



Volume 16 No. 3 Fourth Quarter 2008

# CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters

## CPF in 2008 – Firefighters Win Big Again!

### CPF Voice Rings Loud and Clear in '08 Elections

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### Firefighter Presumptions Now Include Drug-Resistant Bacteria

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### Firefighters Win Double Jeopardy Protection

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LOU PAULSON

### Success in Challenging Times

It's hard not to notice that times are tough in our state and our nation right now. Each day seems to bring fresh headlines of bankruptcy and bailout. In scary times like these, good news is a welcome relief. At CPF, I'm pleased to report that 2008 will go down as one of CPF's most successful years ever.

In 2008, CPF ran the table on our sponsorship legislation. Highlights included a new presumption for MRSA, a serious exposure threat to firefighters

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

on the job. CPF also won a successful two-year fight to protect your employee rights in the EMT regulatory process. The two-bill compromise reform imposes more employer and employee accountability and stronger firefighter representation on the state EMS Authority. Building on our successful enactment of the Firefighters Bill of Rights, the 2007-2008 legislative session ranks as one of the most productive ever for our members.

This level of success is not an accident. It comes from having elected officials who are tuned to your needs and issues. This is where political action makes a difference. The recent elections produced a stunning 97 percent success rate in legislative races in which CPF made an endorsement. As always, CPF's political action is built around firefighter issues, not party loyalty. Whether Republican or Democrat, if you stand with firefighters and their families, we will stand with you.

In local elections, the public has also stood with us, approving many local public safety assessments to preserve and enhance fire and police services. This is in addition to the long list of firefighter-friendly local elected officials. In most cases, these political successes help build strong relationships – something that will be critical in the tough times ahead.

This year, CPF helped dozens of local affiliates with their local elections, through our integrated political action and communications services. Whether it is printing, video, message development or strategy, your local leadership has an experienced support team that is a phone call or an email away.

It would be nice to promise this kind of success every year. But you and I know better. Nobody is immune from the challenges wrought by the current recession. Many of our affiliated local

unions are struggling to hold public safety cuts to a minimum. In Sacramento, our friends in the Legislature will be working to hold the line for public safety services in the face of an almost unfathomable \$48 billion budget gap.

The economic climate requires that we be ever-vigilant against the anti-worker, anti-firefighter forces that are already sharpening their knives for another run at your hard-earned retirement security.

As firefighters, we enjoy a strong public image and the services we provide are essential. But that public goodwill is not boundless. The citizens we serve are also hurting. They are losing their homes, their businesses and their jobs. As we fight to protect our own retirement security, we must be mindful of the challenges our fellow citizens face, and give back to the communities we serve.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL MESSAGE](#)

# We Will Remember ...

# CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY 2008



In a solemn ceremony featuring a procession of uniformed firefighters, bagpipers and drummers, 26 firefighters who fell in the line of duty were added to the California Firefighters Memorial on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger addressed the crowd who gathered at Capitol Park to pay their respects.



Included among the names added to the Memorial was that of fire service legend **Dallas Jones; Brent Lovrien;** who died in a devastating explosion near Los Angeles International Airport; and **Kevin Pryor; and Robert Roland;** whose deaths were linked to last summer's sequence of lightning storms.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL STORY AND A PHOTO GALLERY](#)



## CPAT Sacramento Launches With 2009 Recruitment Fairs



Even in tough times, the need for new firefighter recruits remains high – many departments are still hiring. But before you can become a firefighter, you have to prove you've got the physical ability.

To help fill this need, the **CFFJAC** has opened a third testing center to offer the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). The new **CPAT**

**Center in Sacramento** joins centers in Orange County and the Bay Area, giving candidates another place to take the well-regarded test.

To help launch CPAT Sacramento, the **CFFJAC's Women's Commission** will be sponsoring its **Third Annual Firefighter Recruitment Fair** on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The well-received fairs bring would-be firefighters together with department reps to help guide

them toward a rewarding fire service career.

Two other fairs will follow – May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CPAT Center in Livermore, and May 9<sup>th</sup> at the CPAT Center in Orange.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT CPAT SACRAMENTO](#)

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THE CFFJAC RECRUITMENT FAIRS](#)



*Scene from 2008 Recruitment Fair in Northern California*



*Candidate tests at new CPAT Center in Sacramento*

# HEALTH & SAFETY



## EMS Reform: What It Means To You

The new EMT reform laws — AB 2917 and SB 997 -- offer additional privacy protection, reaffirm the Firefighters Bill of Rights and reduce 'double jeopardy' discipline.

- Firefighter/EMTs who have been subject to a background check need not be re-checked if the department certifies they've had one.
- Fingerprints, pertinent data and any arrest record will be forwarded to State Department of Justice.
- EMT and paramedic certification and recertification fees may increase to cover the cost of establishing a state registry.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL STORY](#)

## Proposed WUI Standards of Coverage



As development has spread into areas once viewed as wilderness, the traditional standards of coverage for the wildlands just don't apply anymore. Recognizing this new reality, a team of front-line firefighters and fire management has drafted a new Standard of Cover for the Wildland Urban Interface.

The proposed standards of cover provide model staffing and response times for initial attack in the WUI. The goal is "to keep all WUI fires to ten acres or less 95 percent of the time with no additional structure ignitions after the arrival of the first initial attack assignment."

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

# POLITICAL ACTION

## Winning the Right Way

In 2008, CPF targeted several competitive seats and two contests stand out as especially important victories: Republican candidate Jeff Miller in the 71st Assembly District and Democratic candidate Alyson Huber in the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

In both cases, the collaboration between CPF and its local affiliates clearly made the difference.

[CLICK HERE TO READ HOW CPF MADE A DIFFERENCE](#)



**Alyson Huber**

## Local Election Victories

**San Jose Fire Fighters, Local 230** - "We ran the table. It was the first time in a long time that every candidate and every issue that we backed was hugely successful."

- Mark Skeen, Vice President

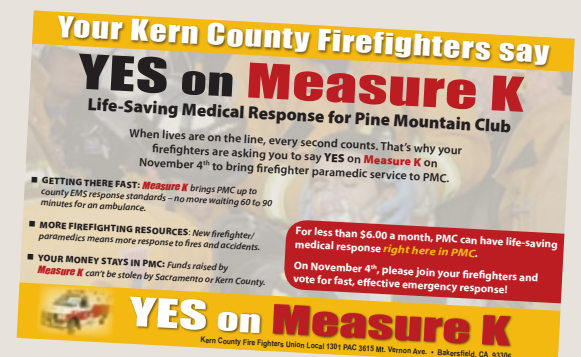
**Oakland, Alameda Co., Emeryville Fire Fighters, Local 55** - "As far as ACFFA was concerned, we hit 100 percent of our candidates, and almost all of our ballot measures. What a season."

- John Torres, President

If you are a CPF local affiliate that has been active in politics, we want to hear about your contest.

Send us your triumphs, travails, strategies and stories from the trail.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT LOCAL ELECTIONS](#)



# SECRETARY TREASURER'S DESK

In years past, the majority of firefighters came from families where a union provided for their standard of living. Firefighters grew up knowing what a union did. Fewer and fewer young firefighters are entering our profession with this background.

Now more than ever, it's important for the leaders and senior members of the local to educate the younger generation about their union.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



LEW STONE

## District Reports



### 1st District Report: Dan Crow

San Diego City President Ron Saathoff passes the torch, Costa Mesa and National City enjoy big wins in the November election and Corona has a near miss in what would become The Freeway Complex Fire.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 5th District Report: Michael Massone

2008 is a banner year for CPF, Local F-145 in the Presidio goes to arbitration on NFPA 1710 staffing and Local F-116 in Vandenberg sets its legislative priorities.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 2nd District Report: Chris Mahon

The Ventura County Fallen Firefighter Memorial is unveiled, San Luis Obispo City FFs' Local 3523 is victorious in their City Council race and Oxnard FFs' joint public safety slate proves successful.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 6th District Report: Bob Wolf

CAL FIRE's budget has not been subjected to the chopping block and CAL FIRE gets early signs from the Obama Administration that there will be more cooperation between CAL FIRE and the United States Forest Service.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 3rd District Report: Bobby Weist

Budget cuts loom for Local 1270 in Salinas, the Mayor's race is key in Sacramento and Tracy Fire increases staffing.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 7th District Report: Dave Gillotte

Dave Gillotte's team is elected to a fourth term. Local 1014 helps to elect Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas as LA County Supervisor. LA County FD is now supported by 6 of 7 council seats in Pomona. Fit for Life incentive bonus saves lives.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 4th District Report: Randy Sekany

Local 1165's endorsed candidates are elected to the Board of Supervisors, Berkeley eliminates station closures with Measure GG and San Ramon Valley FFs Association helps elect three members to the Fire Protection District.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)



### 8th District Report: Pat McOsker

The United Firefighters of Los Angeles City elects a new Executive Board, Local 112 fights to hang onto resources and staffing and works to get their financial house in order, too.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL REPORT](#)