

Westin Mission Hills, Rancho Mirage, CA

For more information, visit www.cffjac.org.

Photos by Robbie Panco



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF PIPES & DRUMS *of the* CPF



In April of 2000, attendees at CPF's 37th state convention unknowingly witnessing a piece of California fire service history.

It was here that a small contingent of paid, career firefighters came together for the inaugural performance of the Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters.

Since then, the band has grown into something of an institution within California's fire service.

The band was there in 2001, when the state paid tribute to the victims of Sept. 11 through the California Memorial Service and Procession of Heroes, as well as in 2002, when the California Firefighters Memorial was unveiled to the public. In the decade and a half since their first performance, the Pipes and Drums have also attended countless firefighter memorial services, lending an air of dignity and honor to those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"The Pipes and Drums of California Professional Firefighters has grown into one of the most popular fixtures at firefighter gatherings in this state," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "On the 15th anniversary of the band's first performance, we would like to thank and honor those who have volunteered their time and energy toward this great cause."





SAVE THE DATE

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015
CAPITOL PARK, SACRAMENTO

The submission process for names to be added to the California Firefighters Memorial is currently underway.

Applications must be completed by a recognized firefighters' association, union representative or fire department administration representative, and are due by June 30, 2015.

For more information, please visit memorial.cafirefoundation.org.