



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters • California Labor Federation • AFL-CIO | Volume 18 No. 2 Second Quarter 2010



ANOTHER LONG **HOT** SUMMER IN 2010?

RAINFALL MEANS MORE FUEL TO BURN DURING PEAK FIRE SEASON

For California's first responders, "the warm California sun" means more than beaches, barbecues and surfing: Too often it means weeks logged on strike teams, battling massive blazes in the state's tinder-dry wildlands.

In 2010, milder temperatures and relatively normal rainfall have given rise to hopes that the state might be spared the worst this summer and autumn. But state officials, weather experts and fire behavior specialists have a sobering response: Don't bet on it.

"We're just now starting to enter into peak fire season, and over the next couple months, we'll really hit our extreme period," said Kim Zagaris, Fire and Rescue Chief with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA).

These peak months – June through November – have borne witness to some of the most catastrophic fires in this or any other state. The 2003 Southern California Firestorm consumed more than 750,000 acres. Since 2005, the **average** loss to wildland fires in California has been nearly 800,000 acres. And, warned Zagaris, "We're not out of the woods by a long shot."

Anatomy of a California Wildfire

The conditions that put California at risk in 2010 are the same ones that have plagued the state for most of the last decade: weather, fuel and topography.



Weather: Throughout many areas of California, rainfall has indeed been at or above normal. But eight of the past 12 years have experienced low rainfall, and much of Southern California, along with large areas of northeast and central California, remain tinder dry. "We've kind of superficially wetted the surface with this last rainy year," said Eric Boldt, warnings coordinating

meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oxnard. "But overall, we still have a drought going on across Southern California."

Fuel: Ironically, 2010's higher rain totals may actually increase the risk. The rain has brought with it a bumper crop of tall grasses – lush in the spring, but dangerous when dry. These dry grasses can quickly ignite hot-burning older growth vegetation. "Really, the largest promoter of wildfire spread is those light, flashy fuels that transition into the larger fuels," said LA Co. Fire Captain **Drew Smith**, who serves as the county's fire behavior analyst. "When you put fire to (those fuels), it's very hard to control because of the energy that's released."

Topography: While rainfall and fuel loads may vary from year to year, California's topography remains the same – deserts and valleys backed up against the craggy Sierra and Coastal mountain ranges. The natural landscape creates a perfect

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Fire Foundation Program Helps 7-Year-Old Save Family From Fire

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Letters to the President

Convention Kudos

I attended my first CPF Convention in San Diego. Thank you for the amazing amount of work you all do on behalf of firefighters and their families. The convention was inspiring and I was proud to be in the company of such fine guest speakers. My experiences will be shared with our many members and inspire me as a new member of our Executive Board.

Fraternally,
Todd Rueppel
 Engineer
 Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department
 Local 1974

Thank you from Modesto

On behalf of the City of Modesto, the Modesto Fire Department, along with the Adams and Clevenger families, we thank you for your thoughtful expression of concern and for notifying your members of the blood drive and Firefighter Fund.

The injuries sustained by Engineer Jim Adams and Firefighter Jason (J.D.) Clevenger took a tremendous physical and emotional toll on them, and our entire Fire Department family. Your concern, offers of help, support and prayers were heartfelt and appreciated beyond words.

Jim and Jason are very strong men both mentally and physically. While Jason

has returned to duty, James continues to heal, and we anxiously await his return to duty.

Our entire department has been humbled and awestruck by the outpouring of love and support we have received, both from our community and the fire service community nationwide. If there is ever a way we can support you, know that we would thankfully do so.

May you, your family and organization be blessed for your kindness.

Sincerely,

James Miguel
 Fire Chief

Cecil Ridge
 President, MCFFA

Nils Anderson Gives Thanks

Health Benefits Trustee Nils Anderson retired from this post at CPF Convention after 30 years of service and would like to thank the membership.

I have been honored and humbled by your outpouring of thanks and gifts. This generosity came as a total surprise.

I value the service given to you and your predecessors as what I was able to do for all the members of CPF. It wasn't always easy but that's the way it is in our profession.

I will always remember the many, many friends among you with love and respect.

I will always consider you as my family.

Nils Anderson
 Health Benefits Trustee-Retired

CalPERS Board Re-Election

My sincere thanks to you and the Executive Board of CPF for endorsing my candidacy for re-election to the CalPERS Board of Administration. As you know, I face an opponent and look forward to your support for my re-election.

I will continue to work for and protect the health and retirement benefits of your members and all members and beneficiaries of CalPERS. These are difficult times, virtually unprecedented in terms of the challenges we face at CalPERS.

We have just completed our rate setting process for health care premium for 2011, a result that included both good and bad news. While rates increased on average 9.1%, about 3% of that increase was due to the buy-down of Blue Shield rates in 2010. Some of the plan changes will explore new approaches to rein in costs. The governor's continuing threat to move administration of health benefits for state employees to his Department of Personnel Administration is misguided and wrongheaded. I will continue to provide leadership in the investment arena, to help

ensure that we do everything we can to meet or exceed our target rate of return without taking unacceptable risks. In addition, the board continues to address more general issues of enterprise risk to reduce chance of future inappropriate actions by staff, board and our external managers and consultants.

Sincerely yours,

George Diehr
 Member, CalPERS Board of Administration

Response to CPF Firevision

Thank you for Firevision. Very informative to all of us that need to know our progress in the fire service.

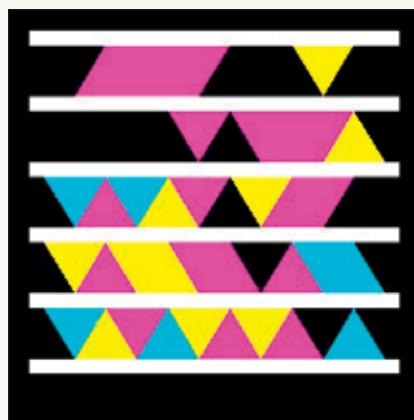
Vern Beltran
 Salinas Fire Department

Keep up the good work – love your show!

Jamie Edmonds
 Secretary
 Coronado Firefighters, Local 1475

It's nice to get important updates on the fly.

Ann Bruner-Welch



POINT AND SHOOT!

Throughout this issue, you'll find these colorful Microsoft Tag barcodes. Use your smartphone to snap a photo of any tag and you'll gain instant access to related videos, websites and more! To start, download the free Tag reader at <http://gettag.mobi>.

President's Perspective



Lou Paulson

THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

As firefighters, we spend a lot of time responding to disasters. Whether it's a major wildland fire or a single medical response, firefighters are almost always first on scene ... first on the front lines.

With so much time spent at flesh-and-blood disasters, the notion that a single political campaign could produce something so cataclysmic may seem somewhat trivial. It's not. There's a disaster looming in the lives of every front line firefighter if Californians and their elected officials make the wrong choices in 2010.

Local Government on the Attack

Nobody knows more than firefighters how bad it's gotten at the local level. The ripples from our national economic meltdown are hitting local budgets with full force.

In many areas, your local unions are successfully collaborating with their elected officials on solutions that have averted budget cuts. But in other areas, management is turning its back on employees and the citizens, imposing devastating service cuts while trying to

paint firefighters as "the bad guys."

To add insult to injury, our "friends" at the League of California Cities have qualified an initiative that, if successful, locks in cities' ability to do as they please with vast sums of redevelopment dollars. That will mean even less money for fire services, especially in counties and special districts.

Gridlock in Sacramento

As of this writing, California's state budget is mired in a seemingly immovable deadlock. Governor Schwarzenegger and GOP lawmakers won't vote for a budget that doesn't roll back retirement security for firefighters and other public workers. Democrats won't vote for a budget that carves too deeply into school funding and other vital services (like fire and law enforcement).

Thanks to "ballot box budgeting," there's no such thing as "majority rule" in Sacramento. That means pretty much everything needs a two-thirds majority. Lawmakers and the governor are already talking about "kicking the can" to the next governor.

Why It's Different This Time

If you were around during the 2005 pension and initiative fight, you remember a lot of the same attacks. But I'm here to tell you that it's worse this time.

The reason: Meg Whitman.

The billionaire ex-CEO didn't vote for 28 years, but she's already spent nearly \$100 million to become governor. The centerpiece of Whitman's candidacy is a direct attack on you, me and every other public employee in California. And if that's not enough to give you the "willies", her campaign chair is former Gov. Pete Wilson, whose entire political career was built around attacking public employees ... **especially those in public safety.**

No matter how she may soft sell her views for you, Meg Whitman is Pete Wilson with a billion dollar bank account. And that's bad for firefighters.

What We're Doing ... And What You Can Do

With so much at stake, we simply can't afford half measures ... even in hard times. We need to be "all in". Your brothers and sisters recognize this – that's why they initiated a resolution

from the floor of the CPF Convention for a temporary dues increase to fight Whitman's attacks and elect the candidate with a documented history of supporting firefighters – former Gov. Jerry Brown.

In addition to the gubernatorial fight, CPF is also playing an active role in opposing the League of Cities' "Trojan Horse" initiative – Proposition 22 – and in passing essential budget reform and accountability measures. We're co-chairing a broad coalition of labor and good-government groups in opposing devastating pension cuts. And we remain active at the Capitol in the fight to preserve essential firefighter training and mutual aid funding.

These efforts can succeed, but only if we all play our parts. As front line firefighters, your role is simple: Get the facts, get involved and, most importantly, get to the ballot box.

As we learned in 2005, victory is often a matter of showing up. If we don't stand up to the bullies, we could lose more than just a seat at the table. We could lose decades of progress that has made California safer, and improved the lives of firefighters, their families and working Californians everywhere.

And that would be a disaster.

Enter CPF's 2010 **photo contest**

**Give Us Your Best Shot
and Win Cash Prizes!**

Every year, California Professional Firefighters takes a moment to celebrate the heroic images that honor the noble profession of firefighting. Share your unique view of the front lines and you could be awarded \$1,500! Photos must be submitted by November 22, 2010 to be eligible.

PRIZES

FIRST PLACE: \$1,500

SECOND PLACE: \$1,000

THIRD PLACE: \$500



*For contest rules, submission information
and more, visit*

www.CPFPhotoContest.org



PHOTO GALLERY!

Take a photo of this barcode with your smartphone to view last year's CPF Photo Contest winners.

Secretary-Treasurer's Desk

FIREFIGHTERS DESERVE MEDAL OF VALOR

By nature, firefighters do not seek recognition for what they do.

We tend to attribute acts of courage as merely "part of the job." For most of us, we don't even analyze our performance on a rescue or other harrowing incident. It is usually only after someone outside of the fire service hears of the call that a heroic label is attached.

Once stamped with "valor," most shy from the attention, divert it to the entire crew, or attempt to downplay the event. If confronted by a film crew, we retreat behind the statement, "I just did what every other firefighter would have done in the same circumstances."

So why do I bring this up?

Well, the governor presents a Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor to

deserving public safety personnel each year. His desire is to properly recognize those who have gone above the call of duty and placed their lives in danger for the sake of others. This year, I had the chance to be part of the committee that reviewed the applicants. The committee received recommendations with documentation on 61 nominees, based on 26 separate incidents.

And guess how many were firefighters? Zero! Yes, every nominee was from law enforcement. I have theories.

I bring this to your attention for a very specific reason - to make each of you aware of the Governor's Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor so you will place it in the back of your mind in the event that you become aware of a firefighter or several who are potentially deserving.



Lew Stone

Sadly, while I was reviewing the 2009 applications, I thought of several incidents across our state involving firefighters that should have been considered. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity has passed to have any of their acts of heroism considered.

If you feel someone should be nominated, you must follow the process as outlined on the Attorney General's website, www.ag.ca.gov. It is imperative that your fire chief carefully

completes the application. Supporting documentation (i.e. newspaper articles, photos) is very important.

The committee reviews the applications every May. Next year, I hope that in spite of our desire to seek anonymity, we properly bring forward deserving individuals. We do not want to dilute the respect and honor of the award, so it is imperative that only the most glowing examples of courage are recognized.

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MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT RETIREMENT SECURITY

Those attacking the retirement security of public servants make a lot of sensational claims about the state of our public retirement system. Many simply don't stand up.

MYTH: "Public employee benefits are bankrupting state and local government."

FACT: The economic meltdown and Wall Street greed is the primary cause of the fiscal woes. Most of the increased employer costs to CalPERS are attributable to the same corporate greed that hit everyone's retirement. Employee benefits make up a small piece of the problem.

MYTH: "Cutting benefits will help us fix our budget mess."

FACT: Reducing pensions won't do anything to close the budget gap. It is settled law that only new employees can have their pensions cut. Any imagined savings would take decades to appear. Moreover, **if we got rid of all pensions, California would still be \$16 billion in the hole.**

MYTH: "Public employee pensions are too generous."

FACT: California is only slightly above the national average. The average retirement check in California is about \$25,000 a year. Unlike the private sector, many public employees do not pay into Social Security, and do not receive Social Security benefits.

MYTH: "What about all those six-figure retirement payouts?"

FACT: The vast majority of large pension payouts go to management. Less than 1% of CalPERS pensions exceed six figures, almost all of them going to senior executives and management. Indeed, the highest retirement benefit currently paid goes to a discredited Vernon city manager.

MYTH: "Public employee union contracts are to blame for out-of-control pension costs."

FACT: Management is getting the big retirement dollars, not union members. The vast majority of massive retirement payouts go to people who are not. Also, firefighters have foregone literally billions in raises in order to secure their retirement.

MYTH: "During tough economic times, unions should give in on pensions."

FACT: Employees are doing their part, and are ready to do more. Throughout California, firefighters and other unions are negotiating concessions at the bargaining table ... pay freezes, furloughs, sometimes even pay cuts. Employees are stepping up to the plate ... it's the politicians that are playing games.

MYTH: "Taxpayers shouldn't have to bear the entire burden of paying generous benefits."

FACT: The burden is already shared. Roughly two-thirds of the funding for CalPERS comes from investment income. Less than a quarter from taxpayers. And **employees pay their fair share – in the case of public safety, up to 9% of their salary.**

MYTH: "The private sector is abandoning traditional pension plans as being too expensive, and the public sector should do the same."

FACT: Abandoning pension fattens corporate bottom lines, not workers' retirement. Privatizing retirement has left millions without any retirement security, while corporate salaries have skyrocketed. **It's time every employee had the right to a secure pension ... public and private sector.**

MYTH: "Retirement curbs will mean more money for schools, roads and health care."

FACT: No impact on budgets for as long as 20 years. Pension cuts won't save a dollar in the current budget, and there is no guarantee that any future savings would help schools. Eliminating or cutting back public employee retirement will depress economic growth, and put more people at risk of being without secure pension or health care.

MYTH: "Money paid into employee pension system benefits only the employees, not taxpayers."

FACT: California's economy benefits from pension fund investment. Approximately \$35 billion is pumped into the state's economy by pension investment -- \$7 of economic payback for every \$1 of investment. And every dollar spent by a retiree produces \$2 worth of economic activity. Taxpayers also benefit from high-quality workers who choose public service because of the retirement security.

The bottom line:

*California's firefighters and public employees are stepping up to the plate in these hard times. But they should not be forced to trade away their hard-earned retirement security. **Everyone deserves a secure retirement.***

To keep track of retirement issues, go to www.cpf.org and check the "Find it Here" section.



CalPERS pays out nearly \$12 billion in pension benefits each year to retirees and beneficiaries using investment income and cash contributions from employers and members. Investment assets are not sold to generate cash and the fund continues to grow.

What You Should Know About Public Pensions

- Average annual pension is approximately \$25,000 a year for more than 20 years of public service
- Average age of retirement is 60
- 78% of all retirees earn \$36,000 a year or less in a pension
- Pension costs for the State of California are less than 5% of the State's \$86.1 billion general fund budget.**

* Source: CalPERS, Income over the last 20 years as of June 30, 2009.
** Source: CalPERS, Department of Finance.

Attention Retirees: Why The Pension Fight Matters To You

Retired firefighters occupy a unique and valued role in the profession. They have experienced all of the highs and lows – the demands, the thrill and the uncertainty when the bell rings.

Retirees also know the incredible toll the job takes ... in injuries, shortened lives and shortened careers. That's why the current fight over retirement security matters so much to all firefighters, including retirees.

Using the economic crisis as an excuse, anti-employee groups have renewed their assault on pensions and retiree health care. The most extreme of these proposals would wipe out firefighter retirement security altogether for new hires, replacing a secure pension with a high-risk, privatized system that

benefits only the investment bankers and brokerage houses.

"Our values are being tested as never before," said **California Professional Firefighters President Lou Paulson**. "Every one of us has a stake in making sure the next generation of first responders enjoys the same right to a secure retirement for a job well done."

But billionaire gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman is already preparing to rollback firefighters' hard-earned pension. As a corporate CEO, Whitman slashed jobs and retirement benefits for thousands upon thousands of workers. Now, *Whitman has proposed rolling back firefighter retirement and eliminating secure pensions for new public employees and replacing it with privatized, high-risk investment accounts.*

The unbreakable bond that unites every man and woman who puts on the uniform of a firefighter is one of the great strengths of the profession. Firefighters are truly "one for all and all for one." But beyond the values at the heart of the profession, there are some practical reasons why this fight matters to retirees:

- **Weaker Retirement Funds:** Under the Whitman plan, fewer and fewer employees will be paying into the system. That will jeopardize the long-term health of CalPERS and local retirement funds;
- **Retiree Health at Risk:** Unlike pensions, retiree health coverage is not a vested right. Not only could premiums be boosted, but retirees could have their health coverage eliminated altogether;

- **Retirees' Firefighter Children:** Many firefighter retirees have children and grandchildren who become firefighters. The Whitman/Schwarzenegger plans will eventually create two-tier firefighter families.

"As retirees, you know what a secure retirement means to firefighters who've spent their lives protecting the public," said Paulson. "We need every voice to stand up and defend benefits that all of us have earned for the jobs we do."

Paulson urged retirees to engage in the fight to protect pensions, as well as the contest for governor. That means writing letters, talking to friends and other retirees and getting involved. Above all, says Paulson, it's important to vote and consider candidates at all levels willing to stand up for all firefighters.

Continued from page 1

heat container when the strong Santa Ana winds come blowing in during the summer and fall. "You're pushing air down the mountain slope and that's an energy that's heating up that air," said Boldt. "Temperatures climb into the 90s maybe 100 degrees ... and humidity can drop rapidly down into single digits."

Protecting Lives and Property

California's high-risk topography has seen one dramatic change over the last two decades: There are a lot more houses on it.

The expansion of the wildland-urban interface has become the major challenge facing the California fire service. Since 2005, the nearly 500 major fires have destroyed nearly 7,000 structures. Only four civilians have died, but two-dozen firefighters have lost their lives, many while engaged in structure protection.

"Homes are not always spread apart ... a lot of times, they're very tight," said Smith. "That's when you get a great amount of structure loss because of improper outside storage or inadequate brush clearance."

With new homes still going up even during the economic downturn, firefighting in the WUI places special pressure on California's exceptional – and exceptionally stressed – mutual aid system. Thanks to a poor economy and devastating local cuts, firefighters answering the call this summer will likely be forced to do more with less.

A DANGEROUS STATE Major Wildfires in California — 2005-2009

Year	Incidents (300+ acres)	Acres Burned	Structures Lost	Firefighter Deaths	Civilian Deaths
2005	73	222,538	105	0	1
2006	107	736,022	408	7	2
2007	84	1,054,655	3,707	1	1
2008	160	1,054,655	2,219	13	0
2009	68	422,147	496	3	0
5 - Year Average	98	792,087	1,387	5	1

"Our system is being tested," said Zagaris. "Agencies are laying off people, not backfilling retirement or flat out closing stations. It's becoming very hard."

Staying Safe

With so many different forces arrayed against them, it's essential that firefighters rely on their training and keep their wits about them. Situational awareness, and a realistic assessment of the risks associated with a structure attack, are the keys to returning home safe.

"Put fire behavior first and make time a significant factor in your safety," says Smith. "Where is the fire at, what's it doing, and how long before it jeopardizes you and your crew."



It's already started: LA County firefighters work a fast-moving blaze near Lancaster just this past July. (Photo: Jeff Zimmerman)

Political Action

Meg Whitman: In Her Own Words



Billionaire CEO Meg Whitman has been pretty clear. If she's elected governor of California, she will take dead aim at those who serve our state: its firefighters, teachers, nurses and ordinary citizens.

Here is what she has to say about the bread and butter issues that affect your life on the job.

On your retirement security: "We must require state employees to contribute a larger portion of their salary to help pay for their retirement benefits. We must extend the vesting period, and we must bring new government workers in under a different deal where they receive a defined-contribution retirement plan similar to the

401(k) plans that most taxpayers have."
-- National Review, April, 2010

On your job security: "... you can lay off 10 percent of the bureaucracy, and actually -- maybe it's easier, actually, with fewer people, and it will not be a hardship on the state. And, so, that would say that you want to lay off between 30,000 and 40,000 people." -- CNN interview, May 18, 2009

On curbing your political free speech rights: "The other thing that I am very interested in is the reform that used to be called 'paycheck protection' and now is called the "citizen's power initiative." -- "Ask Meg" TV Infomercial, April, 2010

On her experience bargaining in good faith: "I have not directly negotiated with

unions. We had union members when I worked at Hasbro (toy company)." -- San Francisco Chronicle, March 11, 2010

On your membership in a union ... any union: "About 12 percent of California workers are in unions, but they have almost all of the power. It's remarkable. So we're going to have to take on the public service unions on a number of fronts." -- "Ask Meg" TV Infomercial, April, 2010

On her failure to vote for 28 years: "I was focused on raising a family, on my husband's career, and we moved many, many times. ... my voting record, my registration record is unacceptable."
-- Los Angeles Times, October 9, 2009

Together Again in 2010

Firefighters, Teachers, Nurses Re-Form Winning Coalition to Back Brown

When Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger went after your political rights, funding stability and retirement security in 2005, working families came together in an unprecedented, unified coalition.

Over time, the coalition came to be identified with three marquee elements: firefighters, nurses and teachers.

Five years later, labor once again finds itself in the "fight of our lives." And once again, firefighters, nurses and teachers are stepping forward to help elect candidates that put the concerns of working people first, including Jerry Brown, CPF's endorsed candidate for governor.

"Our rallying cry in 2005 was 'no retreat ... no surrender,'" said **CPF President Lou Paulson**. "This year, we're standing together again with the same mission – protect jobs for working families, and secure the basic rights and security we've worked our careers to maintain.

As the largest statewide firefighter organization, **California Professional Firefighters** has been at the forefront of the campaign.

President Paulson is co-chair of California Working Families, a coalition that is pushing back against the anti-labor, anti-employee message of self-financed billionaire candidate Meg Whitman. CPF is also launching an ambitious member-to-member campaign, aimed at educating front line firefighters about what's at stake in this year's campaign.

As they were in 2005, CPF's partners in these efforts have been the California Nurses Association (CNA) and California Teachers Association (CTA). CPF members joined more than 1,000 nurses who rallied recently outside Whitman's Atherton mansion (see photo). And CPF, CNA and CTA are all part of a broader labor campaign – spearheaded by the California Labor Federation – to explain why the election matters so much to working families.

"The choice is clear, but the challenge is even clearer," said Paulson. "Whitman has a bottomless checkbook and is willing to spend it to attack us, our jobs and our retirement. As Ben Franklin said, 'If we don't all hang together, we shall all surely hang separately.'"



CPF members from Hayward, Modesto and Santa Clara County rallied with 1,100 union nurses from the California Nurses Association in front of Meg Whitman's home to protest Whitman's attacks on unions.



Register for Permanent Vote-By-Mail Status

Don't Miss Your Chance to Vote this November

In 2002, California Professional Firefighters successfully led the charge to ensure permanent vote-by-mail status, also known as permanent absentee status, which was available to firefighters and those professionally required to work 24 or more consecutive hours per shift.

Now, all Californians can register for permanent vote-by-mail status.

Don't miss your chance to vote this November! Register for permanent vote-by-mail status today!

Whitman: Too Busy to Vote

Billionaire candidate skips nearly three decades of voting

When firefighters are on strike teams in the hot winds of November, most have already taken care of an important bit of business by casting an absentee ballot. Many more participate via special ballot boxes at incident base camps.

Apparently, that simple act of participation was too tough for one of the two candidates seeking to be California's next governor.

According to investigative reports in *The Sacramento Bee* and other publications, billionaire ex-CEO Meg Whitman failed to vote for the first 28 years of her eligibility. Whitman – who spent nearly \$90 million of her own money to win the GOP primary – has only been registered as a Republican since 2008.

"Jerry Brown has won more elections than Meg Whitman has actually voted in since she's been in California," said political strategist Chris Lehane.

Since formally announcing her candidacy, Whitman has refused to speak about her voting record except to concede that it is "unacceptable". However, before her formal declaration, Whitman told reporters that she was busy with other things.

"I was focused on raising a family, on my husband's career, and we moved many, many times," Whitman told reporters in October of 2009.

Firefighters and others who have done their civic duty found Whitman's explanation wanting. "I raised a family and ran a business and I managed to vote," said Rancho Mirage businesswoman Elaine Henderson, speaking to *Time* magazine.



"I've been out on strike teams and working structure fires on Election Day, and I still vote," said Modesto firefighter Cecil Ridge. "It's outrageous that someone thinks they should be governor when they haven't even bothered to vote."

Firefighters' participation in elections has always been high. Indeed, it was at

the behest of local and state firefighters that CPF helped secure passage of landmark legislation enabling Californians to register as permanent absentee voters.

To read more about how the candidates compare on firefighter issues, check the Firefighters Election Guide at www.cpf.org.

How do I register for permanent vote-by-mail status?

If you are a registered California voter, fill out the California Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application. Download a copy by visiting www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ or pick up an application at your county elections office. A list of county elections offices can be viewed at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/.

If you have not already registered to vote, fill out a Voter Registration Form at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ or pick one up at your county elections office, library or U.S. Post Office. Your completed Voter Registration Form must be submitted to your county elections office at least 15 days before the election. Once you are registered to vote, then you can fill out the California Vote-By-Mail Ballot Application as noted above.

As a permanent vote-by-mail voter, you will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for each election.

When do I turn in my application?

Your Vote-By-Mail ballot application must be returned to your county elections official at least 7 days before the election.

When do I turn in my vote-by-mail ballot?

Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the elections official no later than the close of polls at 8:00 PM on Election Day.



VOTE BY MAIL!

Take a photo of the barcode with your smartphone to get more information about registering for permanent vote-by-mail status.

FIREFIGHTER PROUD UNION STRONG

A record number of delegates attend 2010 CPF Convention

This year's CPF Convention occurred at a crossroads for our profession.

CPF affiliates up and down the state faced continued economic hardships and attacks on their job and retirement security as a record number of delegates gathered in San Diego to chart CPF's course for the next two years.

But despite the looming threats, delegates stayed "Firefighter Proud ... Union Strong" and rolled up their sleeves to get the job done.

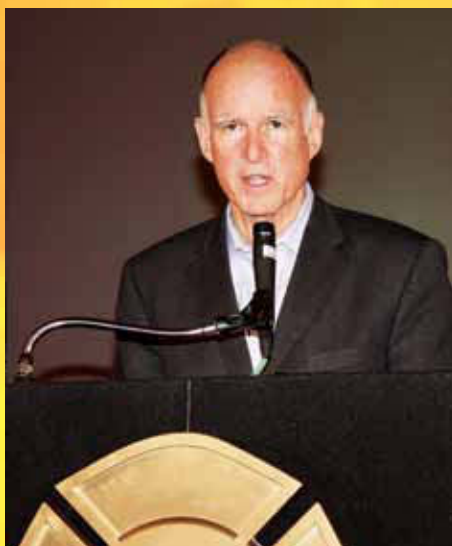
CPF's three-day convention included speeches from state and national leaders, the unveiling of the **California Firefighters Endowment** (see page 13) and the election of a new **CPF Executive Board** for the coming two years.

Over two dozen resolutions were also approved by delegates to map CPF's agenda for the next two years.

"I'm proud of the work that was carried out at this year's convention," said **CPF President Lou Paulson**. "We have an uphill battle ahead but, as usual, our membership has banded together and forged a plan of attack."

During the convention, the importance of political action, particularly in these difficult economic times, was a common thread.

"We need to continue to do extraordinary work in the political



Jerry Brown thanks firefighters for supporting his run for governor.

arena," said **IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger**. "Every single thing that happens to our members and our families, personally and professionally, is dictated by someone that was elected."

Gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown also took the stage to spell out the differences between his history of support for first responders and the attacks aimed at public workers by billionaire candidate Meg Whitman.

"Don't underestimate the importance of the November election," said Paulson. "It will make or break the future of working families across our state. Everyone has a stake in this upcoming election."



Lou Paulson calls the convention to order.



The new CPF Executive Board are sworn in.



PHOTO GALLERY!
Take a photo of this icon to see our photo gallery of pictures taken at the CPF Convention.



Carlsbad Firefighters Local 3730 President Rick Fisher was presented with the Dallas Jones Political Achievement Award at the CPF Convention.

Firefighters Ready to Stand and Fight

CPF members are making it clear they are ready to stand up to the attacks leveled at firefighters, their families and other hard-working Californians.

In a move initiated by local affiliates from the convention floor, CPF delegates to the CPF Convention came together to voice their opposition to the Whitman campaign and support for a pro-firefighter choice. By an overwhelming margin, delegates approved a temporary dues increase completely dedicated to defeating Whitman this November. The resolution to temporarily increase dues came directly from delegates on the convention floor, in response to the unprecedented nature of the fight ahead and the stakes involved.

"The future of the fire service is in our hands. We can't sit idly by. Every retiree, every active firefighter and every future firefighter will suffer if we don't do all we can," said **CPF President Lou Paulson**.

A billionaire CEO who didn't vote for 28 years, Whitman has already spent more than \$100 million running for governor, campaigning on an attack aimed at firefighters and other public workers. If elected, she has threatened to support "paycheck protection," to raise the retirement age from 50 to 57 for firefighters, to strip public employees of their collective bargaining rights and reduce the state workforce by 40,000 employees.

The temporary hike, which lasts only until the end of the year, will finance a wide-ranging campaign, including member-to-member communications and unprecedented grassroots outreach. CPF will partner with other labor organizations to spread the message far and wide.

"We can't outspend Whitman ... no one can," said Paulson. "But we can defeat her with 'people power' ... if we all stand together."

Making a Difference

MAKE A MUSCLE: FLEX FOR MDA

Firefighters have been making a muscle and making a difference for children and adults fighting neuromuscular disease for over 55 years.

At the time the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) was formed, it wasn't known which diseases started in the nerves and which started in the muscles. Since then, MDA-funded research has "written the book" on muscle disease and on nerve diseases affecting muscle.

What is taught in medical school about muscle is due in large part to the public's support of MDA. With that in mind, we want everyone to think of MDA as the Muscle charity.

Through the Fill the Boot campaign and various other events, California Professional Firefighters are part of our muscle team and are making a muscle for those that can't. Thank you to all the

firefighters for your efforts in your Fill the Boot events and to those who have volunteered their time at MDA Summer Camps throughout the state. Firefighter Day is every kid's favorite day at camp!

Congratulations to CAL FIRE for raising \$260,000 so far this year! With several more Fill the Boot dates remaining, they are sure to meet their goal of \$500,000! Great job Local #2881!

MDA would like to thank all California Professional Firefighter locals for raising over \$930,000 to date! We are confident that 2010 will be another record breaking year!

Thank you for putting your muscle behind MDA!



Garden Grove Firefighters, left, and Kings County Firefighters, flex their muscle for MDA.

Attention Active and Retired Firefighters!

Proud of your profession? Then show it!

Call (800) 890-3213

A portion of the plate's renewal fee (\$20) will benefit the California Fire Foundation, which built and maintains the California Firefighters Memorial and hosts an array of victim assistance and public education programs. This is a tax deductible donation. Tax ID: 680118991

Firefighter License Plate Cost: \$35 for Non-Personalized or \$83 for Personalized

How to Order:

Call (800) 890-3213

Provide name/address/phone number

Existing vehicle license plate number and expiration date

Fire Department ID information

Visa/MasterCard number

Or visit www.cafirefoundation.org to download an application.



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

California Fire Foundation

Fresno's Littlest Hero

Fire Foundation Program Helps 7-Year-Old Save Family From Fire

When a fire broke out in 7-year-old Adriana Ignacio's Fresno home in June, she knew she had to act fast.

Her front door was locked by a double deadbolt lock and the key was nowhere to be found. Inside the house, the lives of her two younger sisters and grandmother depended on a safe escape.

Adriana immediately thought of the school visit the **Fresno Firefighters**

children out of the house and then exit to safety herself. Even the family dog was saved.

Since October of 2010, Fresno Firefighters have partnered with the **California Fire Foundation** to bring the Foundation's **Firefighters On Your Side** program to their community. Developed by the Foundation in 2008, *Firefighters On Your Side* is an award-winning public safety program aimed at

"Our firefighters run into situations everyday where families weren't prepared and didn't know what to do. It's especially important to reach out to those that speak another language," said **Lou Paulson**, Chair of the California Fire Foundation.

This especially rings true in Fresno, where over half of the population is of Latino descent, many of which Spanish is their primary language.

"As a union and as a department, I really felt we could do more for our Spanish speaking population," said **Jerry Smith**, **President of Fresno Firefighters**.

And they certainly did.

The *Firefighters On Your Side* program in Fresno was a joint effort between the Fresno Fire Department and Fresno Firefighters Local 753. The union funded the costs of the materials, while the department allowed paid time for firefighters to go on as many school visits as possible. **Tony Escobedo**, a bilingual battalion chief, led the school visits.

"It is so gratifying to see the immediate results of these programs. These safety programs saved four lives. It doesn't get any better than that," said Escobedo.

Adriana has since been in the spotlight for her rescue efforts. On July 23, the

Fresno City Council presented Adriana with a resolution making her an honorary firefighter for the day for her heroic acts. California Fire Foundation Director Vanessa Errecarte then presented her with a Partner in Safety award for the Foundation's Firefighters On Your Side program.

Fresno Firefighters then put a perfect end to the morning by presenting Adriana a Tinkerbell backpack full of school supplies to replace the one she lost in the fire. The morning came to a close with a fire station tour and lunch with members of Local 753.

To learn more about the **Firefighters On Your Side** program, please visit www.firefightersonyourside.org. If you would like to bring these life-saving programs to your local, please contact **Vanessa Errecarte** at (916) 921-9111 or verrecarte@cpf.org.



Adriana Ignacio and her sisters had the chance to tour a Fresno fire station with Fresno firefighter Mike McIntyre.

Local 753 had made just weeks before, teaching her and her fellow students about how to make a fire escape plan. This lesson was in English and Spanish (her native language) and focused on having two ways out of every room.

Moments after the fire broke out, Adriana led her grandmother and two sisters to the living room window, where her grandmother was able to assist the

educating diverse communities about a variety of public safety issues.

Fresno Firefighters implemented the "Have an Escape Plan/ Tenga Un Plan De Escape" campaign, which is designed in English and Spanish to reach members of the Latino community that do not always receive the vital public safety information that other parts of the population do.



FREE VIDEO!

Snap a photo of this barcode with your smartphone to watch the CPF Firevision about Adriana Ignacio's act of heroism.



Adriana Ignacio was honored by Fresno Firefighters President Jerry Smith, left, Battalion Chief Chuck Tobias, members of Local 753 and Fresno Fire Chief Randy Bergman, right.

Introducing the CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS ENDOWMENT

The **California Fire Foundation** is embarking on its latest venture to help firefighters and their families: **The California Firefighters Endowment**.

Its mission: To increase the scholarship awards for the children of California's fallen firefighters.

Since 2006, the California Fire Foundation has helped send 17 students to college through its **Daniel A. Terry Scholarship** program. Scholarships of \$2,000 are currently awarded each year to qualified applicants. But with the rising costs of college tuition, students need more financial assistance to cover the costs. The endowment will increase the scholarship awards and insure a permanent and reliable funding stream for future generations.



Heather Yonan, daughter of Burbank firefighter/paramedic Philip Yonan who died in the line of duty, was a 2009 recipient of the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship.

With a goal of raising every scholarship given to \$10,000 within five years, the Foundation must raise over \$2 million.

"Scholarships change lives," said **California Fire Foundation Director Vanessa Errecarte**. "They open doors and create opportunities that may have been limited due to the loss of a parent. The California Firefighters Endowment will help children from firefighter families pursue their dreams."

To make this program a success, we need your help. Please stay tuned through our Web site (www.cafirefoundation.org) and correspondence from the Foundation for opportunities to help.

"A big part of this program will be referrals to community members and corporate donors that CPF members send our way," said Errecarte.

Special events and a press campaign will run in conjunction with this year's California Firefighters Memorial to introduce this new endowment to the public.

"It's an assurance to every California firefighter that if the need arises, your children will get the support they need for a good education," said **California Fire Foundation Chair Lou Paulson**.



FREE VIDEO!

Take a photo of this icon to see our CPF Firevision video story about the California Firefighters Endowment.



SAVE THE DATE

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL
ANNUAL CEREMONY › OCTOBER 16, 2010

WWW.MEMORIAL.CPF.ORG

Tim Strack

CPF 1st District Vice President



CPF District 1 represents the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial and Orange.



It's with a humble heart that I joined the hardworking **CPF Executive Board** in June. I'm tremendously grateful for the opportunity to serve CPF's members and want to thank all of you for allowing me to represent you. I will not let you down.

For those that I haven't had the chance to meet, I am a full-time active captain at the downtown Riverside Fire Station (Station 1) and have been president of **Riverside City Firefighters Association Local 1067** since 2001. As local president, I have successfully fought to protect our members from economic attacks at the local, state and federal levels and have worked with both political parties to support firefighter issues across the state.

My first priority for the 1st District will be to enhance political action through relationship building with local and state elected leaders. I will work in the district to bring locals together, large and small, to be engaged in the activities of CPF and the Executive Board.

I will also help locals to further develop their relationships with Sacramento representatives by providing the needed resources and guidance. Working together will be critical to protect our locals from attacks by the state on our staffing, benefits and working conditions.

IAFF Convention Comes to San Diego

San Diego is becoming quite the destination for firefighters this year.

In April, it was the site for CPF's 42nd Biennial Convention. This month, firefighters will be gathering in San Diego once more to attend the **IAFF's 50th Convention**.

San Diego City Firefighters Local 145 will be the host local and they have a string of events planned to showcase their city.

"We hope that people walk away from their visit talking about more than just the nice weather," said **Cory Beckwith, Vice President of Local 145**. "We hope that people see that we're a local that works hard and takes great pride in our organization and the community that we serve."

As of the time of this publication, the events schedule is as follows:

Aug. 21: Fire Ops 101 will be held for selected elected officials from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Regional Public Safety Training Institute, 4347 North Harbor Drive, San Diego. A motorcycle ride through San Diego County is also scheduled from 12-4 PM beginning at the Pioneer Hook and Ladder Firehouse Museum and ending at the Firehouse Brewing Company. Come join **IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger** who plans to ride.

Aug. 22: Golf Tournament is planned at Maderas, followed by a Block Party on 5th Avenue between J and K Streets in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter.

Aug. 23: San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation will be hosting a charity event at the Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery in Gaslamp District sports bar. More details to follow.

Aug. 24: MDA is planning an event to thank firefighters nationwide for being the biggest contributor to their cause. More details to follow.

Aug. 25: Don't miss the San Diego Padres vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game at Petco Park. Ticket sales will benefit the Burn Institute. IAFF President

Harold Schaitberger will throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"We have an amazing week planned," said Beckwith. "We have built so many solid relationships with nonprofit groups, city businesses and other organizations in town that these groups have really helped us roll out the welcome mat for all of the firefighters coming to convention. We couldn't have done it without them."

Visit www.iaffconvention2010.com for more information.

Local 1434 Mobilizes to Save Members' Jobs

San Miguel Fire Fighters Local 1434 hadn't begun negotiations with the San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District's Board when the letter arrived.

In the letter, the Board's Finance Committee proposed laying off three firefighters and demoting one division chief to help reduce the city's \$1.6 million deficit.

"It came out of the blue. We were blindsided," said **Local 1434 President Alan Laatsch**, who immediately began mobilizing his membership, drawing on their PAC and organizing a campaign to save their jobs.

With help from a politically active friend of Local 1434, they staged a plan of attack and alerted the media to the May Board meeting, when this proposal would be voted upon. Since it was the first real threat of layoffs in the county, the media couldn't resist.

Residents from the district as well as firefighters protested outside the meeting. Firefighters spoke with the growing media outlets, which included all of the local TV stations, in the parking lot.

Inside, the three firefighters, whose jobs were on the line, shared moving testimony to a packed house of concerned residents, firefighters and media.

"I do not believe in my heart that everything possible has been done," said firefighter **Doug de Brauwere**, wearing a red T-shirt that said "LAID OFF." "If I did, I could go home to my wife and kids and tell them with courage and with honor."

Members of the public argued for a cut in the fire department's public outreach funds and public education program instead of emergency response. Others argued for a cut in the Board's hefty compensation package, which has not been touched despite the district's economic downturn. All agreed that scaling back emergency response was not the answer to the district's financial straits.

Following the testimonies, the Board met in private and voted unanimously not to make the proposed job cuts.

"It was such a relief and we attribute a good part of our success to our strong PAC," said Laatsch. "We're back in negotiations now to come up with alternative solutions, but after that May meeting, layoffs are off the table, for now."



Sean Hull, Doug de Brauwere and Darrin Young were the three San Miguel firefighters whose jobs were spared.

Chris Mahon

CPF 2nd District Vice President



District 2 represents CPF Local Unions in the counties of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles - with the exception of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 and Los Angeles County Fire Fighters Local 1014.



Stored Ammunition May Pose Greater Risks to FFs

When a stored bullet fires due to the heat of a fire, the bullet and casing only travel a short distance with very little energy or velocity.

That's usually the case.

But it didn't happen that way for Ventura County firefighter Paul Torres, who was battling a two-story house fire in Thousand Oaks, when several rounds of stored ammunition fired and were projected over distances of up to 200 feet and with significant enough energy and velocity to break bone and destroy Torres' eye.

After multiple surgeries were attempted to repair the damage to his eye, doctors were unable to save it. His eye was replaced with an artificial eye, connected to Torres' eye muscles so he is able to control its movements.

Torres' accident raises an important safety issue for all firefighters: How does ammunition behave when stored in different ways and exposed to fire?

After examining the evidence and employing the help of the Ventura County Sheriff's Bomb Squad and munitions expert, members of **Ventura County Firefighters Local 1364** now believe the configuration in which the ammunition was stored contributed significantly to the way it was dispersed. If that's true, then stored ammunition may pose a greater threat to firefighters than the industry currently recognizes.

"Our goal is to determine what, if any, storage methods pose more of a hazard in a fire situation," said **Chris Mahon, President of Ventura County Firefighters Local 1364**. "With that information, we can, at a minimum, educate firefighters of the increased threat."



Paul Torres sustained significant eye damage when several rounds of ammunition fired while he battled a two-story house fire. (Photo: Juan Carlo / Ventura County Star)

Locals Battle as Cities Budget for 2010-2011

Locals continue to battle to preserve fire services, as more cities are reducing staffing and closing stations to balance their budgets.

In West Covina, the City Council passed a budget that will cut an additional \$2.1 million from the fire department, resulting in the closure of an engine on July 1st. With a planned closure of one of three Paramedic Rescue Ambulances in January 2011, 18 total positions will have been cut over the last two years.

"We are at or near the bottom of staffing, per capita and area served, for any department in LA County," said **Mike Fountain, President of the West Covina Firefighters Association Local 3226**. "Essentially, any significant emergency in our town will deplete our resources, leaving nothing else available to respond."

Although Council has promised to initially not layoff firefighters, extra personnel will be suit-cased to fill overtime positions; they have lost almost 25% of their daily staffing and 23% of ALS Fire Units.

"It's frustrating, but we will continue to fight to protect the safety of the citizens we serve and our firefighters," Fountain said.

In Pasadena, their City Council was going to reduce staffing to three on an engine at three of eight stations in town. It was a plan that **Pasadena Firefighters Local 809** refused to accept.

"We believe that by reducing staffing in only a few stations, that's unfair to the community and unfair to the firefighters stationed there, as well," said **Donald Cervantes, President of Local 809**.

Instead, the local agreed to brown out a ladder truck in exchange for continued four-person staffing on all of their rigs.

"We're a two-truck town, no matter how you look at it. We felt that if we lost a ladder truck, we would get it back. It wouldn't be going away forever," said Cervantes. "On the other hand, we knew that if we went to three-person staffing, we would be fighting that fight for a long time."

And indeed, in their agreement, once they reach \$750,000 in savings or by 2011 fiscal year end, whichever comes first, the ladder truck will be back in service.

At least in one case, a local has been able to convince the city to preserve public safety, despite shrinking city revenues.

When Santa Paula City was considering closing up to two stations, **Local 1364** embarked upon an education campaign targeting the city administration and city council.

The local provided history on the growth of the Santa Paula Fire Department and detailed how the firefighters had made cuts so that the city could open a second station, which was originally identified as a need by fire management and city council members after the only engine company received increased call volumes.

The local also highlighted the fire department's lack of budget for even basic needs and explained how the department and firefighters still cut everything possible the previous budget year.

As a result of the local's targeted campaign, the city agreed to continue to fund both stations.

SLO City Fire Department Stars in New Reality Show

Forget the Jersey Shore and The Hills.

The latest reality TV sensation may be based in San Luis Obispo. The subject? San Luis Obispo City firefighters.

"On Duty with San Luis Obispo City Fire Department," which was scheduled to hit the small screen at the end of July, is a 22-minute reality show featuring the hardworking men and women that comprise **Local 3523**.

Each episode will center on two to three calls. A public education segment and a segment focused on a different department specialty from Haz Mat to paramedic to technical rescue will be included.

A film crew rides along with a firefighter crew once or twice a week. From there, the footage is edited into a show, which gets pre-screened to **Erik Baskin, President of San Luis Obispo Firefighters Local 3523**, and San Luis Obispo City's fire chief before it ever makes it on air. They both have final editing rights.

"It's another tool to promote the fire department," said Baskin. "In times like these, it's important to put a positive message out there and educate the public on what the fire department does and where their tax dollars are going."

"On Duty with San Luis Obispo City Fire Department" is scheduled to air Saturdays at 7 PM on Fox 11 on the Central Coast.

Bobby Weist

CPF 3rd District Vice President



CPF District 3 represents the counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Mendocino, Tehama, Plumas, Lake, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Yolo, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mono, Merced, Mariposa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Nevada, Tulare and Inyo.

Cecil Ridge Leaves Legacy

After 12 years as president of Modesto City Firefighters Local 1289 and 20 years as an Executive Board Member, President **Cecil Ridge** is stepping down from his leadership post after this term.

During his career, he served as lead negotiator, arbitration panel member, political campaign organizer and mentor to the next generation of members new to the local.

"We will sorely miss his dedication and passion for the safety and well being of all firefighters," said **Steve Fimbrez, Vice President of Local 1289**.



As many locals are facing threats of layoffs and pension "reform," Modesto City Firefighters Local 1289 have made the best of a bad situation.

Local 1289 Resolves Contract

The local has just voted to accept the terms of their latest Letter of Understanding, which is planned to save the city \$1.8 million in concessions.

The good news? Their contract includes a 1 percent increase in EMT pay and no layoffs. The City will be offering nine employees a severance package for voluntary retirement.

The bad news is they are browning out one engine company in downtown Modesto, year-round.

"We're not losing any firefighters and we're doing fairly well compared to some of our other brothers and sisters in the valley," said Fimbrez. The local has proactively offered financial solutions from the beginning in the face of the city's looming financial crisis.

"When things first started getting rough with the city, Local 1289 was the first organization to step up and offer concessions to help out the city. Other city labor groups fell in line behind them and the City Council was grateful for that," Fimbrez said.

Local 1289 President Cecil Ridge is stepping down after this term.

Woodland Faces Battle Despite Passage of Public Safety Measures

On June 8, voters approved two measures to preserve public safety levels in Woodland.

Measure V, a quarter-cent sales tax measure, promised to keep draconian level cuts, including the elimination of an engine company, from occurring in the City of Woodland. Measure U funnels 40 percent of voter-approved sales taxes to public safety services within Woodland Police Department and Woodland Fire Department to maintain the city's current number of first responders.

But despite the passage of these two measures, the Woodland City Council

voted two weeks later to eliminate an engine company, one-fourth of the fire department's daily staffing.

"The Council's action not only puts our citizens at risk, it blindsides the citizens of Woodland, and breaks faith with the voters," said **Mark Feuerstein, President of Woodland Professional Firefighters Local 4029**. "We call on them to reverse this betrayal and restore vital public safety services."

At the time of this publication, the **Woodland Professional Firefighters** have been in negotiations with the City to find an alternative solution.

Then & Now



Woodland Fire Department's daily staffing in the mid 1980s.



Woodland Fire Department's daily staffing in 2010.

The elimination of an engine company would reduce the fire department's staffing by 25% and would bring staffing below 1982 levels.



JOIN THE FB GROUP!

Snap a photo of this barcode to join Woodland Firefighters' Facebook group and voice your opposition against the City of Woodland's plan to eliminate an engine company.

Randy Sekany

CPF 4th District Vice President



CPF District 4 represents the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara.

City of Vallejo Loses Binding Arbitration

Binding arbitration has been a part of the Vallejo city charter for 40 years, but it has been repealed with the passage of Measure A on the June ballot.

The measure passed with 454 votes, despite the opposition campaign by **Fire Fighters Local 1186**, the Vallejo Police Officers Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Measure A eliminates binding arbitration and makes Vallejo subject to the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA).

"This is a landmark vote in California and now that the other side has seen they're successful in eliminating binding arbitration, I'm sure other cities will try," said **Kyle Long, Vice President of Local 1186**.

In California, 24 other cities have binding arbitration in their city charters.

For more information on the latest in Vallejo, visit www.iaff1186.com.

Local 3501 Starts Firefighter Baseball League

Two years ago, **Vacaville Firefighters Local 3501 President Phil Sanner** had a dream – actually a "field of dreams."

He wanted to play ball again.

"We were looking for a healthy way to escape the harsh realities of our jobs as firefighters and the daily grind of union business," said Sanner. "Many of us played softball together, but wanted to go back to our youth and play baseball, the greatest game in the world."

He formed a team with some other firefighters called the Fireballers and began playing in a men's league in Sacramento.

These days, Sanner's dream has grown into a firefighter league with two teams, comprising about 80 percent professional, union firefighters (the other 20 percent have been sons of firefighters and police officers). Players come from Vallejo, Fairfield, Contra Costa and Napa Fire Departments and there is opportunity for more teams to join as interest grows.

Sanner's goal is to expand to four teams and he is currently looking for firefighter players from the Bay/Valley area. Locals are encouraged to form a team from their department or combine with other departments if they don't have enough players. Any firefighter who shares the love of the sport is welcomed.

"Many people are intimidated by playing hardball, but once you step out onto the field, it all comes back to you," Sanner said. "Games are held on Sundays and our families come out to watch and support us. Everyone has a great time."

If you are interested in joining the league, email Phil Sanner at psanner@iaff3501.org.

Livermore-Pleasanton Gain New FC from Modesto

Sometimes one local's loss is another local's gain.

Such is the case for **Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974**, whose new fire chief, Jim Miguel, comes highly recommended by the brothers and sisters in **Modesto City Firefighters Local 1289**.

Former Modesto Fire Chief Jim Miguel is a 27-year veteran of the Modesto Fire Department. He joined the department as a firefighter in 1982 and worked his way to the top. In addition, he has contributed to the **California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony** since 2006. Miguel's new start date with Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department was July 6, 2010.

"We are very excited and pleased that he is joining us," said **Jason Solak, President of Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters**. "His reputation precedes him as a man of integrity. I've been a member of the processing panel and I continue to be very impressed with

him and his leadership. His heart and his soul are still very much in the fire service."

Livermore-Pleasanton's former Fire Chief William Cody and Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Zolfarelli retired in the past year, after a rocky relationship with Local 1974.



Jim Miguel is the new Livermore-Pleasanton fire chief.

Miguel will be responsible for appointing a new deputy fire chief.

"This appointment provides a much needed fresh start," said Solak. "We're looking forward to the opportunity to work with Chief Miguel and to forge a positive labor management relationship."



PHOTO GALLERY!

Take a photo of this icon to see the Fireballers at play.

The Fireballers are part of a firefighter baseball league started by Local 3501 President Phil Sanner.

Michael Massone

CPF 5th District Vice President



CPF District 5 represents federal firefighters across the state of California



I want to start by saying THANK YOU to all of the members of this great district who re-elected me to my fifth term as your vice president.

This past April, CPF held its biennial convention in sunny San Diego. The great work by the delegates charted our course for the next two years. Many ideas became reality through resolutions and the great opportunity for networking. What most of us discovered is that we are all struggling with lack of funding, reduced staffing, pay and benefit cuts, station and company closures ... you get the picture!

Your Executive Board listened and, once again, are taking the lead with an aggressive agenda that will get people back to work, stimulate the economy and, once again, prove that firefighters are always there when the public needs us.

A key component of this plan is electing a governor who will put working men and women first; a man who has the experience and leadership to guide this state back to solvency. That man is Jerry Brown. Your Executive Board has had the opportunity to meet with Jerry on more than one occasion and he has laid out his plan to reinvigorate our state and get our friends, neighbors and families back to work.

Jerry Brown was the governor who signed the firefighter cancer presumption law, the first in the nation. This same legislation is the cornerstone of our current pending legislation before Congress. Jerry Brown also earned the name "Governor Moonbeam" after proposing to place an emergency communications satellite for firefighters and police. By the way, we now have two of these same satellites orbiting overhead!

The CPF endorsement is based on the most basic tenet: we support those who support firefighter issues ...

PERIOD! We have followed this principle when interviewing all candidates and our recommended candidates are the ones who have supported us and have pledged to continue that support through these incredibly difficult times.

This summer and fall, we will be asking every one of you to participate in the election process. This election will directly affect you and your families.

Aside from the election, your Executive Board, political and legislative staff continues to further our legislative agenda. This agenda is driven directly by you -- we take your ideas, suggestions and often unintended consequences of current legislation and craft solutions to these problems. Rest assured that we will continue to pursue relief for our members and their families. I wish to thank you all again for your confidence, your trust and the honor to represent all of you as a member of this incredible UNION.

Stay strong, stay proud, stay union!

Local F-116 Vice President Joins Health Benefits Trust

When **Nils Anderson** announced his retirement from **CPF's Health Benefits Trust**, an opening became available and **Bill Burch** stepped up to the plate.

"I was just feeling like federal firefighters needed someone to represent them on the Health Benefits Trust," said Burch, who is a fire captain and Vice President of **Local F-116**.

Burch already had some interest in the Health Benefits Trust. In March, he attended a meeting to share his personal experience with the PYI Plan and offer ideas on how to enhance the system for federal firefighters, while also adding safeguards to ensure that the system wasn't abused.

At CPF Convention, Burch was nominated and elected to serve the position.

"We had a meeting this month and I really enjoyed it. I look forward to serving the CPF body, both federal and municipal firefighters," said Burch.

Burch has been with the fire service since 1977 and has been a union firefighter since 1981. He has spent the past 13 years with Vandenberg Fire Department.

Memorial Held for Missing Vandenberg Firefighter

Vandenberg Fire Department and **Vandenberg Firefighters F-116** paid tribute in July to brother **Sean Fleming**

who went missing on June 20th, 2010 after a boating accident near Gaviota State Beach. Brother Fleming was 32 years old.

Brother Fleming was hired by Vandenberg Fire Department in May of 1998. He served the citizens of Vandenberg Air Force Base and the State of California for 12 years as a Hotshot, engineer, Helitack crew member, Water Rescue Team program manager and union vice president.

A memorial service was held for Fleming at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Ventura on July 1, 2010. He will be missed.

Donations in his honor can be made payable to Sean Fleming Memorial, c/o Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F-116, P.O. Box 5156, Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA 93437.

Update on Presidio FFs

While the **Presidio Firefighters** anxiously await an arbitrator's ruling on their staffing grievance pertaining to NFFA 1710, they are also waiting to find out which 19 of their 34 employees will be losing their jobs come October.

During the arbitration proceedings, the National Park Service decided to close the Presidio Fire Department after 93 years and contract for service. On the south side of the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco Fire Department will cover fire response by staffing Engine 51 in the Presidio and utilizing existing outlining companies.

On the north side of the Bridge, the fire station will be permanently closed and the Southern Marin Fire Protection District will be contracted to provide service to Fort Baker and the Marin Headlands.

Under the terms of the agreement, San Francisco will be hiring 12 firefighters and three ambulance/paramedics from the ranks of the Presidio; the remaining 19 will separate from service.

So, who goes to SFFD? No one knows! After multiple delays in the contracting process, the final agreement is still pending the approval of the Fire Commission, Board of Supervisors and Mayor. After these hurdles are cleared, the selected members will receive conditional offers of employment and be required to pass CPAT, medical and background checks. The academy for these members is expected to begin in August.



Vandenberg fire captain Bill Burch is the newest member of CPF's Health Benefits Trust.



Vandenberg firefighter Sean Fleming was last seen kayaking near Gaviota State Beach.

Bob Wolf

CPF 6th District Vice President



CPF District 6 represents
CDF Firefighters, Local 2881



Sometimes when reading media coverage of public safety, it is forgotten that beyond the discussion of salary, benefits and conditions, there remains the fundamental truth that these are the months when our firefighters lose critical contact with their families. It has been my experience as a second generation firefighter, someone who was born in a firehouse and has spent his entire professional career in a firefighter's uniform, that marriage and family ties are often strained during fire season.

It is true that many of you will be away from your loved ones for extended periods during fire season. It is not unusual for us to be called in the middle of the night and disappear for weeks at a time. Even a few days off are often periods of exhaustion and recovery. Unfortunately, these are moments in which we don't have the energy to do much more than refresh our supplies and catch up on much needed sleep.

This spring, the youngest of my three sons was married. It reminded me of how much time I was away from my boys when they were growing up and how often my wife must have felt like a single mother raising her boys alone during the summer months.

I guess what I am trying to say to all of you is that it is so important that you sit down with your family early in the fire season and explain the responsibilities that will be keeping you away. You also have to do everything

you can to connect with them during every available moment. The time you have with your family is valuable, and fleeting, and all of us know too many firefighters who lost their marriages and connections to their children because of their job. Don't let it happen to you. If you feel that such a risk is in your life, please take advantage of the counseling that is available through **CAL FIRE** and the union.

Contract Negotiations

We do not work or live in a vacuum. All of us read the daily attacks against public employees and their contracts and pensions. While there is no doubt that spiking problems have created havoc for all of us, it is also true that if every state employee disappeared tomorrow, the \$19 billion state budget would still not be funded and there would be chaos everywhere in California.

However, having said that, **CDF Firefighters Local 2881** wants to be part of the solution. For those who believe the situation is not sustainable and for those who believe that no retreat should be summoned, we say to both of them that common ground must be reached.

CDF Firefighters worked closely with the Governor's office to fashion an MOU structure that is sensible for the state of California and involves genuine reform. However, it also allows all CAL FIRE firefighters, present and future,

an understanding of what to expect during the course and scope of their employment.

The Governor and his representatives played an integral role in the contract discussions. CDF Firefighters dealt with them in good faith and came to agreements that media throughout the state have hailed as a move in the right direction.

The new contract will call for 3% at 55 instead of 50 for new hires. The highest three consecutive years instead of the highest single year will be final threshold number for retirement. The employees of CAL FIRE will also contribute in greater numbers to CalPERS.

There is no doubt that we took a step back to assess these issues. While it may not be among our first choices of how to move forward, it certainly takes into consideration all of the dynamics surrounding budgets and the political emphasis on reimbursements for employees.

We were fair. Ultimately, considering the circumstances, we believe the Governor was fair also.

4-0 Staffing Study

Firefighters have long contended that the obvious is true. The more firefighters who respond to an incident, the more effective the response will be. While the expense for initial attack may be higher, the overall cost savings

become evident because that first attack is held to a minimum number of acres and hours.

Over the past several years, Governors Schwarzenegger and Davis have allowed 4-0 staffing through Executive Order. This year, 4-0 staffing will be included in the General Fund budget, with the idea being that CAL FIRE can prove its efficacy over this fire season and make it a permanent part of the way we prepare for fire season.

CDF Firefighters and CAL FIRE contracted with Dr. Matt Rahn from San Diego State University to do a 4-0 staffing study and scientifically put in perspective the reasoning. We were extremely careful not to influence the study in any way so the results belong to the university itself, and can become a non-partisan reference for individuals interested in fire response.

The study will certainly be part of the discussion of 4-0 staffing in the future. From my own personal experience, I always thought that anything less than 4-0 staffing presented unneeded dangers to the community and an unwarranted risk to firefighters.

Stay Safe

Most important of all, we ask that you stay safe. Remember that fighting fires is a team effort and it is important that you are fit and healthy and that you adhere to the excellent training you have been given.

Dave Gillotte

CPF 7th District Vice President



CPF District 7 represents
Los Angeles County Fire Fighters,
Local 1014



The 7th District finds itself preparing to add our six members, who died last year in the line of duty to the California Firefighters Memorial Wall this year. We are re-living, to some extent, the Station Fire and the dramatic deaths of our Brothers **Ted Hall** and **Arnie Quinones** ... we also lost four others as a result of the hidden dangers of this profession they boldly chose.

Phil Arreguin died of a heart attack in the line of duty and **Tonya Burns**, **Carrie Henger-Neff** and **Richard Carr** lost their battles with occupational cancer. Each of these members will be missed, have served well and will not be forgotten. Each left behind spouses and children, parents and friends, and this should be a reminder of not only how dangerous this job is, but also why we work so hard serving as union leaders.

We are protecting not only the firefighters, paramedics and fire service personnel we represent, but also their families. Let our firefighters not only be remembered, but also let their ultimate sacrifice be a reminder and a motivator to work that much harder through our great unions to protect and enhance our wages, benefits to include healthcare and pensions, and improve and keep as safe as we can our working conditions and staffing. All of these issues dramatically affect the families that are left behind.

On that note, how do we protect our members and their families? We remain vigilant and on guard through political action and legislative efforts

to continue to elect those individuals who understand the nature of our occupation and are willing to support our issues in their task of voting and lawmaking.

In California, each and every one of us made a commitment of \$8 member/month to fight Meg Whitman and to help elect Jerry Brown as our next governor. Believe me when I tell you, if Meg Whitman is elected, we are in some serious trouble. Her top two priorities are putting all new hire firefighters into a defined contribution, 401(K)-style pension and silencing the very strong voice of our unions through political action.

Jerry Brown gave us all collective bargaining and also signed into law the cancer presumption law we have come to rely on so heavily for our members. He will be the moderate, non-extreme experienced individual that can also, once again, put a surplus of billions back into the state budget like he did his last term. He is not the young, brash Jerry of yesterday, but a time-tested, refined leader who will certainly never let firefighters get attacked on our issues.

Los Angeles County Fire Fighters are not only contributing to the effort through the CPF assessment, but we are also directly contributing the max amounts for primary and general election and providing firefighters on the ground and at the phones to help with the effort. We know what's at stake, and we are not taking the task lightly because with Whitman, she will

dump multi-millions of dollars of her own money into the campaign to try and win this thing.

Local 1014 members just recently voted on a historic dues increase of almost \$23/month for not only the governor's race, but also to prepare for our Board of Supervisors' races in 2014, each of which will be in the millions. This will help us to continue to play at a high level in our local city politics and to continue our long standing tradition of pushing hard at the state level.

We also feel that initiatives will be a large part of our program into the near future -- either sponsoring them to benefit us or battling them, if they seek to attack us. Our dues had not been raised for nearly 20 years and we have gone from 1% of top step firefighter to 1.33% of top step firefighter. We encourage everyone to consider if they are funded properly to do their part in the battle we find ourselves in ... it is critical to the effort.

Los Angeles County Fire Fighters continue to battle the same budget woes, due to austere property tax collections that other unions and departments battle. We continue to push the appropriate use of reserves and advocate responsible budget cutbacks that won't affect staffing to get the math right. There is no running from the math on the loss of revenues, but good political action and relationships with not only elected officials but also the fire chief and/or managers is also very helpful to finding support for protecting that which is so

important to our membership. If you don't have these relationships in place, better start heading in that direction and fast. Don't be bullied or give up pay and benefits without doing the math and offering up some alternatives.

The 7th District membership and leadership is also preparing to head to the IAFF Convention in San Diego this month. There are a number of CPF-sponsored resolutions and Local 1014 has crafted two resolutions that deal with the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) that we all pay and "Constructive Receipt" which deals with the tax you have to pay on the value of accrued and banked benefit time when it goes on the books, just as if it was cash in hand as salary ... if you have control of the days to either take them off or choose to get paid for them. These are two very important issues that affect our pocketbooks, and combined with the unwinding of any negative impact of the National Healthcare Reform Bill ... we should be very busy at Convention and hopefully CPF and the 10th District will speak up loudly on our issues.

Keep up the hard work that each and every one of you from each CPF district does day in and day out to protect what we have, and ensure the firefighters of tomorrow have what we have. We are proud to be a part of this great organization, this great team.

As my great friend **Dallas Jones** used to say to me ... "Rascal, stay the course!" That is exactly what we must do ... slow and strong and unrelenting in our efforts. See you at Convention.

Pat McOsker

CPF 8th District Vice President



CPF District 8 represents the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112

As most everyone knows, the LAFD has been operating for nearly a year now with 28 companies closed each day due to budget cuts.

The impact of these “brownouts” on **Local 112** firefighters and the community that we protect has been devastating. Emergency responses are now routinely delayed in Los Angeles due to the lack of available companies. As a result, many citizens have paid a terrible price and firefighters have been impacted, as well. In at least one instance, a crew of firefighters suffered burns when they entered a burning building and fought bravely and alone for an extended period of time because the next due company was closed for the day.

While no firefighters have died yet because of LAFD brownouts, if they are allowed to continue, it’s only a matter of time before the inevitable happens.

The most recent high-profile example of the danger of brownouts occurred on the night of July 13 when a South LA golf club manufacturing plant caught fire. Within minutes, the water-reactive metal used in the process was burning intensely. Although the first arriving companies had recognized the hazard and properly elected to protect exposures while keeping water away from the burning metal, a later arriving high-level commander countermanded that order and called for hose streams to be aimed directly at the seat of the fire.

Before long, that mistake caused a huge explosion, ripping the building apart and sending chunks of burning metal high into the sky. As the fireballs rained down, they struck and injured three firefighters and ignited new fires in six nearby buildings.

At the high point of the incident, 220 firefighters were on scene battling intense flames. As one might imagine,



Chunks of burning metal rained down on LA City firefighters as they battled a blaze in South Los Angeles.

the drain on resources caused LAFD dispatchers to scramble to keep the rest of the city protected. They immediately began moving all available fire companies around the city and into stations whose firefighters were working on the blaze. But try as they might, there weren’t enough resources left to cover all the bases. For a period of time, 14 fire station districts went without any fire company to protect them. This disservice in 14 neighborhoods occurred on a day that city leaders had closed 15 fire companies to save a few bucks.

The fire that occurred on July 13 is further proof that these dangerous brownouts are unacceptable. For that reason, Local 112 has done and will continue to do everything within our power to bring them to a halt.

During April and May, we worked feverishly through the budget process to try to convince a majority of LA Council members to fully fund the LAFD and end brownouts in spite of the economic uncertainty. Unfortunately that effort fell just short, due in part

to some last minute and ill-advised interference by a small group of anonymous saboteurs.

Now, on the heels of that setback, we are at it again.

The fall-back plan we are now lobbying is to replace brownouts with savings in four areas. Without going into too much detail, the four components are as follows: new sources of revenue which we first proposed several months ago, the continued closure of 10 BLS ambulances, a package of departmental efficiencies and the savings attained through another reasonable one-year contract deal. Together, the dollar amount in these four items adds up to what is needed to end brownouts and to retain the fixed positions that are threatened by further budget cuts.

As of this writing, our lobbying effort is on track and many elected officials are voicing their support for the plan. In the coming days, we will be back at the bargaining table to see if their support translates into a fair and final deal. We hope so. If not, we won’t give up.

Local 112 is committed to doing whatever it takes to end brownouts in a way that’s sensible and just, and we will get it done. In the meantime, we appreciate the support and solidarity of the vast majority of the membership during these unprecedented and difficult circumstances.



And This Year's Telly Awards Go To ...

FireStar Productions



FireStar Productions' contributions to the fire service were recognized this year by the Telly Awards.

The video production company was honored with six Telly Awards. Two Silver honors were given for **San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230's** "Every Second Counts" and **CDF Firefighters Local 2881** and **CAL FIRE's** "California's Fire Department" videos. They received two Bronze statuettes for **CPF Firevision** Episode 2 and **California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee's** Terrorism Consequence Management "Car Bomb Scenario" training video. In addition, they received two Bronzes for their video work for the State Building and Construction Trades and Eskaton.

"FireStar helped us tell the story of what San Jose firefighters do and what cutbacks would mean to public safety in our city," said **Randy Sekany, President of San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230.** "Every Second Counts' has been a powerful communications tool for us to bring to council members and community groups. FireStar deserved this award."

FireStar received these prestigious honors in a year that was reported to be one of the most competitive in Telly

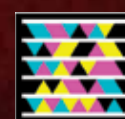


FireStar Productions was behind the San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230's "Every Second Counts" video, which received a Silver Telly Award this year.

Awards history. Nearly 11,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous country were submitted and reviewed. The Telly Awards honor the very best local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, video and film productions and work created for the Web.

"We are committed to helping firefighters and the fire service and we feel so honored to have been recognized for our work," said **FireStar Vice President Kelley Trujillo.**

FireStar is a proud recipient of nearly two dozen Telly Awards since its inception in 1992.



FREE VIDEO!

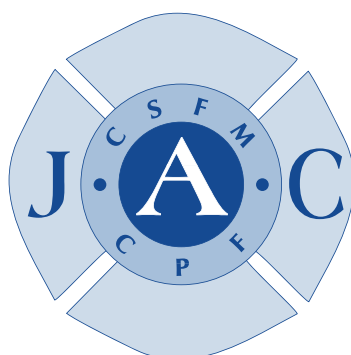
Snap a photo of this barcode to watch San Jose Firefighters' "Every Second Counts" video.

HAVE YOU BEEN LAID OFF?

The CFFJAC's Displaced Firefighter List can help!

The CFFJAC maintains a list of qualified state and local firefighters who will be or have been terminated in California as a result of job elimination. The list can save fire departments time and money in the hiring process while allowing professional firefighters to continue in their fire service career.

VISIT WWW.CFFJAC.ORG AND CLICK ON THE "DISPLACED FIREFIGHTER LIST BUTTON" FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION.



FREE RESOURCE!

Take a photo of the barcode with your smartphone to get further information about the application process.

Is Your Department Hiring?

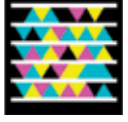
Departments may hire directly from the list or submit candidates to screening exams or interviews. Request a copy of the Displaced Firefighter List today at CFFJAC@cpf.org.

Sign Up for CPF's Breaking News Alerts & Enter to

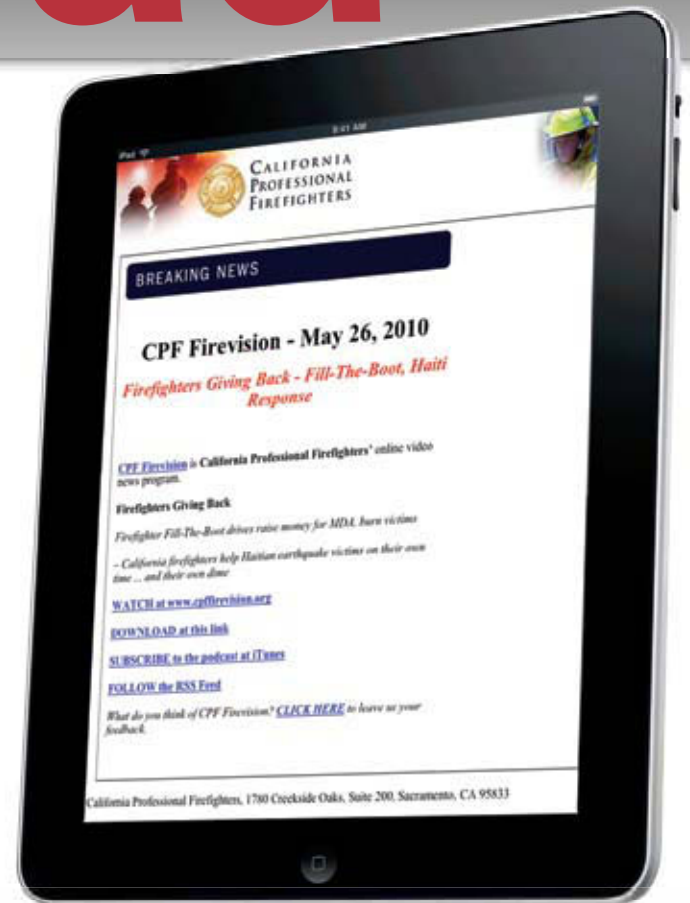
win an iPad



Sign up today for CPF's Breaking News Email Alerts and you will be automatically entered in our drawing to win an **Apple iPad** with Wi-Fi, 16 GB, valued at **\$499**.



ENTER TO WIN!
Take a photo of this icon with your smartphone to sign up for Breaking News Email Alerts and enter to win an iPad.



As a Breaking News Email Alert subscriber, you will receive:

The latest headlines on pension reform, local government funding and safety standards;

News about line-of-duty deaths, firefighter-related legislation and firefighter events in California;

The latest CPF news and news affecting other CPF locals.

Because we value your privacy, your email address will never be shared or sold. And because we zero in on what really matters to firefighters and their families, you can be assured that you won't be bombarded with irrelevant information.

Just visit CPF.org and click the "Win an iPad" button to register for CPF's Breaking News Email Alerts today.

Please note that if you already receive Breaking News alerts, you have automatically been entered in the iPad contest so please don't sign up twice.

CONTEST RULES

- You must be an active CPF member, Callback member or retiree in good standing, to be eligible to register and win.
- Sign up for CPF's Breaking News Alerts by September 15, 2010
- Contest is open to new and existing email subscribers. Existing email subscribers will be automatically entered in the contest.
- All who are signed up to receive CPF's Breaking News Alerts by September 15, 2010 will be automatically entered to win an Apple iPad with Wi-Fi, 16 GB (valued at \$499).
- Contest closes at 11:59 PM, September 15, 2010.
- Winner will be chosen at random and contacted via email by September 22, 2010.
- Winner will have 14 days to respond to email notification. If the winner does not respond by October 6, 2010, the winner will automatically forfeit winnings and an alternate winner will be chosen.
- One qualifying entry per person only.
- iPad is a registered trademark of Apple®, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple®, Inc. is not a sponsor of, or in any way responsible for conducting the contest or providing contest prizes.

A CLEAR CHOICE FOR CALIFORNIA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

California Professional Firefighters' endorsements reflect where the candidates stand on the issues that matter to firefighters and their families – your career ... your retirement ... your safety.

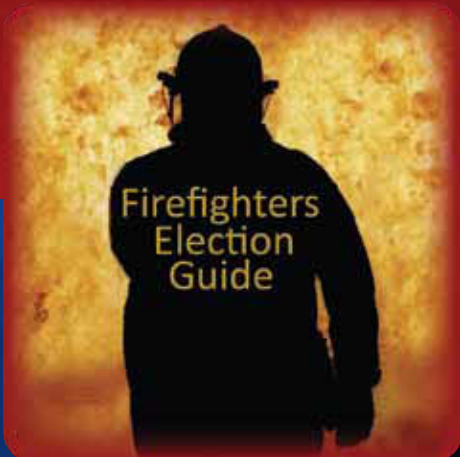
After interviewing both major party candidates, we believe the choice for governor has never been clearer.

Where They Stand on *Your* Issues

Issue	Meg Whitman	Jerry Brown
Retirement Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-tier retirement system (privatized 401k-style system) Increase retirement age Higher employee contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve secure pensions Strengthen retirement system funding Curb management abuses
Fire Protection & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No record or public position Not listed as priority in any campaign material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed law which established FF Apprenticeship (CFFJAC) Backed satellite-based emergency network (in the 1970s!) Built and backs funding for mutual aid system
Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports 2004 workers' comp rollbacks Backs more "modernization" favoring employers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed nation's first FF cancer presumption Cracked down on insurers denying claims Sued employers for cheating workers' comp
Collective Bargaining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Never negotiated labor contract Vows to "go after the unions" Supports plan to pre-empt bargaining on pensions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed state and local collective bargaining laws Says collective bargaining is venue to address employee issues
Firefighter Free Speech Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports Prop. 75-type measure to silence your political voice Backs more corporate influence Spent nearly \$100 million in the primary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposed Prop. 75 -- "Paycheck Deception" Stands with workers against corporate election influence
Jobs and the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wants to cut 40,000 state jobs (FFs not exempt) As eBay CEO, 10% of jobs slashed or shipped overseas Wants more visas for foreign workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 million total jobs created during first tenure as governor (1975-1983); Job creation #1 priority Opposes wrenching state job cuts
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Never held public office Did not vote in 28 elections Corporate CEO – FTD, Hasbro, eBay Presided over 54% eBay stock decline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor (1975-1983) CA Attorney General (2006-present) Mayor, Oakland (1998-2006) CA Secretary of State (1971-75)

We know you take the time to balance all the issues, and we're not here to tell you how to vote. But on the issues that affect your career, your retirement and your family's future, it's not even close.

While Meg Whitman made a mint, Jerry Brown was making a difference ... for firefighters, their families and all working Californians.



California Professional Firefighters recommends
JERRY BROWN
 for Governor

Get the facts at www.cpf.org