



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters • California Labor Federation • AFL-CIO

SILENCING YOUR VOICE NOT THEIRS

*Corporate Power Grab Initiative Protects
Super Rich at Firefighters' Expense*

The anti-firefighter, anti-labor tidal wave sweeping across the nation has landed on California's shores. This time, it threatens to wipe out much of what has transformed firefighting from a hardscrabble part-time job to a proud and noble profession.

For the third time in 14 years, hard line enemies of working families have placed before voters an initiative to silence the voices of firefighters and other working people. This initiative, which is headed for the November ballot, seeks to choke off the ability of you and your union to participate in politics, all the while protecting the rights of corporations and the super rich.

The proponents call their measure "Stop Special Interest Money" but the language of the initiative reveals the truth – a Corporate Power Grab that muzzles working people but lets Big Money off the hook.

"Their endgame is crystal clear – silence your voice so they can steal your future," said Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters. "This fight is about your job, your family and the future of every Californian who works for a living."

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Firefighters Help Build Community “MUSCLE” and Make a Difference with the MDA



Top Row: Burbank Firefighters Local 778 Members Paul Konzen, Cameron Cerwin and Grant Stephens
Bottom Row: MDA Goodwill Ambassadors Sara Gerson, Abbey Umali and Caleb Gold

The city of Long Beach hosted the Southern California Muscular Dystrophy Association’s annual “Fill-The-Boot Boot Camp,” honoring past efforts and offer training and resources for this year’s drives. MDA National Goodwill Ambassador Abbey Umali welcomed everyone while San Diego’s “Fill the Boot” Ambassador Caleb Gold used his comedic stylings to kick off the eventful day. Los Angeles Goodwill Ambassador Sara Gerson and CPF Secretary-Treasurer Lew Stone presented the 2011 Top California Fundraising Awards. Congratulations to these dedicated Locals!

#1- CDF Firefighters CAL FIRE Local 2881

#2- Los Angeles County Firefighter Local 1014

#3- United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112

#4- Burbank Firefighters Local 778

Firefighter Kevin Melanson (San Diego City Fire Fighters Local 145) and Battalion Chief Alan Widling (Santa Maria City Fire Fighters Local 2020) were the keynote speakers of the afternoon. They shared why “Fill the Boot” is such an important program to the surrounding community, as well as to themselves. Kevin’s daughter Grace and Alan’s grandson Anthony have both been diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease. Both members expressed their gratitude to their brothers and sisters for their

efforts in raising money to fund MDA’s clinics, support groups and popular summer camps.

In March, Northern California firefighters gathered in South Lake Tahoe for their “Boot Camp.” California’s MDA Goodwill Ambassador Ashley Hartigan was the featured guest for the celebration. Hartigan is a Northern California teen with Friedreich’s Ataxia, a genetic disorder that causes progressive damage to the nervous system. Ashley and her mother, Vicky, told the group about the some of the support MDA provides for their family and expressed appreciation to the firefighters for all that they do for MDA families. Mike Ortelte, a former South Marin Firefighter who was recently diagnosed with ALS, also thanked the firefighters for their efforts in supporting one of their own.

Many northern California Locals celebrated a significant increase in funds raised over last year. Kudos to these hardworking Locals!

Top “Fill the Boot” (CA)
CAL FIRE Local 2881

Top “Fill the Boot “ (Fewer than 100 Members)
Roseville Fire Local 1592

Top “Fill the Boot” (100-499 Members):
Contra Costa County Local 1230

“We’re so appreciative for the hard work and dedication of all California firefighters,” said MDA Regional Director Susan Kenney. “Because of your unprecedented efforts, many of the families served by MDA can have a stronger sense of hope. We’re looking forward to a safe and successful 2012.”



Riverside City Firefighters Local 1067 members pose with MDA Goodwill Ambassador Caleb Gold.
Top Row: Ryan Kaesner, Thomas Jay and Vince Rogers

WHY POLITICS MATTER



LOU PAULSON

It's still fairly early in 2012, but already you've been hearing an awful lot about politics.

A competitive presidential primary and partisan finger pointing on everything from the price of oil to the First Dog's Twitter feed have unleashed a torrent of political chatter throughout the 24-hour news stations and the vast Internet blogosphere. Much of what you will read in this newspaper concerns politics, from the candidates CPF has endorsed to the grave threat posed by the phony reform we call the Corporate Power Grab Initiative.

I know there are more than a few of you out there who might think that it's all just noise. Like many Americans, you may see politics as something distant from your own lives, and the day-to-day struggle of getting by in a down economy. You hear about a proposal that "silences your voice" and all you can think is "what voice?"

The frustration is understandable, but it's also dangerous.

The reality is that everything ... *everything* ... that affects our lives on (and many times off) the job is a product of decisions made by politicians. Whether it's staffing on the engine, health coverage, survivor benefits or even job safety, the people making the calls are the ones elected to office. That means that everything is political. If you aren't a part of the process, you won't be a factor in the solution.

Through your union – the local, CPF and IAFF – your voice speaks loudly in the halls of power. That

is what our enemies fear the most. That's why they are trying so hard to muzzle your voice in politics by restricting your ability to compete with big money. Because you're going to hear a lot about the fight to protect your voice, it's important that you understand how we make your voice heard.

Why We Endorse

Just as in your local union, our primary means of exercising your voice is through the endorsement process. As the State Council, CPF makes bipartisan endorsements in state races – governor, constitutional offices, state assembly and state senate.

In making our recommendations, CPF judges candidates by a simple yardstick: Where do you stand on the issues that are relevant to the lives and livelihoods of front line firefighters? That means requiring candidates to spell out their positions on public safety funding, retirement security, employee rights, training, disability and survivor benefits, as well as any other issue that impacts their lives on the job.

Our recommendations are just that: recommendations. We're not telling anyone how to vote. We're simply offering information on firefighter issues to help you make an informed choice at the ballot box.

How We Decide

California Professional Firefighters makes its recommendations on the issues, not political labels. In the contests for state office, every credible candidate – Democrat and Republican – is invited to an interview. In legislative races, CPF coordinates with local affiliates in district. The participation of

the Locals ensures that the issues are closest to your heart are made known to everyone looking to go to Sacramento. The recommendations of local affiliates help guide our endorsement decisions.

As you'll find, our recommended candidates include Democrats and Republicans across the political spectrum. We back up those recommendations with the promise we give all of our candidates: We stand with those who stand with us.

Why it Matters That We Stand Tall and Stand Together

I don't need to tell you that we're all kind of wearing targets on our backs these days. Playing to the fears of a recession-weary electorate, hard line ideologues have been engaged in a carefully crafted attack campaign against firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public employees. Their message: It's your fault that California is in a fiscal and economic mess.

These attacks have raised the stakes in 2012. No longer can we depend on the positive image of firefighters to help us protect what we've earned. If we are to protect the families we cherish, the security we've earned and the safety our citizens deserve, it's imperative we answer the call in this year's election, whether it's electing favorable candidates or defeating the Corporate Power Grab.

I would encourage you to get informed on where the candidates stand on our issues. Get informed by going to your union meetings, and talking to your local leadership. You can also keep track of the state-wide campaigns at www.cpf.org and by following **CAFirefighters** at Facebook and on Twitter.

Show Your Pride ... and Get Special Rewards

New CPF credit card offered through L.A. Firemen's Credit Union

California Professional Firefighters (CPF) and the Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union (LAFUCU) have come together again to announce the formal release of the new CPF Visa credit card. This exclusive collaboration has been created as an effort to provide additional financial services that honors the commitment made by California's professional firefighters and their families.

LAFUCU has worked over the last 77 years to establish a cooperative financial institution that provides member/owners with valued financial products and secure transactions. It's these heightened benefits and service standards that can best support our brave men and women who thrive on protecting their communities. Today, LAFUCU has over \$830 million in assets with nearly 30,000 members from 213 fire departments that are located all over California.

"We're excited at the opportunity to come together with LA Firemen's Credit Union in providing this additional financial service to our firefighters and their families," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "The CPF Visa is yet another example of our commitment of service to our members."

"Together, CPF and LAFUCU make a great partnership in keeping an eye out for the best interest of California's firefighters and their families, said LAFUCU President and CEO Mike Mastro. "The new CPF Visa credit card is the latest benefit to helping firefighters manage their finances."

The new CPF Visa is more than a credit card. Qualified purchases can earn Extra Award points that are redeemable for airline travel, hotel stays and gift certificates. Special purchase and travel benefits are also available, as well as emergency services for members that are on the move. A CPF Business Visa credit card is also available for fire department union accounts.

The CPF Visa card looks good too. The modern firefighter-inspired design was purposely created to acknowledge the dedication of the California fire service. "They've earned the recognition," continues Mastro. "Why not let the CPF Visa card help show it?"

Learn more about the new CPF Visa card and find out how you can apply at www.cpf.org. You can also get more information at www.lafirecu.org or by calling (800) 231-1626.

LAFUCU membership is required to obtain a CPF Visa. Join online and apply for your new card at www.lafirecu.org/join. About the CPF Visa: there are costs associated with the use of any credit card issued to you by LAFUCU. You may request specific information about these costs by contacting us at (800) 231.1626 or by writing to us at 815 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90041. LAFUCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Funds on deposit at Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union are insured up to \$500,000 per account by American Share Insurance. This institution is not federally insured, and if the institution fails, the Federal Government does not guarantee that depositors will get their money back. Accounts with this institution are not insured by any state government.

Forged By Fire. Backed By Family.

Introducing the new CPF VISA and CPF Business VISA Cards exclusively from Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union!



You've Earned the Recognition. You Deserve the Credit.

The new CPF VISA Cards offer these great features:

- Purchasing power for firefighters
- Exclusive firefighter card design
- Earn Extra Award points redeemable for airline travel, hotel stays, and gift certificates
- Backed by your trusted financial partner, L.A. Firemen's Credit Union

To learn more and to apply, visit www.lafirecu.org or www.cpf.org.



It's yours.



L.A. Firemen's Credit Union (LAFUCU) membership is required to obtain a CPF Visa. LAFUCU membership is available to full-time, paid firefighters and employees, engaged in related services in any fire department in the State of California who are members in good standing of the California Professional Firefighters, including family members, and CPF employees.

There are costs associated with the use of any credit card issued to you by LAFUCU. You may request specific information about these costs by contacting us at (800) 231.1626 or by writing to us at 815 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90041. LAFUCU is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

ASI Funds on deposit are insured up to \$500,000 per account. This institution is not federally insured, and if the institution fails, the Federal Government does not guarantee that depositors will get back their money. Accounts with this institution are not insured by any state government.

815 Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90041 • (800) 231.1626 • www.lafirecu.org

Apathy: Our Biggest Enemy

As we move forward in fighting the Corporate Power Grab Initiative, a growing problem with our culture is illuminated. There is a cancerous tumor that has metastasized within our ranks and it could prove deadly in this fight if we do not recognize and excise it immediately. The opposition is counting on our failure to address this cancer.

What am I talking about? The "It's Not My Job" syndrome, or the "It's Our Leadership's Responsibility" mindset. If either of those thoughts have crossed your mind as we engage against the "Corporate Power Grab," you need to think again ... and fast.

Your CPF leadership in Sacramento has spent the past several months educating local union officers regarding the initiative and how we are going to combat it. We have now selected "field coordinators" across the state to engage YOU in this fight.

"But I'm only a firefighter at Station 38's and hardly ever attend union meetings, let alone get involved in politics." Does a similar thought run through your brain? Statistics tell us that there is a high likelihood it has. This must change if we are going to fight back the latest attempt to neuter us in the political arena.

So what can you do? First, spend ten minutes and educate yourself the easy way! Merely go to the CPF website and click on the Campaign 2012 button. Watch the edition of CPF Firevision posted on that

page. It is both sobering and informative. Encourage your brothers and sisters at your station to also watch it. You can also see the full text of the initiative, as well as what its various provisions really mean. In five minutes, you can have a working knowledge of what the opposition is proposing to do to you.

Once educated, you can now, with confidence, answer questions from your neighbors and friends when they inevitably ask for your opinion on the initiative. As things heat up in late summer leading up to the November election, those in your social circles will seek your advise on which way to vote on this one because they know it has an effect on your future. Don't blow the opportunity to fully inform them!

You can also be ready to respond to the call for help. The CPF Field Coordinators will be asking your Local President to provide specific assistance for a given event. When your president calls, step up and help. Is it an inconvenience? Sure it is... but much less inconvenient than fighting a pension "take-away" initiative with no bullets in our guns a year from now.

As you see, every one of us has a role in this fight. And every vote counts. Every educated opinion means a higher likelihood that this initiative goes down with a huge "NO" vote. But don't rely on "someone else" getting the job done. We all know that our strength lies in our united front. That is why we are being attacked. Our enemies fear our numbers. Let's justify those fears.



LEW STONE

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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- Kelley Trujillo** Vice President



Continued from page 1

Unbalanced “Reform”

The centerpiece of the Corporate Power Grab is its restriction on your local union’s ability to exercise its basic political rights through voluntary payroll deduction. These modest voluntary deductions help insure that the firefighter voice can be heard above the roar of Big Money. Even with these voluntary deductions, corporations outspend unions in politics by a ratio of 15-to-one. This initiative would essentially change that ratio to 15-to-none.

Two previous “paycheck deception” initiatives – in 1998 and 2005 – were defeated when special interest benefactors were eventually unmasked. This time, the Big Money interests took an even sneakier approach. Shrouding their attack in a cloak of “reform,” the proponents offer to ban all payroll deductions for corporations as well as unions. Only one problem: Corporations don’t use payroll deductions for politics. They just write big checks.

“They try to make this sound like it’s campaign reform, but that’s a smokescreen,” said Contra Costa firefighter Lisa Beaty. “This is about silencing the working person’s voice.”

Why It’s A Big Deal

In order to be heard at the bargaining table, firefighters must have a voice in the halls of power. That means spending money to help elect firefighter-friendly candidates. “The gains that we’ve made didn’t come because fire chiefs and city managers were nice guys and wanted to do you a favor,” said Pasadena firefighter Don Cervantes. “Every inch was fought for and won at the bargaining table and at the ballot box.”

“If we only did one thing as a Local, or through the CPF, it’s politics, because those (elected officials) are the ones who make the decisions on how you live and work day to day,” said Hayward Firefighters President Jason Livermore.

By silencing your voice in the political process, the end result of the Corporate Power Grab is clear: Firefighters fall off the edge of an already tilted table.

What’s At Stake

Make no mistake: The fight over corporate deception is about much more than politics. The loss of a strong, united firefighter voice touches every area of your life on and off the job. “If we don’t have a voice in the process, management will have no reason to talk with us about anything,” said Livermore. “They can just do whatever they want.”

“We could potentially lose in collective bargaining, in pension reform, in a number of areas,” said Costa Mesa Firefighters President Tim Vasin. “Even benefits we’ve had for decades, such as presumption laws, could be gone instantaneously.”

Public Safety Under Attack

In past years, firefighters, police and other public safety personnel have been able to weather the anti-labor attacks thanks to a largely positive public image. But no more, as these same special interests have now gone after public safety professionals over pay, pensions and job security.

In some egregious cases, such as Costa Mesa, it’s even been suggested that the entire fire department be outsourced. “We’re no longer protected by the so-called ‘hero status,’” said Vasin. “If we don’t have a voice in politics, they’ll outsource us just as quickly as parks or street repair.”

“Anyone who thinks we’re still ‘America’s Heroes’ and they won’t do this to us is a fool,” said CDF Firefighters Retiree Director Ray Snodgrass.

Fighting Back

Although previous attempts to muzzle public workers have ended in defeat, the challenge is greater than ever. As in past fights, the initial public polling favors the other side. The deceptive wording makes the legislative/political/bureaucratic hill that much steeper. Then there is the estimated \$20 million or more that the other side is expected to spend to impose their attack. High-profile, super-rich ideologues like Karl Rove and the Koch Brothers have already made the pilgrimage to California.

“We need more than ever to get out, talk to our friends, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in the firehouse and let them know what’s at stake,” said Paulson. “This isn’t just about firefighters or unions. It’s about basic fairness and democracy. It’s a fight we can’t afford to lose.”



Keep track of the campaign and find out how you can make a difference. Click the “Campaign 2012” button at www.cpf.org

CPF PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS 2012

After an extensive interview process, California Professional Firefighters has identified a bipartisan list of candidates it believes would be the strongest firefighter choices for statewide office in this June's Primary Election. The CPF endorsements for the primary were the product of weeks of interviews with dozens of candidates from both sides of the political aisle. Only candidates who interviewed with the CPF Executive Board were eligible for consideration.

"Neutral" means there is more than one candidate supportive of first responders. "No Endorsement" means CPF either found no firefighter-friendly candidates were simply unable to arrange meetings with candidates during the interview process. *For more details on why CPF makes endorsements and the decision making process, please see the President's Message (page 3).*

STATE ASSEMBLY

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| AD 01: Brian Dahle | AD 28: Paul Fong | AD 55: Curt Hagman |
| AD 02: Wes Chesbro | AD 29: Mark Stone | AD 56: Manuel Perez |
| AD 03: Dan Logue | AD 30: Luis Alejo | AD 57: Neutral |
| AD 04: Mariko Yamada | AD 31: Henry Perea | AD 58: Tom Calderon |
| AD 05: Frank Bigalow | AD 32: Rudy Salas | AD 59: Reggie Jones-Sawyer |
| AD 06: No Endorsement | AD 33: Bill Jahn | AD 60: Neutral |
| AD 07: Roger Dickinson | AD 34: No Position | AD 61: Bill Batey |
| AD 08: Ken Cooley | AD 35: Katcho Achadjian | AD 62: Steven Bradford |
| AD 09: Richard Pan | AD 36: Ron Smith | AD 63: Anthony Rendon |
| AD 10: Michael Allen | AD 37: Das Williams | AD 64: Isadore Hall |
| AD 11: Neutral | AD 38: No Endorsement | AD 65: No Endorsement |
| AD 12: Kirstin Olsen | AD 39: Richard Alarcon | AD 66: Al Muratsuchi |
| AD 13: Xochitl Paderes | AD 40: No Position | AD 67: Melissa Melendez |
| AD 14: Susan Bonilla | AD 41: Chris Holden | AD 68: No Endorsement |
| AD 15: Nancy Skinner | AD 42: Brian Nestande | AD 69: Neutral |
| AD 16: Joan Buchanan | AD 43: Mike Gatto | AD 70: Bonnie Lowenthal |
| AD 17: Tom Ammiano | AD 44: Jeff Gorell | AD 71: No Endorsement |
| AD 18: Rob Bonta | AD 45: Bob Blumenfield | AD 72: No Endorsement |
| AD 19: Phil Ting | AD 46: Adrin Nazarian | AD 73: No Endorsement |
| AD 20: Bill Quirk | AD 47: Joe Baca Jr. | AD 74: Leslie Daigle |
| AD 21: Adam Gray | AD 48: Roger Hernandez | AD 75: Marie Waldron |
| AD 22: Kevin Mullin | AD 49: Ed Chau | AD 76: Farrah Douglas |
| AD 23: No Endorsement | AD 50: Betsy Butler | AD 77: No Endorsement |
| AD 24: Rich Gordon | AD 51: Jimmy Gomez | AD 78: Toni Atkins |
| AD 25: Bob Wieckowski | AD 52: Norma Torres | AD 79: Neutral |
| AD 26: No Endorsement | AD 53: John Perez | AD 80: Ben Hueso |
| AD 27: Nora Campos | AD 54: Holly Mitchell | |

STATE SENATE

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| SD 01: No Endorsement | SD 15: Neutral | SD 29: No Endorsement |
| SD 03: Lois Wolk | SD 17: Bill Monning | SD 31: Neutral |
| SD 05: Cathleen Galgiani | SD 19: Jason Hodge | SD 33: Ricardo Lara |
| SD 07: Mark DeSaulnier | SD 21: No Endorsement | SD 35: Rod Wright |
| SD 09: Loni Hancock | SD 23: No Endorsement | SD 37: No Endorsement |
| SD 11: Mark Leno | SD 25: Carol Liu | SD39: Marty Block |
| SD 13: Neutral | SD 27: Fran Pavley | |

YES on Proposition 28 – Term Limits

CPF endorses ballot measures that directly impact its members and their ability to advocate and bargain for employee rights and other issues central to the fire service in California. By lowering the number of years a person can serve the legislature from 14 to 12, but allowing a person to serve the 12 years in the Senate, the Assembly or combination of both, Proposition 28 will strengthen policy expertise around fire service issues, lead to tougher oversight over regulations and legislation and increase the effectiveness of California's legislative body.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIREFIGHTER

The best way to insure that elected officials are going to understand your issues is to elect one of your own. This year, three CPF members are engaging the fight by running for a high-profile elective office. If you see these names on the ballot, you've got a friend.



State Senate – District 19

Jason Hodge (D) is a member of Ventura Co. Professional Firefighters Local 1364. In addition to working on the lines, Jason also serves as an elected member of the Oxnard Harbor Commission.



State Assembly – District 61

Bill Batey (R) is a member of Riverside City Firefighters Local 1067. He is an Air Force veteran and currently serves as a member of the Moreno Valley City Council.



San Bernardino Board of Supervisors District 1

Bret Henry is president of San Bernardino Co. Firefighters Local 935. He is a former U.S. Marine and a San Bernardino Fire Captain.

2011



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

photo contest winners



1st Place **Todd Lando**

Todd Lando worked 19 years at Marin County Fire Department before retiring as an Engineer. He is the secretary of Marin Co. Professional Firefighters Local 1775 and does web design and consulting for several fire agencies in California.



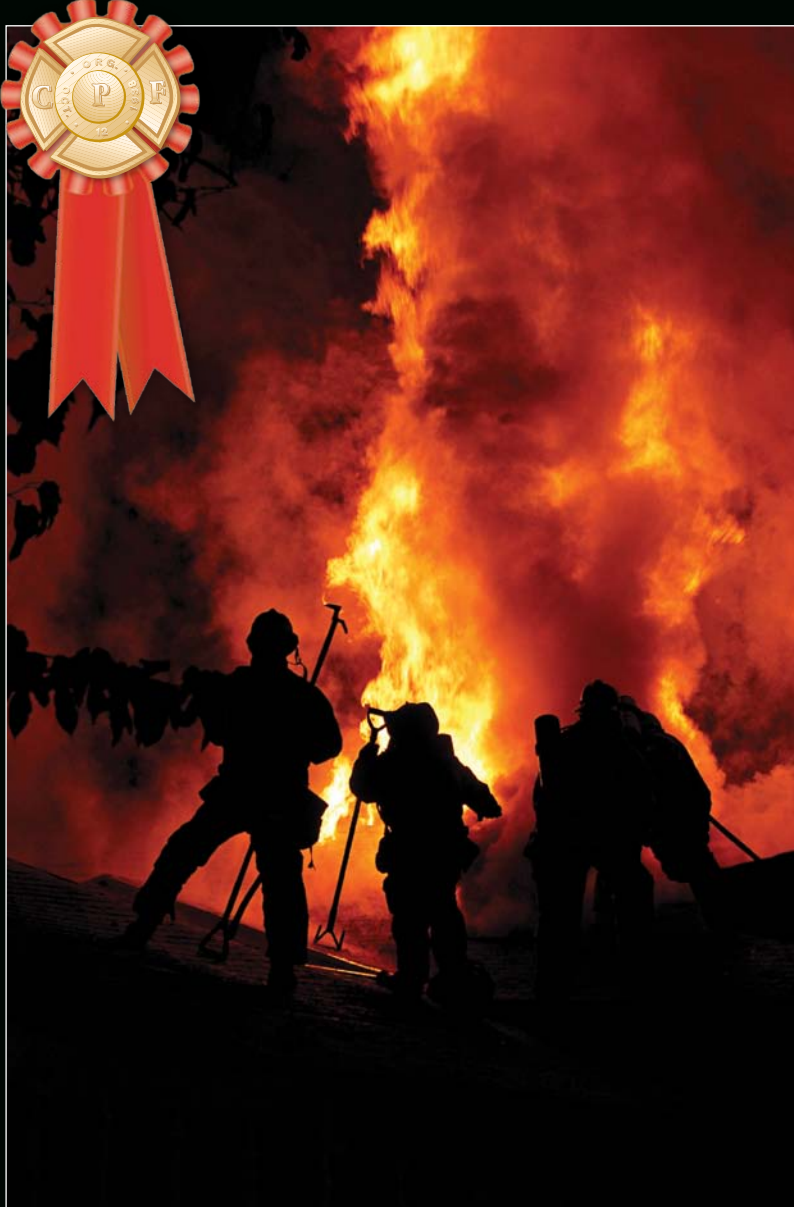
2nd Place **Michael Linch**

Michael Linch has worked for the Los Angeles County Fire Department since 1980 and is a member of LA County Firefighters Local 1014. He's currently stationed at Fire Station 33 in Lancaster (QUINT 33).



3rd Place **Dominic Messina**

Dominic Messina's interest in photography began at a young age. For the last four years, he's been a VIP photographer with CALFIRE in northern California.



honorable mention



Clint Walker



Wes Schultz



Jeffery Lindgren



Eddie Lee



WORKER'S COMP DEATH BENEFITS, EMS RULES, AND IMAGE PROTECTION TOP 2012 CPF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

California Professional Firefighters' strong voice in Sacramento has produced landmark measures on cancer presumption, retirement security, job protection and the Firefighters Bill of Rights.

Even as we fight to keep big money interests from silencing your voice in the process, CPF continues to work to protect your interests on the job and off.

Below is a list of legislation sponsored or co-sponsored this legislative session by the California Professional Firefighters.

2011 MEASURES AWAITING FINAL ACTION

AB 1245 – EMR Background Checks (Das Williams, D-Santa Barbara) – Authorizes a higher standard of EMS training regulations for California's Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) by allowing the EMSA to create standards for authorizing Emergency Medical Responder training that are consistent with the standards established by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. While an EMR course of instruction may be utilized, the bill would not allow EMR's from being certified as another practitioner in the EMS system. (CPF Sponsored)

AB 1320 – Retirement Rate Stabilization (Michael Allen, D-Santa Rosa) – Stabilizes employer-paid retirement contributions by establishing new Taxpayer Adverse Risk Prevention (TARP) accounts in both '37 Act retirement systems and CalPERS to capture excess investment income. In boom years when investment earnings were high, employers have used those surpluses to take a "holiday" from their pension obligations, contributing to underfunded pension liabilities. This bill requires that employers meet their obligations every year, and banks investment surpluses in a TARP account. These funds would be used to supplement employer contributions in down economic years. (CPF Sponsored)

AB 1387 – Emergency Medical Services: Pre-Hospital Care - (Jose Solorio, D-Santa Ana) – Creates a new standard acknowledging all points of ALS transportation rights ("201 Rights"), thereby reinforcing the established operational procedures between local fire departments and their neighborhood EMS agencies. (CPF Sponsored)

SB 488 – Use of Public Safety Identifiers in Slate Mailers - (Lou Correa, D-Santa Ana) – Presents strict approval and disclosure requirements for individuals or groups when utilizing a public safety (firefighters, EMS, law enforcement, etc.) logo, insignia or emblem in campaign mailers. (CPF Sponsored)

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2012

AB 1551 – Coming And Going Liability - (Norma Torres, D-Pomona) - With the pressures of daily details on the rise, this bill ensures that any member of the CHP, firefighters or peace officers cannot be held financially responsible in the event that they are involved in an accident with their private vehicle when operated on behalf of or at the request of their respective employer. (CPF Sponsored)

AB 1606 – Fact Finding - (Henry Perea, D-Fresno) – Would clarify current law so that during a collective bargaining impasse, an employee organization could request a "fact-finding procedure" prior to any proposed settlement of new employment terms. (CPF Co-Sponsoring with AFSCME)

AB 1687 - Workers Compensation: Utilization Review - (Paul Fong, D-Cupertino) – Communications about a delay, modification or overall denial of Worker's Comp treatment would be required to include prominently-displayed alternatives for the injured worker's next steps. In addition, if a related medical treatment dispute arises, and enforcement of a future medical award is required for continuing an injured worker's medical treatment, this bill allows the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board to award reasonably-incurred attorney's fees in instances where an injured worker prevails in validating the medical award (CPF Sponsored)

AB 1692 – Municipal Bankruptcy & Redevelopment - (Bob Wieckowski, D-Fremont) – This bill would create a set of stringent requirements examined by a neutral evaluator to help protect local governments from having to file bankruptcy. New municipal bankruptcy protections were passed just last year via the enactment of CPF's co-sponsored bill, AB 506, but this year's bill tackles some of the more current fiscal issues, like revenue shortfalls and growing deficits, which are plaguing many of California's struggling cities. (CPF Co-Sponsoring with the California Labor Federation)

AB 1885 – Laid-Off Firefighters: Retirement

Reciprocity – (Susan Bonilla, D-Martinez) – This bill ensures that if a firefighter is laid off by a public agency, like a CalPERS contracting agency, due to cuts in budget or staffing and then is re-hired within one year by a '37 Act county, the county retirement system will have additional time to ensure that the re-hired firefighter's previous public employment service is kept whole in that county system for reciprocal purposes. (CPF Sponsored)

AB 2389 – Contractor Disclosure Requirements – (Bonnie Lowenthal, D-Long Beach) – This measure would give consumers a clearer picture of the relationship between the worker who shows up at the front door and the company that sent them there. The bill would require that work uniforms or badges clearly identify the actual employer. California's fire service understands the importance of living up to its image and reputation. All service providers who seek to convey an image through the use of a uniform or logo must have some accountability to that image. (CPF Sponsored)

AB 2451 – Fallen Firefighter Survivor Death Benefit Claims – (John Perez, D-Los Angeles) - If a firefighter sustains a specified industrial illness, such as cancer or an infectious blood-borne disease that takes more than five years from the date of the injury to become fatal, this bill ensures that a Workers' Compensation death benefits claim can be filed by eligible surviving family members within one year of the firefighter's date of death. (CPF Sponsored)

HIGH PRIORITY SUPPORT BILLS IN 2012

AB 1944 – EMT-P Discipline – (Mike Gatto, D-Los Angeles) – Applies the current system of EMT-I and EMT-II discipline to EMT-P's. This bill provides the same protections against double jeopardy while ensuring efficient administration of discipline subject to the due process requirements provided for by the FFBOR, APA and locally negotiated disciplinary procedures.

Keep track of CPF's legislative agenda. Just check the "Issues and Legislation" section at www.cpf.org



APPRENTICESHIP WORKS

CPF Co-Sponsored Documentary Highlights Importance of Preserving Critical On-The-Job Training Program

The skilled workforce that California needs for the jobs of tomorrow are being trained today, through apprenticeship — a time-tested partnership between management, labor and our schools.

This central message is the underlying theme of a new short documentary that was premiered at Sacramento's Crest Theater before an audience of state lawmakers, administration officials and apprenticeship leaders.

This new documentary — “Apprenticeship Works” — details the critical link between the next generation of skilled craftspeople and the employers who are hiring them. More than 54,000 active apprentices in some 200 separate occupations are benefitting from the unique “earn while you learn” approach.

“Apprentices are not only earning a living, they are learning a career for the future,” said Bob Balgenorth, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. SBCTC co-sponsored the documentary along with California Professional Firefighters (CPF)

“It’s critically important to have a trained workforce, especially in the fire service,” said CPF President Lou Paulson, who co-chairs the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC).

The premiere took place in the backdrop of concern about the future of state support for the critical classroom component of apprenticeship. This year’s state budget would erase the dedicated funding for apprenticeship — currently amounting to less than 0.04% of all K-12 spending. State education leaders expressed concern that this move would effectively end apprenticeship programs in schools — a vital link between the classroom and the job market.

“Providing educational opportunities that are relevant to the job market is critical,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson noted in the documentary. “We believe it’s very important to retain this funding.”

You can view “Apprenticeship Works” at the CFFJAC Web site — www.cffjac.org — or on YouTube, by searching “Apprenticeship Works”.

CAL-LAST MOBILIZES TO HELP LOCALS WITH LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH RESPONSE

Coordinated Teams Trained to Offer Rapid Response in Times of Crisis



John Proels, National LAST Coordinator (left) leads first Cal LAST training session in Sacramento.

When a firefighter falls in the line of duty, the trauma reverberates throughout a local community. No matter how big or small a department or local may be, sometimes, the event is simply overwhelming.

Helping locals shoulder this burden is what the California Last Alarm Service Team (Cal-LAST) is all about.

Formed through a partnership between the California Fire Foundation and the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, Cal-LAST is designed to offer coordinated regional support for locals and departments who need extra help for departments who lose one of their own in the line of duty.

“When a line of duty death occurs, it is difficult to think straight, let alone put on a firefighter funeral,” said Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters and chair of the California Fire Foundation. “We want to help ensure that any fire department in California – paid or volunteer -- has access to the resources they need during their difficult times.

Individual LAST teams consist of a LODD survivor, a behavioral specialist, an honor guard commander, an auxiliary and a chaplain. When requested by a department or local union, the individual LAST unit activates its own “mutual aid” response, bringing resources into a community to fill in where needed, from assisting with survivor benefits to helping plan and execute memorial services.

The first LAST training and orientation sessions were held

this past March in Sacramento and Orange. Training was provided by the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF).

“LAST teams respond only when requested and stay only as long as they’re needed,” said John Proels, the NFFF’s national LAST coordinator. “The program is designed to be available to any department, but is especially helpful to smaller agencies, some of which go decades without experiencing a line of duty death.”

Cal-LAST is a product of a first-of-its-kind partnership between the Fire Foundation and NFFF. The national LAST teams are funded through the U.S. Department of Justice, and are only activated in the case of a traumatic LODD. In a landmark agreement, the California Fire Foundation is the exclusive administrator of LAST in California and will provide LAST response for all LODDs in California – traumatic and presumptive.

“The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has worked with us to modify their program to work for our state and we are very grateful for the resources this program will bring to our members and the entire California fire service,” said Paulson.

If you’re interested in participating in the Cal-LAST program, contact your local union leadership or send an email to cafoundation@cpf.org



SAVE
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DATE

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*Come support the
CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION
at the San Francisco Giants'*

Firefighter Appreciation Night



SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 23, 2012
7:00 pm

Giants vs. Padres at AT&T Park

.....
Please stay tuned for more information about
this event and check back frequently at
www.cafirefoundation.org

*This event is being sponsored by the
San Francisco Giants*

JAC CAREER EXPOS TARGET NEXT GENERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS



Would-be California firefighters converged on the CPAT firefighter testing centers in Orange and Livermore to participate in two CFFJAC-sponsored Firefighter Career Expos. Organized by the CFFJAC's Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service, the one-day job fair gave candidates an "up close and personal" look at what it takes to be a first responder.

"Firefighting is a rewarding and demanding profession, but it's not for everybody," said CFFJAC Chair Dan Terry. "For young people who think they've 'got what it takes,' this Career Expo can help guide them toward a challenging and satisfying career."

Though open to all, the fair's programs and services targeted women looking to join the fire service. Nationally, it's estimated that fewer than 3% of front line firefighters are women – in California, women account for about 5% of the total, with many of those concentrated in a few large departments.

"We want to teach women that they can do this," said Contra Costa Fire Capt. Lisa Beatty chair of the Women's Commission. "If they have the drive, determination and believe in themselves, nothing should stand in their way."

Fire departments throughout the area were on hand to help candidates get started. Prospects had the opportunity to try their hand at the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), which consists of eight job-related tests that must be completed within a set time to prove you're "fit for duty." CPAT certification is a prerequisite for many fire departments throughout California.

In addition to direct recruitment and hands-on demonstrations, the Expo featured several working female firefighters who spoke to the challenges and rewards of the job.

"We are looking to build the next generation of firefighters ... women and men who have the right stuff to protect our state," Terry said. "Even in difficult economic times, the fire service is a career choice worth considering, if you have the skill, intelligence and commitment to service."

STOP THE PHONY "REFORM" INITIATIVE

This fall, voters will be faced with another phony reform that silences your voice. You can help defeat it by spreading the word.

Cut out the poster below and post it on your union bulletin board.

California Professional Firefighters
1780 Creekside Oaks, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833



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STOP THE CORPORATE POWER GRAB SAY NO TO PHONY "REFORM"

WHAT IT DOES

Silences your voice. Bans voluntary dues deductions to keep firefighters from speaking out.

One-sided "reform". Protects unlimited spending from corporate profits; main restrictions target only union members.

Targets local politics. Redefines you as a "contractor", so you can't speak out in *any* election.

WHO WINS?

Big business. Special interests that bankrolled attacks on firefighters in Ohio and Wisconsin are coming to California.

Private retirement funds. The large investment houses stand to make billions if pensions are privatized in California.

Private fire advocates. The "godfather" of the Corporate Power Grab is pushing private fire protection in Costa Mesa.

Local politicians and bureaucrats. Your strong voice is a "firewall" against even deeper service cuts.

WHAT'S AT RISK?

Public Safety. Firefighters fight for staffing, stations and safety. Lose your voice and the public loses.

Negotiated contracts. Bargaining rights are under attack. Lose your voice, and you might not be able to negotiate *anything*.

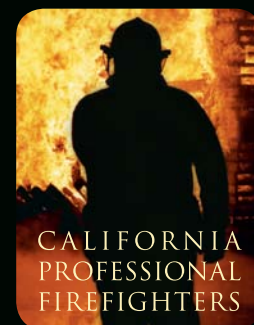
Presumption laws. Cities hate presumption laws. Lose your voice, and these laws are first on the hit list.

Professional firefighting. Privateers want to bring low-wage, sub-standard firefighters here. Your job could be at risk.

IT'S NOT ABOUT POLITICS ... IT'S ABOUT **PROTECTING** YOUR FUTURE

"We've fought this fight before, but never have the stakes been so high. If we give up our right to speak up and speak out, every protection we've earned is at risk. For firefighters, it is the most important vote in this, or any other, election year."

— **Lou Paulson**,
President, California Professional Firefighters



GET THE FACTS AND STAND UP FOR YOUR FUTURE

www.cpf.org — Find fact sheets, videos and frequently asked questions.

CPF on Facebook and Twitter — Get the latest updates and find out how you can help.

Get involved — attend your union meetings, talk to your neighbors and friends. Tell them why this election means so much to their future.

A Fight We Can't Afford to Lose