



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

STRENGTH THROUGH SOLIDARITY

California Professional Firefighters at 75

The job of a firefighter in the early years of the 20th Century was often brutally difficult. Salaries were meager, hours were punishing, protective equipment was non-existent and nobody even thought much about retirement or health care. If a firefighter was killed – whether in a fire, from smoke, from a heart attack, or toxins – it was “next man up.”

In 1938, a collection of ten California affiliates of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) came together in Bakersfield with a simple mission: work together to make life better for firefighters, their families and the communities they protect. More than 75 years later, the organization they created – California Professional Firefighters – has become one of the most respected and influential labor voices in California, as well as a powerful and effective advocate for firefighters and their families.

BUILDING THE FIRE LABOR MOVEMENT

Barely a year after its formation, CPF (then known as International Fire Fighters of California) and its founding President Milton Terry were involved in the creation of two protections that still resonate to this

day: the California Heart, Lung and Hernia presumption law and Labor Code 4850, allowing firefighters to continue receiving a salary while recovering from job-related injuries (payments referred to as “4850 time”).

Through World War II, labor-management strife was on the back burner, but after the war, the activism of local firefighter unions in California expanded. In 1947, one of those affiliates – Long Beach Firefighters Local 372 – won a groundbreaking state Supreme Court case affirming firefighters’ vested pension rights (the “California Rule”). Often, affiliates sought local ballot propositions to reduce hours and increase pay, with decidedly mixed results.

In 1956, the state association – now renamed Federated Fire Fighters of California – began an intense organizing campaign under the guidance of President Al Albertoni, who would go on to become the IAFF’s secretary-treasurer. Doubling as the FFFC’s legislative

advocate, Albertoni partnered with the California Labor Federation and the IAFF to win enactment of the Firefighters Right to Organize Act, the first legislation in California to offer an explicit right for any public employee to join a union.

A RENEWED COMMITMENT

Through the 1960s, Federated Fire Fighters of California continued to have an influence, helping to win passage of a new 2% at 50 retirement standard for public safety, as well as increasing maximum pension caps. It helped to enact the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act of 1968, a major step toward collective bargaining. The FFFC also provided logistical support as its local affiliates went on strike in Vallejo, San Diego and Sacramento in 1970.

As the organization became increasingly active, it began to run into financial difficulties. The financial woes grew worse in the early 1970s, eventually creating a massive debt and prompting a number of prominent locals to withdraw. In 1972, a special convention unanimously voted to ask the IAFF to temporarily take over Federated Fire Fighters. Trustee Hank Kershner got a handle on the books and a four-member advisory panel that included future IAFF General President Al Whitehead rewrote the constitution and bylaws.

At its 1973 Convention, coincidentally in Bakersfield, the reborn Federated Fire Fighters elected

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE
Page 3



CPF POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS
Page 9



2013 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS
Pages 12-13



DISTRICT REPORTS
Page 14-21



STATE LEGISLATORS FEEL THE HEAT AT FIRE OPS 101

More than 40 California State Legislators and staff members participated in California Professional Firefighters' Fire Ops 101 held March 5th on the west steps of the Capitol.

As part of the demonstration, participants were escorted through a burn trailer for a fire attack with charged hoses while wearing full turnouts and SCBAs. They climbed to the top of a 105-foot ladder for breathtaking views of the Capitol and downtown Sacramento, and got to handle chain saws during roof ventilation simulations atop the burn trailer.

"This is the only Fire Ops of its kind in the country," CPF President Lou Paulson said.

"We do these so the legislators know what we do on a daily basis so when they make policy in the Capitol, they have a better understanding of our needs."

More than 60 off-duty firefighters from several departments volunteered to staff the all-day event and made sure the decision makers got to experience and learn about the real challenges firefighters face every day.

"I've always respected the work of the firefighters," said Assemblymember Isadore Hall. "But when you get in there you can see how your life can technically be on the line at any moment – you can fall off a ladder, you can fall in the fire – your respect has heightened 1000 percent."



Standing Strong STANDING TOGETHER



LOU PAULSON

As firefighters, one of the first things we learn in training is about the special importance of being “first in.”

The company that is first on scene identifies the extent of the incident, determines whether lives are in imminent peril, establishes the initial line of attack, and assesses what additional resources are needed.

Lives and homes are saved because the people who were “first on scene” did their jobs well.

As important as it is to get there fast, there is an even more basic cornerstone of our training and values as firefighters: working together. When the alarm rings, we don’t head out one at a time. We go out as a unit; a team.

These two central values – working fast and working together – have been brought home to me over the past year as California Professional Firefighters has marked 75 years as the state council for the IAFF.

For three quarters of a century, California Professional Firefighters and its affiliates have been “first in” on some of the most important events in the labor movement.

- The first presumption law of any type in California – the 1939 Heart, Lung and Hernia Presumption Law – was a topic at the founding meeting of CPF a year earlier;

- The “California Rule,” establishing vested pension rights, was the result of a legal case brought by Long Beach Firefighters Local 372;

- The first law giving any public employee group the right to organize in unions without reprisal was sponsored and pressed to passage by CPF (then known as Federated Fire Fighters of California);

- The inexorable link between our work environment and cancer was established in CPF-sponsored legislation creating the nation’s first cancer-presumption law;

- CPF was the earliest and strongest voice to protect the right to freely participate in politics through your union.

These landmarks, and many others represent an impressive legacy by any measure. They are especially impressive considering our relatively small size compared with the rest of labor in the U.S.

Over the past year, we’ve been compiling pictures, stories and artifacts from these past 75 years, and a book documenting CPF’s history is coming soon to a fire station near you. But while it’s been enjoyable reflecting on the accomplishments of the past, my main charge is to work to improve your lives, and those of your family, in the present and in the future.

Many of the challenges ahead are

similar to those faced by CPF and its members throughout our history. Workplace safety, retirement security, health care, bargaining rights, disciplinary protections ... the list goes on.

In the final analysis, these traits – as important as they are – all take a back seat to that central value at the heart of our profession: solidarity.

None of the accomplishments of the

For three quarters of a century, California Professional Firefighters and its affiliates have been “first in” on some of the most important events in the labor movement.

In meeting these challenges, the past can’t be a template, but it can be instructive, particularly in zeroing in on the leadership and values that have helped CPF stand out over these many decades. The foresight that helped envision the cancer presumption law will be just as important as we work to protect and refine that law. The shared commitment that has built the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee will certainly serve us well in our fights against outsourcing, fiscal downsizing and attacks on our pensions. The tenacity that brought the Firefighters Bill of Rights into law after a 30-year battle will surely be tested as we push back against the overreaching power grabs of groups like the League of California Cities.

past – or those of the future – happen because of one or two individuals. They happen because we all came together and had each other’s back, in keeping with the values and traditions of our profession. Firefighters don’t just stand up. We stand together. It is in that solidarity that we draw our strength.

I am immensely proud of the role California Professional Firefighters has played in creating a better life for our state’s first responders and their families. It is an honor to be a part of the history of this fine organization ... an organization that has made a difference not just for firefighters in California, but also for all firefighters and working people in our country.



Gov. Jerry Brown (center) signs the nation's first firefighter cancer presumption law in 1982. Flanking Brown are CPF President Dan Terry (right) and Legislative Advocate Brian Hatch.

Continued from page 1

Daniel A. Terry - no relation to founder Milton Terry- as its President. Terry and Legislative Advocate Brian Hatch immediately refocused efforts on legislative and political action, helping to elect a young, second-generation politician named Jerry Brown as governor. With Brown in charge, Federated Fire Fighters helped intervene to prevent the use of non-union strikebreakers against firefighters in Santa Barbara County and Berkeley.

AN INNOVATIVE FORCE IN THE FIRE SERVICE

With most of its wayward affiliates back and a favorable climate in the Legislature, the state organization became a focal point for a new national conversation about firefighter safety and training. Responding to the deaths of two Whittier firefighters in the early 1970s, Federated Fire Fighters won passage of Assembly Bill 3011, the nation's first firefighter cancer presumption law. Like the heart and lung presumption, the 1982 law provided firefighters with the benefit of the doubt in workers' compensation cases involving job-related cancer. In order to help firefighters document their exposures, the Personal Exposure Reporting system was created.

Another 1982 milestone was the establishment of the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC), a landmark partnership between CPF and the California State Fire Marshal. Initially established to help the fire service build a more diverse work force, the CFFJAC soon became a vehicle through which firefighters could receive specific training and their departments could be reimbursed for those training

dollars. It is considered a national model for public employee apprenticeship.

As the fire service grew into an all-response institution, firefighting became an occupation requiring more skill and a lot more training. Reflecting this new sophistication, Federated Fire Fighters changed its name in 1986 and became California Professional Firefighters. Not long afterward, CPF fought its first great battle over retirement security, when former Gov. Pete Wilson raided CalPERS in 1991 to fill a budget hole. Having developed its own print shop (Firefighters Print & Design) and video studio (FireStar Studios), CPF launched a statewide initiative campaign that resulted in passage of Proposition 162, the Pension Protection Act. The measure blocked future pension fund raids and ensured that preserving employee retirement security was at the top of CalPERS' priority list.

In 1992, CPF won passage of legislation to establish the California Firefighters Memorial at the State Capitol. Over the next decade, CPF's California Fire Foundation would raise more than \$2 million, most of it from firefighters themselves through the firefighter license plate and tax check-off. In 1995, a site was established at the center of Capitol Park. The 1990s also saw CPF win a hard-fought battle to establish the "two-in/two-out" safety standard through CalOSHA.

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

In 1998, CPF was a guiding force behind the defeat of the first "paycheck deception" initiative to restrict labor's political voice, Proposition 226. In the same election, CPF helped elect Gray Davis – a

veteran leader with a long history of support for firefighters as Governor.

Davis' election helped to enact long-sought advances for firefighters and their families, including expanded cancer presumption, the 3% at 50 optional retirement formula, statewide binding arbitration and free CSU and UC education for children of fallen firefighters and military. Davis also appointed CPF Executive Board members to key administration posts, guaranteeing a voice for front-line firefighters in all critical public safety decisions.

On September 11, 2001, the fire service was upended by the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. One month afterward, CPF organized a California Day of Remembrance at which thousands of firefighters paid their respects to those who lost their lives that day. CPF also put grief into action by winning funding for groundbreaking firefighter-specific training, Terrorism Consequence Management. In April, 2002, the California Firefighters Memorial was unveiled in Capitol Park.

IN THE ARENA

In 2004, Lou Paulson, then the president of Contra Costa County Professional Firefighters Local 1230, was elected CPF's President, replacing Dan Terry who retired.

Within a year of Paulson's election, Arnold Schwarzenegger – elected governor in 2003's chaotic recall contest that ousted Davis – would realize the worst fears of firefighters. Schwarzenegger latched onto a proposal to privatize the

entire public pension system, including that for firefighters – even the widows and orphans of fallen firefighters.

CPF rallied members against the proposal, organizing protests against Schwarzenegger in a spirited "Chasing Arnold" campaign. Eventually, Schwarzenegger withdrew the pension proposal, but continued to push for a special election on a so-called "reform agenda" that included another "paycheck deception" proposal. Firefighters became the face of Schwarzenegger's opposition, along with teachers, nurses and law enforcement. When the election was held, every one of Schwarzenegger's "reform" initiatives was defeated.

Chastened by the "chasing", Schwarzenegger turned over a new leaf after his 2006 reelection, and in 2007, CPF won the 30-year fight to pass the Firefighters Bill of Rights. The new law protected the right to representation and due process in disciplinary procedures. CPF also won passage of legislation to expand firefighter cancer presumptions, a new presumption for the drug-resistant bacterial infection MRSA, and expanded health benefits for surviving families of fallen federal firefighters.

In the aftermath of the "Great Recession" in 2008, CPF again found itself in the arena fighting to protect pensions and firefighter rights. CPF's sophisticated print and video media services provided local affiliates with the tools to elect favorable local elected officials and push back against privatization and contracting efforts. In 2012, CPF provided essential early financing and media support against yet another attack on firefighters' political voice, Proposition 32. As with the previous efforts, CPF's combination of fiercely loyal membership and political savvy sank the attack, this time by a sizeable margin.

CPF AT 75

As CPF enters its second 75 years, many of the fights of the past are still being waged. Retirement security, bargaining disputes, workers' compensation presumptions and firefighter rights are all still active issues in the Legislature and local councils.

Although the challenges remain constant, California Professional Firefighters allows its members to fight from a position of extraordinary strength and influence. CPF is a powerful force in state government and politics and a leader in the labor movement. Its local affiliates have access to the tools of modern politics, allowing them to make their case in negotiations, rather than on the picket lines.

CPF and its affiliates have helped California firefighters achieve strength through solidarity.

HEARING YOUR CONCERNS AT CONVENTION



LEW STONE

The average union firefighter probably doesn't even know that the 2014 California Professional Firefighters Biennial Convention is coming up in mid-May. Many that do know think their leaders are heading to Universal City on the proverbial "junket." The reality is that the upcoming convention is the spearhead of our vision for the next two years, and that vision is shaped by you.

Like most large labor organizations, CPF operates as a representational democracy. Each local union elects delegates to attend the convention based on total membership. These delegates then participate in committee work and ultimately vote on the convention floor for a variety of resolutions.

Because the primary mission of CPF is legislative and political action, the majority of the resolutions deal with those two subjects. Where do those resolutions come from? Two primary sources: the CPF Executive Board and local unions.

For example, your union has an idea for a new state law, to make EMT certification valid for five years instead of the current two. Your union votes to turn your idea into a resolution and it's forwarded to the convention for consideration. If it's approved, the resolution then becomes a legislative priority for the CPF staff as they work with the state legislature to change the existing law and regulations pertaining to EMT certifications.

As you can see, our convention process empowers every member of every local to positively affect our profession.

The delegates at convention determine our legislative priorities. They also make decisions on the amount of dues collected from each member to further our political successes and protect our careers from politicians bent on destroying our collective bargaining rights and pensions. Every dues increase is governed by the action of your delegates at convention.

Another key aspect of our convention is networking: getting to know other

labor leaders across the state. The conversations that take place off the convention floor provide opportunities to hear how other locals are dealing with negotiations, disciplinary issues, new ideas in health and safety and many others areas that are so important to properly leading a local. The relationships developed at a convention can prove invaluable in that moment when you need some advice about an issue that you remember was

discussed during a lunch break.

Every union member should be encouraging their leadership to send delegates to the convention. When those delegates return, make sure that there is a full dialogue about what occurred, what decisions were made and what they learned by the experience. If your union doesn't send delegates, you are failing to fully participate in the most important part of union democracy in action.

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Publication Office

California Professional Firefighters
1780 Creekside Oaks • Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 921-9111

Web: www.cpf.org
Email: info@cpf.org

Editor: **Carroll Wills**

Graphic Designer: **Robbie Panco**

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

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CPF-BACKED CONSUMER CHOICE BILL TARGETS TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS

SB 1019 forces disclosure of chemicals on furniture linked to firefighter cancer

When firefighters are battling a structure fire, flames aren't the only things putting their lives at risk.

The interior of a business or residential fire confronts the responder with a haze of toxic chemical inhalants, many of which come from the flame retardants used on upholstered furniture. These flame retardants seldom make a substantial difference in stopping the spread of the flames. They do expose firefighters and fire victims to chemicals that can cause cancer.

Legislation sponsored by California Professional Firefighters this year would shine a light on these cancer risks to first responders and the citizens they serve. Senate Bill 1019 requires specific product labeling on all furniture sold in California that indicates whether chemical flame retardants were used during manufacture.

"For firefighters, chemical flame retardants can make fires more dangerous, not less," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "Consumers need to have a full understanding of the potential health hazards posed by chemical toxins used in their furniture."

The legislation, by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), is a follow-up to a new regulatory standard, backed by the IAFF and CPF, aimed at moving away from the highly toxic flame retardants and toward safer alternatives. Leno says it's important for consumers to be informed about

whether the furniture they buy is still using the toxic chemicals.

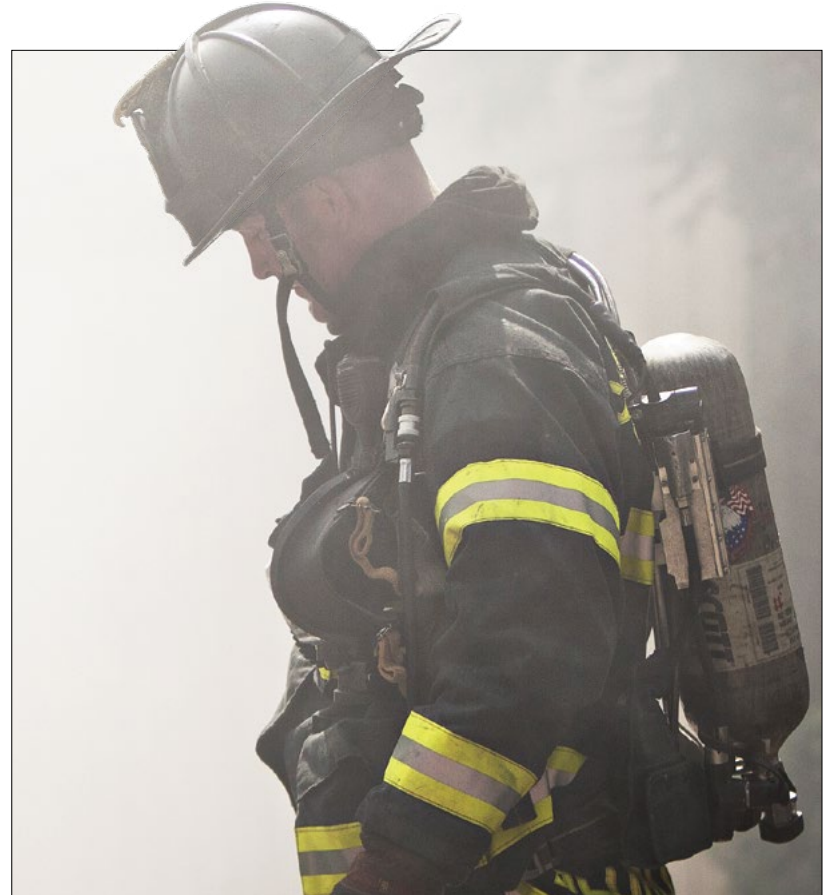
"Without this legislation, consumers would not know if their new sofa was made with those added chemicals," said Sen. Leno. "Disclosure of these chemicals contained in consumer products serves the public interest, builds customer confidence and creates greater transparency in the marketplace."

For firefighters on the front lines, the risks associated with the release of these chemicals far outweigh whatever minimal benefit they may have slowing flames. The toxins released by burning or smoldering furniture attach to their turnouts and seep through self-contained breathing apparatus. Worse, during overhaul operations, the toxins still hanging in the air are directly inhaled.

"These inhalants are a major cause of death for fire victims and have been linked to higher cancer rates among firefighters," said Paulson.

For consumers, the potential cancer risk could be even greater, as they are exposed to the chemicals every time they sit on the couch. Studies have shown that the concentration of these cancer-causing flame retardants is higher among children in California than in any other state. In addition to cancer, the chemicals have been linked to decreased fertility, hormone disruption, lower IQ and hyperactivity.

"Having the ability to make an

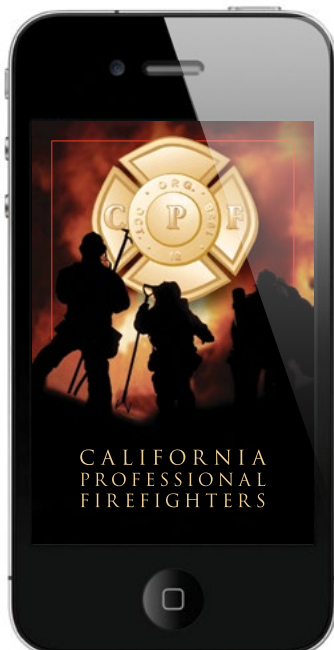


informed choice is especially crucial for upholstered furniture since the decision intimately affects a consumer's living space for a long period of time and a family's exposure to toxic and untested chemicals," said Richard Holober, director of

the Consumer Federation of California.

In addition to CPF, the measure is backed by a broad coalition of consumer and environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Center for Environmental Health.

YOUR PROFESSION IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND



The free CPF Mobile App is your link to the California fire service and the political and legislative decisions that will affect your life. Developed for iOS and Android, the free app offers members the latest news, legislative updates, LODD information and a handy guide to the Firefighters Bill of Rights.

In the latest update, CPF has added important new features tailored to your needs on the job:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION GUIDE — A new feature exclusively for CPF members, the app now offers a complete pocket guide to last year's groundbreaking Workers' Compensation reform.

TRAINING — In conjunction with the CFF-JAC, the app now has essential information on training, including a set of wildland firefighting resources right at your fingertips.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES — CPF members can register and log in for everything they need to know about what's at stake in the most important elections.

CPF FIREVISION — Follow CPF's award-winning video news service right on your mobile device.

"WHERE'S THE FIRE?" — Incident information from around the world.

FIREFIGHTERS BILL OF RIGHTS — A full guide to your disciplinary rights in your pocket.

MEMBER RESOURCES — essential information and links to CPF services such as Personal Exposure Reporting and new member services, as well as social media links.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback on the CPF Mobile App and we want to make it as useful as possible," said CPF President Lou Paulson. "We're thrilled to be able to offer this mobile application and are anxious to hear your thoughts on how we can continue to make it better."

The application is free and available in the iTunes App Store and the Android Marketplace.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

California Professional Firefighters has been busy working with legislators the last few months to introduce new proposals on behalf of the Golden State's professional firefighters. Important bills left over from 2013 are also being shepherded through the Legislature, which convened the second year of its two-year session in January.

In 2013, CPF sponsored or co-sponsored 15 bills, of which six were signed into law and three were vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

So far this year, CPF is sponsoring seven new bills.

AB 1563 (Freddie Rodriguez, D-Chino): Extends to Jan. 1, 2021 the existing state voluntary income tax contribution check-off for the California Firefighters Memorial Fund, as well as the Peace Officers Memorial Fund, both of which are slated to sunset in 2015 and become inoperative on Jan. 1, 2016 unless this bill is enacted.

AB 2378 (Henry Perea, D-Fresno): This bill overrides a 2013 appellate court decision, which required "4850 Time" to be counted toward a firefighter's 104 weeks of temporary disability in instances where they are injured on the job. The decision has resulted in slashing a firefighter's disability protection by up to 50 percent and this bill would correct that.

AB 2126 (Rob Bonta, D-Oakland): Allows mediation to be requested by either the employer or local firefighter organization in instances where both parties have reached a collective bargaining impasse, rather than requiring that both parties request mediation, which is the current law stipulation. This bill also clarifies that the fact-finding process can be invoked over the impasse of any issue within the scope of representation.

ACR 102 (Steve Fox, D-Palmdale): This bill proclaims Oct. 11, 2014 as Firefighters Memorial Day and urges Californians to remember firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty, while expressing their appreciation to those firefighters who continue to protect California and its citizens.

AB 2146 (Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley): This bill will help reduce the number of job-related injuries due to inadequate personal protective clothing and equipment by asking the state's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to consider reviewing existing state standards for a firefighter's gear and consider updating those standards to comply with new National Fire Protection Association standards.

AB 2438 (Bonnie Lowenthal, D-Long Beach): This bill clarifies that fire apparatus driver training may be conducted by a firefighter who possesses a Class C driver's license with a firefighter endorsement.

SB 1019 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco): This "truth in labeling," consumer-right-to-know bill coincides with the full phase-in of California's new flame retardant standard (TB 117-2013) on Jan. 1, 2015. (See story, page 6)

HOLDOVERS FROM 2013

The following legislation are issues that were considered in 2013 and were either held back another year or re-introduced:

AB 1035 (John Pérez, D-Los Angeles): This bill seeks to modify the window of time allowed to an eligible public safety survivor in instances where they file a workers' compensation death benefit claim after their loved one contracts a specified job-caused illness but succumbs to that occupational disease after 240 weeks from the date they were diagnosed. It is the new version of last year's AB 1373.

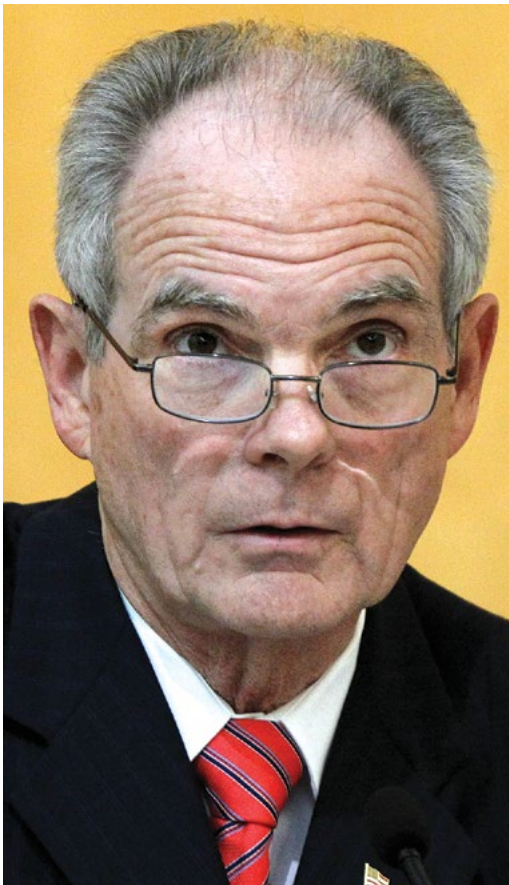
SB 388 (Ted Lieu, D-Torrance): Since the enactment of the Firefighters Bill of Rights (FBOR), some employers have tried to circumvent the spirit and intent of FBOR's due process protections. Specifically, this bill applies the representation, notification, interview and personnel file access rights to a firefighter in instances where they are being questioned or interrogated, even if they aren't the subject of an investigation.



PENSION SLASHING BALLOT INITIATIVE:

DEAD OR ONLY SLEEPING?

Reed Withdraws Retirement Rollback Measure for 2014, But Says He'll Be Back



When lame-duck San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed set out to “reform” retirement security, he claimed that it was “time to tell the truth” about pensions.

It turns out Chuck Reed can't handle the truth.

Facing a suspicious electorate and a ballot summary that was a little too accurate for his taste, Reed has suspended signature gathering on his “Broken Promises” pension initiative. The proposal would have eliminated vested pension benefits for millions of existing employees and force employers and employees to pay a steep penalty just to get the pension they were promised.

Reed's decision to pull back came after the state attorney general issued the official title and summary of the proposal, along with the financial summary from the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office. The descriptions laid bare the measure's impact on retirement security for public workers, as well as its potential billion-dollar price tag.

With polls showing voters unsympathetic to the idea of breaking pension promises, Reed's hand was forced. Claiming that the attorney general's statement was biased, Reed sought a court ruling on the language, but also pulled back on the 2014 initiative.

“It's a judgment call at this point,” Reed told *San Jose Inside*. “I don't know if it's impossible, but it's certainly impractical.”

MEASURE B ON STEROIDS

Introduced to much fanfare among pension foes, Reed's ballot measure sought to bring the same sweeping rollbacks to retirement security he'd succeeded in passing in his home city. Like San Jose's Measure B, the initiative would have essentially nullified the so-called “California Rule,” a legal standard that basically says once a pension promise is made to an employee, it can't be unmade.

Despite several big money backers, Reed's campaign ran into trouble when the truth set in. The non-partisan legislative analyst, concluded that it offered potential long-term savings but also potential initial costs of “hundreds of millions to possibly billions of dollars.” The attorney general's title and summary accurately described the measure's key feature: the elimination of vested pension rights for teachers, firefighters, nurses and other public workers.

In an effort to salvage his faltering plan, Reed and his allies challenged the ballot language in court, claiming that it would prejudice voters. In mid-March, a Sacramento judge ruled that the ballot language was not deceptive, and rejected the challenge, effectively closing the door on a 2014 statewide pension initiative.

“This court decision simply affirms what Reed and his allies have already acknowledged: the real purpose of this attack is to eliminate the constitutional vested retirement rights of teachers, firefighters, public safety officers and other public employees,” said CPF President Lou Paulson.

NO TIME TO RELAX

The decision guaranteed there won't be a pension initiative on the statewide ballot in 2014. While this is a victory for CPF and other defenders of retirement security, it may be only a temporary one. Reed told the Sacramento Press Club he had not given up on the idea and planned to try again for the ballot in 2016.

“We have not stopped working on this,” he told the Sacramento Press Club. “We will not give up.”

In the meantime, the battleground on pensions has temporarily shifted to local government. Local bankruptcy agreements in Vallejo and Stockton have been attacked as being “insufficient” and a Koch-backed political action committee in Ventura County is working to qualify a pension privatization initiative (See “Ventura Co. Faces Pension Privatization Fight”). Cheerleading all of these efforts is the League of California Cities, which has made “pension reform” one of its top priorities.

“Our opponents aren't relaxing,” Paulson said, “so we can't afford to stop fighting either.”

VENTURA COUNTY FACES PENSION PRIVATIZATION FIGHT

An ominous new attack on the foundations of firefighter retirement security has been launched in Ventura County. A proposed countywide ballot initiative circulated during the spring seeks to close down secure pensions for every new public employee and substitute a risky 401(k)-style system that could potentially cost employees and employers millions.

“We believe that their goal is to shut down public pension systems, beginning with (county systems like ours) and privatize them,” said CPF 2nd District Vice President Chris Mahon, president of Ventura County Firefighters Local 1364.

Under the plan, which is targeted for the November ballot, all new employees would immediately be shunted into the privatized retirement plan. Existing employees would continue to be covered under the county's existing pension plan. The architects of the Ventura County initiative are a collection of anti-tax activists including the California chapter of Americans for Prosperity, a group financed by the anti-labor Koch brothers from Kansas.

The proposal is similar to several others which have been proposed but withdrawn in other cities, notably Los Angeles, because of their potentially catastrophic costs. Without new employees paying into the system, most financial analysts concede the cost of the existing system would steadily rise to unsustainable levels.

“If this initiative were to pass, the cost of the current pension system would skyrocket,” said Mahon. “That would fall not just on employees, but the employer, meaning deeper cuts in public safety and other critical services.”

The Ventura pension proposal has generated strong backlash even among those who have advocated retirement rollbacks. All but one of the county's board of supervisors is on record opposing it, citing the cost and the potential talent drain it could create. A wide-ranging coalition has also formed to fight the measure, led by Ventura County's firefighters and law enforcement and a strong opposition campaign is being organized should the measure qualify.

“The consequences of this passing are just too great,” said Mahon. “We can't afford to lose.”

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE ENDORSEMENTS AS OF MARCH 4, 2014

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

Lieutenant Governor: **Gavin Newsom**
 Secretary of State: **Alex Padilla**
 Attorney General: **Kamala Harris**
 State Controller: **John Pérez**
 State Treasurer: **John Chiang**
 Insurance Commissioner: **Dave Jones**
 Board of Equalization 01: **Chris Parker**
 Board of Equalization 02: **Fiona Ma**
 Board of Equalization 03: **Jerome Horton**
 Board of Equalization 04: **No Endorsement**

U.S. HOUSE (ENDORSEMENTS FROM IAFF)

CD02 – Jared Huffman (D)	CD30 – Brad Sherman (D)
CD03 – John Garamendi (D)	CD31 – Pete Aguilar (D)
CD05 – Mike Thompson (D)	CD32 – Grace Napolitano (D)
CD06 – Doris Matsui (D)	CD34 – Xavier Becerra (D)
CD07 – Ami Bera (D)	CD36 – Raul Ruiz (D)
CD08 – Paul Cook (R)	CD37 – Karen Bass (D)
CD09 – Jerry McNerney (D)	CD38 – Linda Sánchez (D)
CD11 – Mark DeSalunier (D)	CD40 – Lucille Roybal-Allard (D)
CD12 – Nancy Pelosi (D)	CD41 – Mark Takano (D)
CD13 – Barbara Lee (D)	CD42 – Ken Calvert (R)
CD15 – Eric Swalwell (D)	CD43 – Maxine Waters (D)
CD16 – Jim Costa (D)	CD44 – Janice Hahn (D)
CD17 – Mike Honda (D)	CD46 – Loretta Sanchez (D)
CD19 – Zoe Lofgren (D)	CD47 – Alan Lowenthal (D)
CD24 – Lois Capps (D)	CD50 – Duncan Hunter, Jr. (R)
CD26 – Julia Brownley (D)	CD51 – Juan Vargas (D)
CD27 – Judy Chu (D)	CD52 – Scott Peters (D)
CD28 – Adam Schiff (D)	CD53 – Susan Davis (D)
CD29 – Tony Cardenas (D)	

STATE ASSEMBLY

AD01 – Brian Dahle (R)-Inc	AD37 – Das Williams (D)-Inc
AD02 – Jim Wood (D)-Open	AD38 – Scott Wilk (R)-Inc
AD03 – James Gallagher (R)-Open	AD39 – Raul Bocanegra (D)-Inc
AD04 – Dan Wolk (D)-Open	AD40 – Marc Steinorth (R)-Open
AD05 – Frank Bigelow (R)-Inc	AD41 – Chris Holden (D)-Inc
AD06 – No Endorsement	AD42 – Neutral-Open
AD07 – Kevin McCarty (D)-Open	AD43 – Mike Gatto (D)-Inc
AD08 – Ken Cooley (D)-Inc	AD44 – Jaqui Irwin (D)-Open
AD09 – Darrell Fong (D)-Open	AD45 – Matt Dababneh (D)-Inc
AD10 – No Endorsement	AD46 – Adrin Nazarian (D)-Inc
AD11 – Jim Frazier (D)-Inc	AD47 – Cheryl Brown (D)-Inc
AD12 – Kristin Olsen (R)-Inc	AD48 – Roger Hernandez (D)-Inc
AD13 – Susan Eggman (D)-Inc	AD49 – Ed Chau (D)-Inc
AD14 – Susan Bonilla (D)-Inc	AD50 – Richard Bloom (D)-Inc
AD15 – Tony Thurmond (D)-Open	AD51 – Jimmy Gomez (D)-Inc
AD16 – Tim Sbranti (D)-Open	AD52 – Freddie Rodriguez (D)-Inc
AD17 – David Chiu (D)-Open	AD53 – Miguel Santiago (D)-Open
AD18 – Rob Bonta (D)-Inc	AD54 – Sebastian Ridley-Thomas (D)-Inc
AD19 – Phil Ting (D)-Inc	AD55 – Ling-Ling Chang (R)-Open
AD20 – Bill Quirk (D)-Inc	AD56 – Eduardo Garcia (D)-Open
AD21 – Adam Gray (D)-Inc	AD57 – Ian Calderon (D)-Inc
AD22 – Kevin Mullin (D)-Inc	AD58 – Cristina Garcia (D)-Inc
AD23 – Jim Patterson (R)-Inc	AD59 – Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D)-Inc
AD24 – Rich Gordon (D)-Inc	AD60 – Eric Linder (R)-Inc
AD25 – Kansen Chu (D)-Open	AD61 – Jose Medina (D)-Inc
AD26 – Rudy Mendoza (R)-Open	AD62 – Autumn Burke (D)-Open
AD27 – Nora Campos (D)-Inc	AD63 – Anthony Rendon (D)-Inc
AD28 – Evan Low (D)-Open	AD64 – Neutral-Open
AD29 – Mark Stone (D)-Inc	AD65 – Sharon Quirk-Silva (D)-Inc
AD30 – Luis Alejo (D)-Inc	AD66 – Al Muratsuchi (D)-Inc
AD31 – Henry Perea (D)-Inc	AD67 – Melissa Melendez (R)-Inc
AD32 – Rudy Salas (D)-Inc	AD68 – No Endorsement
AD33 – Rick Roelle (D)-Open	AD69 – Tom Daly (D)-Inc
AD34 – No Endorsement	AD70 – Patrick O'Donnell (D)-Open
AD35 – Katcho Achadjian (R)-Inc	AD71 – No Endorsement
AD36 – Steve Fox (D)-Inc	AD72 – No Endorsement

AD73 – Anna Bryson (R)-Open
AD74 – Neutral-Open
AD75 – Marie Waldron (R)-Inc
AD76 – Rocky Chavez (R)-Inc
AD77 – Brian Maienschein (R)-Inc
AD78 – Toni Atkins (D)-Inc
AD79 – Shirley Weber (D)-Inc
AD80 – Lorena Gonzalez (D)-Inc

STATE SENATE

SD02 – Mike McGuire (D)-Open
SD04 – No Endorsement
SD06 – Neutral-Open
SD08 – No Endorsement
SD10 – Robert Wieckowski (D)-Open
SD12 – Anthony Canella (R)-Inc
SD14 – Neutral
SD16 – No Endorsement
SD18 – Robert Hertzberg (D)-Open
SD20 – Connie Leyva (D)-Open
SD22 – Ed Hernandez (D)-Inc
SD24 – Kevin De Leon (D)-Inc
SD26 – Betsy Butler (D)-Open
SD28 – Bonnie Garcia (R)-Open
SD30 – Holly Mitchell (D)-Inc
SD32 – Tony Mendoza (D)-Open
SD34 – Neutral-Open
SD36 – Patricia Bates (R)-Open
SD38 – No Endorsement
SD40 – Ben Hueso (D)-Inc

YES ON PROPOSITION 41 VETERANS HOUSING BOND ACT

What it does: Allocates \$600 million in bond funds already approved by voters to provide multifamily housing for low-income and homeless veterans who have honorably served our nation. Does not create new taxes or new debt.

Why it's needed: Thousands of young men and women are returning from overseas conflicts, some returning with no homes or jobs waiting for them. Prop. 41 helps get them the housing, job training and rehabilitation they need without increasing taxes or the overall state debt.

Why it matters to firefighters: Firefighters are among those returning vets who have served honorably and may need help readjusting to stateside life. Like firefighters, veterans are on the front lines protecting our nation. They deserve support in making a difficult transition.

Bottom line: Firefighters stand with our veterans as surely as they stand with each other.

CPF RECOMMENDS: **YES ON PROP. 41**

YES ON PROPOSITION 42 THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

What it does: Proposition 42 is a common sense accountability and government reform measure to guarantee the rights of citizens to participate in local government meetings and get access to critical public information about what their government is doing with taxpayer money. It makes it a constitutional requirement that local governments follow the state's most important open meeting and public records laws.

Why it's needed: The Brown Open Meetings Act and the California Public Records Act protect the public's right to participate in, and keep tabs on, local government activities. Cities, counties and school districts have tried to use recent laws as an excuse to avoid complying with open meeting and public records laws. Prop. 42 locks in the state's open government laws, ensuring that local governments will not be able to poormouth their way out of this basic function.

Why it matters to firefighters: Open access to local government meetings and records is essential to holding your employer accountable, whether it's in the bargaining process or the court of public opinion. Public records requests let your local uncover corrupt management practices and help keep them honest on critical fiscal issues affecting your life and livelihood. Open meeting laws flush out municipal efforts to privatize or contract local services and force elected officials to be on the record in full view of the voters.

Bottom line: California's open meeting and public records law protect the citizens' right to know what government is doing. Prop. 42 locks these vital transparency laws into our constitution and ensures that local governments can't use budget excuses to hide their secrets from the public or their employees.

CPF RECOMMENDS: **YES ON PROP. 42**
Common Sense Reform to Ensure Government Accountability

NO RETREAT NO SURRENDER



CLEAN SWEEP: CPF President Lou Paulson celebrates the defeat of all four special-interest ballot proposals in 2005 special election.

On the first day of the 2005-2006 California Legislative session, a back-bench GOP assemblyman named Keith Richman introduced a constitutional amendment to privatize the entire public employee pension system. Richman was an unlikely candidate to touch off a \$130 million ballot war. But he did.

Newly elected in a controversial recall campaign, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger embraced Richman's pension proposal, making it part of his "reform agenda" ticketed for a November 2005 special election. Lurking within the expansive pension-slashing proposal was a devastating poison pill: its sweeping provisions also eliminated ongoing survivor benefits for the families of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty.

"No single action could have done more to galvanize firefighters," recalled CPF President Lou Paulson. "Once it became clear that the survivors of our fallen could lose their pensions, our members were all in."

Almost immediately, CPF members became the public face of the opposition to the governor's agenda. Sign-carrying

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

2000 - 2014

Through triumph and tragedy, California Professional Firefighters has maintained a steady, strong voice for the needs and concerns of firefighters and their families. As it stood at the forefront of innovation in training and legislation, CPF was also a tireless and forceful political force, helping to defeat efforts to tear away protections decades in the making. As it hit its 75th anniversary, CPF demonstrated the power of strength through solidarity.

2001

CPF organizes "California Day of Remembrance" to honor victims of 9/11 attacks



2002

California Firefighters Memorial unveiled, capping ten-year quest.

2004

Daniel A. Terry retires; Lou Paulson elected president of CPF

2000

CPF 2nd District VP John Tennant named as State Fire Marshal, following selection of former Secretary-Treasurer Dallas Jones as OES director.

2003

CFFJAC wins grant for first post-9/11 fire-based terrorism response training, Terrorism Consequence Management



2000

2005



Ex-Alhambra Firefighters President Bob D'Ausilio (left, in white t-shirt) sums up how California firefighters felt about "The Governor" in 2005.



firefighters led visible protests at Schwarzenegger's public events – a level of activist defiance not seen among firefighters since the public safety strikes of the 1970s. "Chasing Arnold" became the catchphrase for the relentless pursuit of the governor.

In April 2005, Schwarzenegger blinked on pensions, announcing he was withdrawing his privatization measure, but the fight over the rest of the governor's agenda was far from over. The most controversial element of his plan was to ban public workers from exercising their political rights through dedicated union dues contributions – a plan that came to be known as "paycheck deception."

As the fight escalated, CPF became a central part of the campaign to defeat it, as it had in 1998 when an earlier "paycheck

deception" proposal was defeated. Paulson became a key strategic voice for firefighters in the Alliance for a Better California, the statewide campaign operation formed to defeat the Schwarzenegger power grab.

In May, CPF held a special convention at which delegates authorized an unprecedented dues assessment to wage the fight both within the membership and in the public. At the same time, CPF helped mobilize the Alliance's Action Day for California, a massive rally of more than 20,000 union members, all marching at the Capitol against Schwarzenegger's efforts.

In June, Schwarzenegger announced that he'd secured enough signatures to qualify four "reform" measures. For CPF, the focus was squarely on Proposition 75, the initiative to slash union dues. The

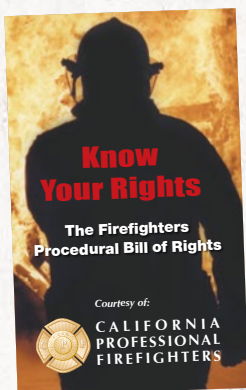
resulting campaign came to be framed as an attack by Schwarzenegger on the most popular public servants – firefighters, nurses, teachers and law enforcement officers. Firefighters continued to "Chase Arnold" everywhere he went. Schwarzenegger was further embarrassed in October when it was revealed they had been ordered to stand with him at a fire scene against their will.

Financially, labor went "all-in" on the campaign. Anchored by the well-financed California Teachers Association, total spending against the four Schwarzenegger measures topped \$130 million. FireStar Studios created polished and effective TV and radio spots, many featuring CPF

members speaking directly and earnestly to voters.

When Election Night rolled around, the rout was on. Voters swept aside all four of Schwarzenegger's initiatives, including Proposition 75. "Arnold was completely repudiated by the people of California," reported longtime California political expert Tony Quinn.

Humbled, the governor sent much of his political team packing, helping him secure reelection the following year. The 2005 "Chasing Arnold" campaign also set the stage for a détente with Schwarzenegger, who eventually signed the Firefighters Bill of Rights and the Dallas Jones Cancer Presumption Act.



2008

Schwarzenegger signs Dallas Jones Cancer Presumption Act, extending statute of limitations on presumptive cancer.

2007

CPF wins three-decade fight with approval of Firefighters Bill of Rights

2010

Jerry Brown elected governor again.

2011

CPF-led legislative effort unwinds corrupt redevelopment system, pouring billions back into local general fund budgets.



2013

CPF marks 75th anniversary

2010

2015

2005

CPF's "Chasing Arnold" campaign targets Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's attempt to privatize pensions and silence firefighters' political voice. All were defeated.

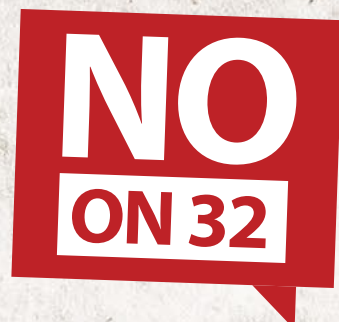
2009

California Firefighter Endowment created to help support college scholarships for children of fallen firefighters

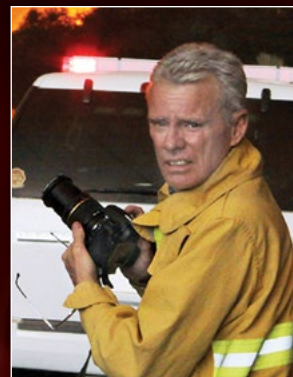


2012

CPF holds Special Convention to authorize early funding against Prop. 32, new attempt to silence firefighters' voice. Initiative is defeated in November.



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS 2013 PHOTO CONTEST **WINNERS**



1ST PLACE **MIKE MEADOWS**

Mike Meadows is a freelance photographer who spent more than 30 years as a photojournalist with the *Los Angeles Times*. Breaking news events he has covered include the Oakland Hills Fire, the Northridge Earthquake and, most recently, the Rim Fire in Yosemite National Park

"The fire had control of the third floor and the attic space. Truck companies using roof ladders had several holes opened. I could see smoke starting to come out of the hole and getting thicker and thicker. I thought I might see some fire start coming out of the hole and did I ever. The captain saw this too and had his men start down the roof to a safe position. As the captain turned to leave, that's when I got the shot as the flames were now about 10 to 15 feet above his head."

HONORABLE MENTION

1. Shad Hopkins
2. Kevin Merrill
3. Mike Meadows
4. Jeff Lindgren
5. Jeff Zimmerman
6. Sean Wilson
7. Rick McClure



SECOND PLACE



2ND PLACE
BRANDY CARLOS

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

"The image of a liquid petroleum gas firefighting training exercise was taken in October at the Moreno Valley College Basic Firefighter Academy. These trainings are always fun because this was for family night, which allows the friends and family of the academy students to come out and see what they've learned."

3RD PLACE
DANIEL PIEDLOW

Daniel Piedlow has been a firefighter for 23 years and is an engineer with the San Bernardino County Fire Department. He's been a serious amateur photographer for decades.



"I normally start taking pictures after the initial rush of first-on-scene 'hectics' are done. At this fire in Adelanto, I had finished taking pictures of the guys working and was (walking toward the engine) when I saw the shot. It was dusk and there were rain clouds coming in."



THIRD PLACE





Tim Strack CPF 1st District Vice President

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

1st

DISTRICT REPORT

SAN DIEGO FIREFIGHTERS LOOK TOWARD COUNCIL SUPERMAJORITY

San Diego City Firefighters Local 145 didn't spend long licking their wounds after hard line anti-firefighter councilman Kevin Faulconer was elected mayor in a mid-February special runoff election.

Faulconer's vacant council seat is one of two contested races in which Local 145 is intent on making a stand in the June 3 primary in hopes of neutralizing the new anti-firefighter mayor with a veto-proof majority.

"We've moved on to two vital council races in District 2 and District 6," said Local 145 President Frank DeClercq. "We've endorsed Carol Kim in District 6 and Sarah Boot in District 2. Now we need to get our members excited again and start doing some walking."

Last November, Faulconer and San Diego City Councilman David Alvarez were the top two vote getters in a special election held to replace Bob Filner, who resigned as mayor amid sexual harassment allegations. The original field of 12 that included Nathan Fletcher, a former Marines Corps officer, who had the backing of Local 145.

Fletcher finished third in race, just three points behind Alvarez, who had the backing of other labor groups. In the runoff, labor came together to back Alvarez, but Faulconer won by almost six points in February's runoff.

"A couple of years ago Faulconer gave us firefighters, police and lifeguards his word that we would never be required to go to a 401(k) or another investment pension tool and he said we all deserved our defined benefits," DeClercq said. "We took him at his word, but within three weeks he sold us out."

The turn of events has been frustrating for Local 145, which won a smashing victory in the 2012 contest. Adopting a political strategy aptly nicknamed A.B.C.D. for "Anyone But Carl DeMaio" the Local was successful in defeating the harshly conservative councilman in the San Diego mayor's race. "We doubled-up on our dues and spent \$1 million to defeat

DeMaio because we knew how destructive he'd be for firefighters," said DeClercq.

The victory over DeMaio was soured when Filner, a former 10-term member of Congress, was forced out of office under the weight of a sexual harassment scandal that was national news. After Filner's resignation, the city's power brokers focused on Faulconer.

Nicknamed "The Butler" by his political foes, Faulconer adopted a strategy hinging on attacking Fletcher, a moderate former Assemblyman who had recently switched from Republican to independent. Faulconer's patrons spent hundreds of thousands of dollars tearing down Fletcher in hopes of getting Alvarez to rise to the top. The plan worked, and with labor's support splintered, Faulconer had an easy time at the polls.

"We spent \$100,000 for Fletcher and later spent some money on positive ads for Alvarez, but Fletcher was our pick and we knew he could beat Faulconer," said DeClercq. "It was sad that the other labor groups couldn't get behind Fletcher."

Putting a Democrat into Faulconer's seat would give the firefighters, and labor in general, a 6-3 super majority, DeClercq said. If both Boot and Kim get elected they'll have a 7-2 advantage and Faulconer would effectively be neutered despite holding the gavel at city council meetings.

Boot, a federal prosecutor, has a strong public safety stand while Lorie Zapf, her opponent in the race, is seen as a Faulconer and his high-roller patrons. A teacher, Kim's toughest opponent will be Republican Chris Cate, the vice president of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association and a former Faulconer staffer.

"We really have to step our game," DeClercq said. "I tell our guys all the time that if you can't count to five (a majority) you better get ready to be taken to the woodshed and that's where we'll go if I can't get (enough members) to give some of their personal time to walk precincts. We don't use paid walkers like the Lincoln Club. People need to see firefighters out there."



CORONA AUTO-X: First responders from as far away as North Carolina participate in the 37th Annual Auto-X, a three-day auto extrication seminar sponsored by Corona Firefighters Association Local 3757. The training exercise gives firefighters the latest training on effectively and safely separating accident victims from vehicles.



Photo by Lee Calkins, courtesy of Ontario Reign

ONTARIO FIRE AND ICE: Ontario and L.A. City firefighters battle for the puck in Ontario Firefighters Local 1430's annual "Fire on Ice" charity hockey game. The inter-departmental tussle netted some bruised hips and swollen lips, along with \$14,000 for the MS Society.



Chris Mahon CPF 2nd District Vice President

CPF District 2 represents 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.



GRANT-WRITING COURSE HELPS OXNARD FIREFIGHTERS SECURE MILLIONS

When its city council couldn't (or wouldn't) hire a grant writer, Oxnard City Firefighters Local 1684 didn't grumble about it. They did something about it.

The local union spent thousands of dollars training a couple of members to write grants and since 2006, they've secured approximately \$10 million in grants for staffing, training and apparatus purchases, including \$3 million through the federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program.

"We recognized the need and took care of the problem," Local 1684 President

Jeff Donabedian said. "We've been able to get 24 new firefighters and actually got a grant that in turn helped us purchase a new ladder truck."

Donabedian said his local has gone about the job quietly, not raising the issue in the news media even though they're taking on a job normally handled by the city itself. But he believes the citizens in his community are safer and that his local is just following through on Oxnard's motto: "The City That Cares."

Local 1684 Secretary-Treasurer Alex Hamilton has been the main workhorse, Donabedian said, in writing the grants. Hamilton took the grant-writing course

and within a short time, was winning millions of dollars for Oxnard, a city of 200,000 along the Pacific Coast.

"Winning these grants is huge for us politically," said Hamilton. "When we got the SAFER grants we went to the city council and told them 'we just saved you \$3 million, now buy us a ladder truck,' and they did."

Because of his acumen with the tedious job of grant writing, as well as many other attributes, Hamilton was selected as the 2013 City of Oxnard Employee of the Year. In 2010, he was named the Oxnard Fire Department Firefighter of the Year. Last summer while off-duty, the certified

ocean rescue swimmer saved a young boy who was being swept away by a rip current in the Pacific Ocean near Ventura.

Hamilton also helped Local 1684 start a non-profit, 501(c)3, called the Oxnard Firefighters Foundation Inc. The Foundation has enabled the group to access many more funding sources including from private foundations and organizations. It was one such grant request Hamilton authored earlier this year that secured \$100,000 to teach disadvantaged Oxnard youth how to swim.

"Creating the 501(c)3 has opened up a whole new world for us," Hamilton said. "Now we're able to do more stuff for the fire department plus it raises our profile in the community and with elected officials."

CITYGATE SETS SIGHTS ON SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT

Citygate Associates bills itself as a fire and emergency services company specializing in the "business of better government." That usually means firefighters are demonized and Citygate usually recommends merger statements that cost jobs.

So when the Folsom-based company recently won a \$34,000 contract from Santa Barbara to study the economic feasibility of the city's airport, Santa Barbara City Firefighters Local 525 went on alert.

The airport encompasses more than 500 acres of general aviation use and hosts five major airlines that serve 750,000 passengers annually. It's protected by a single Santa Barbara Fire Department firehouse, Station 8, that's staffed by three platoons, each with a captain and two engineers.

Citygate has sent a survey to similar-sized airports to gather information on those Airport Rescue and Firefighting costs, staffing levels and equipment needs. Once the survey is completed, a draft report is expected sometime in May. Local 525 President Tony Pighetti isn't expecting the report to say more firefighters should be hired.

"What they'll probably try to do is what Santa Maria did with their airport - shut it down from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.," Pighetti said. "But we provide 24-hour service and if they change the way we operate it could become a nightmare. I don't know what our options are."

Pighetti said the local enjoys a fantastic relationship with the fire chief,

Patrick McElroy, a 33-year Santa Barbara Fire Department veteran who has risen through the ranks and is a former Local 525 President. McElroy oversees a department of 95 firefighters, eight fire stations and the airport rescue and firefighting operation.

Pighetti said he believes McElroy won't roll over if Citygate recommends

staffing reductions to the Santa Barbara City Council.

"I sat on the interview panel because the city manager was very open to us being involved in the hiring process," said Pighetti, a training captain with SBFD. "We were very happy when they chose one of our own. I think he knows our concerns."





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.



LOCAL 1289 STAYS FOCUSED ON PUBLIC SAFETY AMID FIRE AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT SHAKE UP

For the citizens living in and around Modesto, the transition to a regional fire protection system has been marked by management turnover and jurisdictional concerns.

Through the uncertain times, there has been one constant: the stability and resolve of Modesto's front line firefighters.

This past January, approximately 50 members of Modesto City Firefighters Local 1289 showed up at several special meetings of the Modesto Regional Fire Authority. They were there to stand up for MRFA fire Chief Randall Bradley, who had been asked to resign after just six months on the job.

Bradley, who came to lead MRFA after four years as chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District in Contra Costa County, earned the respect of the firefighters by being open and receptive to the needs of the rank-and-file.

"We knew that it was just politics and our chief wasn't being given a fair shake and ability to do his job," said Local 1289 President Jair Juarez. "It says a lot about him when a chief who's been on the job a short time gets that much respect from the firefighters."

The show of support worked, as the board voted 3-0 to retain Bradley. But less than three months later, the chief had moved on to take a job as chief of the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Department. "He just said that he didn't think he could fulfill his duties with everything that had gone on," said Juarez.

The fire authority was formed in 2011 when the Modesto Fire Department, the Stanislaus County fire warden's office and the Salida Fire Protection District signed a joint-powers agreement. The JPA called for a board of directors consisting of one representative from each agency. That governance model is one of several challenges that the fledgling authority has faced, as

Modesto officials have chafed at having to share governance with agencies that provide a relatively small percentage of the department's \$32 million budget.

Bradley's departure adds to the uncertainty, as it once again left the authority without a permanent fire chief.

Juarez says the intrigues are frustrating, but he believes the most appropriate course of action for the local is to remain focused on ensuring that the region has the proper level of fire protection to fit the needs of the region, particularly the smaller, rural communities such as Salida.

"The people in Salida and in our rural communities need and deserve our best, and we think the combined fire authority gives them that quality of service," said Juarez.

Its ability to preserve that covenant with its citizens could hinge on how things go at a MRFA board meeting scheduled for May 7. The board has asked for proposals and plans for the fire

authority's future. According to media reports, dissolving the fire authority is a definite possibility, a move that could leave Salida's citizens without some of the services currently provided through the JPA connection with Modesto.

"It all depends on what Salida wants to do," Juarez said. "If the MRFA breaks up then the Salida Fire Department will have to recruit. Because it's such a small community, they might not be able to afford the level of service we can provide by working regionally. At the end of the day, it's about keeping the citizens safe."

As for its departed chief, Juarez believes that Modesto's loss is Stanislaus Consolidated's gain. "(Chief Bradley) came to us right away and said he wanted to work with us," Juarez said. "From Day One, he was open, especially for a chief. I am confident he'll take the same approach with our brothers and sisters in Stanislaus Consolidated."

MOUNTAIN HOUSE TERMINATES TRACY RURAL FPD CONTRACT

The small planned community of Mountain House near Tracy is barely a decade old but its community service district board has apparently decided to play "Chicken" with its fire protection.

Acting on the direction of its new general manager, the Mountain House Community Service District board voted unanimously last September to terminate its contract with the Tracy Rural Fire Protection District, which is under the South County Fire Authority. Tracy City Firefighters Local 3355 represent Tracy Rural FPD firefighters as well as those in the city of Tracy.

The South County Fire Authority (SCFA) was formed in 1999 when the Tracy Fire Department merged with the Tracy Rural Fire Protection District and when the first residents moved into Mountain House in 2003 the fire service contract was already in effect. Many of Mountain House's 8,000 residents commute to jobs in the Bay Area.

Claiming that it was paying a disproportionate amount of Tracy's fire budget, Mountain House CSD General Manager Janice McClintock engineered the board vote to terminate the contract with the SCFA in 2015, triggering the two-year "heads-up" requirement in the CSD's contract. In February, McClintock got

the OK to begin a request for proposal (RFP) process to provide a service Tracy Fire Chief Al Nero estimates currently costs \$2.3 million.

"Once we heard from (the CSD) about this RFP, they immediately started attacking us for charging too much," said Joel Fell, treasurer for Local 3355. "Their new GM (McClintock) said her only choice was to terminate and not renegotiate."

Mountain House is approximately five miles northwest of Tracy in San Joaquin County and pushes against the borders of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Fell said he doesn't expect departments or fire protection districts in those counties to respond to the RFP.

"CAL FIRE is out. Alameda County (Fire Department) is out. East Contra Costa (Fire Protection District) is out," Fell said. "The next closest is Stockton and nobody there is interested in providing service so far away."

Fell said McClintock wants to whittle the contract down to about \$1 million a year yet still wants a three-person ALS engine available at all times. Fell said that's not going to happen, and Chief Nero has told the Local that the department is not going to go backwards.

"At this point we don't know how our members will be affected," Fell said. "But we're trying to stay ahead of this."



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.

4th DISTRICT REPORT

LEVI'S STADIUM TO BE GOOD FIT FOR SANTA CLARA FIREFIGHTERS

Jeremy Ray says there shouldn't be any difficulty in getting members of Santa Clara City Firefighters Local 1171 to work overtime staffing events at the new \$1.2 billion Levi's Stadium when it opens in August.

The new home of the San Francisco 49ers will play host to the San Jose Earthquakes Major League Soccer game on August 2nd and the 49ers will play their first preseason game at the shiny new stadium a couple of days later. Add to that the chance to see some major music acts when not attending to injured fans and Ray said the sign-up list will fill up fast.

Rock Medicine will continue to provide the initial medical response at 49ers games to any calls inside Levi's Stadium with Santa Clara City firefighters taking over if the fan is seriously injured or in the event of a large-scale incident, said Ray, Local 1171's secretary who works at a station just a mile away from the stadium.

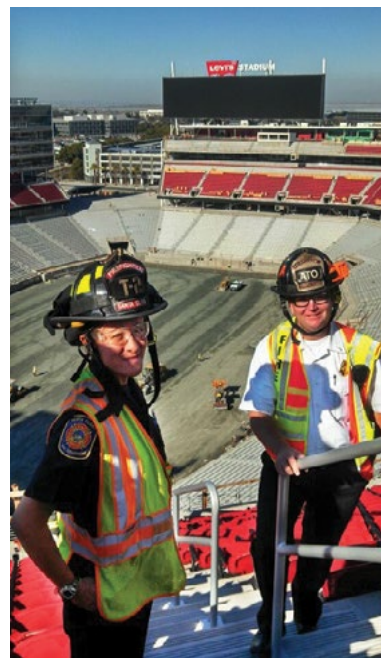
"Our members will have the opportunity to work overtime, probably in teams that will rotate in and out of the stadium with the crowds," Ray said. "The stadium

authority will pick up the overtime pay of the firefighters who staff stadium events so regular department operations will not be adversely affected."

Santa Clara City Firefighters will provide service in the parking areas on the squad the stadium authority purchased. There will be a two- or three-person crew on the squad, which includes a paramedic for advanced life support, if needed.

Ray said the local's involvement in the staffing models goes back to 2005, well before ground was broken on the stadium adjacent to the California's Great America amusement park. Staffing for professional firefighters was included in the original term sheet, Ray said.

Stadium construction continues at a rapid pace. Some major differences between the new Levi's Stadium and Candlestick Park, where the 49ers have played since 1971, include a concourse that is almost 50 feet wider than the one at Candlestick. This will make for a much easier time transporting injured fans, Ray said. Construction materials were used to make the stadium as earthquake resistant as possible and the fireproofing material



Santa Clara City Firefighters Local 1171 President J.D. Madden and member Beverly Molina participate in rescue drills at Levi's Stadium, the new home of the San Francisco 49ers.

used was the most the project manager for the metal decking, thermal insulation and fire-proofing sub-contractor had ever seen.

Rich Boyd, project manager for Anning-Johnson, a stadium subcontractor, told *49ers.com* that Levi's Stadium required 11 pumps running continuously for two days to spray the fireproofing material onto the steel beams. The previous largest job Boyd said he'd been on used just six pumps.

Ray said his department provided a cache of firefighting equipment that rested on pallets during the bulk of the exterior construction and could be raised and lowered to whatever level workers were using hot tar or fireproofing materials.

"The job box had 600 feet of two-and-a-half inch hose plus attack lines and extra SCBA bottles, so we had protection available to workers and our first-responders in case anything happened early on in the construction phases," Ray said. "But now the standpipes are hooked up and there's no need for the job boxes."

A new communications system also has been installed nearby at a cost of \$3 million. The system coordinates police and fire response at the stadium and throughout the city. The City of Santa Clara is picking up the bulk of the cost with the Santa Clara Stadium Authority chipping in \$560,000.

Over the next few months, as construction moves mostly indoors, Ray said Santa Clara City firefighters expect to get some familiarization training done inside the stadium.

"We've done walk-throughs to pre-plan and drilled with some crane operators on the massive scoreboards," Ray said. "Hopefully we'll get to do more high-angle rescue training as well as some mass casualty training. But we'll get through the first season and then reassess the possibilities. This is a unique opportunity for our members because not everyone has a new billion-dollar stadium to work and train in."

LAUNCH OF NEW FIREBOAT RETURNS ALAMEDA FIRE TO THE WATER

A ill-advised budget wrong in Alameda – one that contributed to a needless tragedy – has finally been righted.

In February, the Alameda Fire Department christened the *Deanna Jo*, a 32-foot fireboat equipped with twin pumps that each can spray as much as 2,000 gallons of water a minute and reach incident scenes faster than most of the on-shore fire equipment on the 22-square-mile island.

Budget cuts removed the department's water rescue service in 2009. In May of 2011 those cuts became heartbreakingly

real when firefighters were forced under orders to remain on shore as a troubled man committed suicide by jumping into the frigid waters of San Francisco Bay.

"It was a lesson for us all," said Jeff Del Bono, president of Alameda City Firefighters Local 689. "But now we have a pro-public safety city hall and the fire boat will be a great addition for the department."

The *Deanna Jo* is named after retired Alameda Fire Department administrative secretary Deanna Johe. The fireboat, which cost approximately \$500,000, was acquired with the aid of a Federal Port

Security Grant. San Francisco Fire is the only other Bay Area department with a similar vessel.

The fireboat carries a crew of three on the majority of calls and each department shift will have seven qualified operators. The closest operator on the shift when a dispatch is made will take the *Deanna Jo* from its dock at the Alameda Marina to the scene along with two crewmembers trained in water rescues. During a fire, the boat can pinpoint its water cannons and act as a pump for engines on the shore. The boat also has a device that can find heat sources in the water.

"We've asked for volunteers for boat duty and there hasn't been a shortage," Del Bono said. "The city has agreed to provide staffing and training."

The fireboat significantly improves the safety of Alameda residents in the event of a disaster such as an earthquake. Before the launch of the *Deanna Jo*, Alameda Fire had just two Zodiac dinghies with outboard motors to transport firefighters/paramedics, victims or material if roadways were clogged with traffic or too damaged in an emergency.

"This is a much-needed platform," Del Bono said. "We are excited to have it."



Michael Massone

CPF 5th District Vice President

CPF District 5 represents federal firefighters across the state of California.

5th

DISTRICT REPORT



LEGISLATIVE BATTLES BENEFIT ALL FIREFIGHTERS

This year has turned out to be an incredibly busy and exhausting one so far. Staffing shortages, budget cuts, sequestration... the list goes on. Each local has its own unique challenges and shortfalls and every one of you has felt the pinch to some degree.

What remains constant is the vigilance and dedication of the California Professional Firefighters (CPF) leadership and staff. Guided by resolutions and policies ratified at convention, the CPF crafts and pursues legislation to benefit our members and their families. This diligence is recognized at all levels of government – local, regional, state and, in the case of District 5, the federal government. Through resolutions, the CPF body has mandated the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to pursue specific legislation benefiting federal firefighters. The CPF leadership constantly communicates our members' needs to elected members on

local, statewide and federal levels.

Many of our local affiliates interview and endorse congressional candidates in conjunction with the IAFF and the CPF. Our legislative staff actively engages and pursues candidates who are seeking federal elected office and coordinates with the affected district vice president and myself. I encourage all locals to participate in the interview and endorsement process. While the office may be a local Assembly seat, eventually that member will seek a higher office. This is especially true for Congressional candidates. Statewide leadership and local affiliates braved terrible weather and travel issues in mid-March to be in Washington, D.C. lobbying for IAFF-sponsored legislation.

There are three bills and several issues before Congress that are a direct result of CPF-sponsored resolutions. House Resolution 1141 formally fixes the trade time inequities for federal firefighters;

H.R. 3718, sponsored by Rep. Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara) introduces presumptive disability parity on existing California disability presumptions and, finally, H.R. 471 corrects the hours worked portion of our retirement benefits.

So what does all of this mean to you? Currently, California has 53 representatives and two senators. However, each district does not have District 5 members residing or working in them.

The good news is that the CPF has members in every district and I can assure you that every affiliate is lobbying on our behalf. I know this through the process of direct communication with each affiliate and participating in the process by attending conferences and conventions, getting to know each local's executive board and communicating the issues.

Each affiliate in Washington, D.C. this past March knows their representative and the CPF leadership knows each, as well.

However, CPF knew these lawmakers when they started out and have grown and nurtured their relationship with them. The representatives and their staff know and trust our affiliates, so it makes the sometimes difficult job of lobbying that much easier.

I have perhaps oversimplified the process. Creating, drafting, introducing and getting legislation signed is often akin to making sausage. However, with the CPF leadership, staff and our 30,000 brothers and sisters working together, things are easier.

Our legislative track record and the battles we have won statewide are evidence of this fact. I want to close by thanking all of the CPF affiliates that have stuck by District 5, opened doors and invited us to meet with their representatives, and it is my sincere hope that collectively, we can achieve great continued success as proud UNION brothers and sisters.

SEQUESTER EFFECTS ENDANGERS VANDENBERG FIREFIGHTERS

The budget sequester that hurt millions of federal employees last year has ended but the effects on the Vandenberg Professional Firefighters Local F-116 are still being felt.

Local President Mike Provencio said he's had eight firefighters leave his department since December and staffing pressures have caused potentially life-threatening issues to arise for those working the United States Air Force Base's flight line.

"Two of our guys retired early because they had enough," said Provencio, a civilian lieutenant with the Vandenberg Fire Department. "The effect of the sequester is still being felt and the furloughs were just ridiculous."

Provencio said his firefighters were furloughed 11 hours each pay period for six

two-week pay periods. The other six members left due to the salary fluctuations and general unhappiness with the federal fire service, Provencio said, and were picked up by other departments.

Coupled with the elimination late last year of the Vandenberg Hot Shots, its wildland firefighting detail, any fire in the rolling, heavily wooded terrain that surrounds the air base could explode into a huge conflagration before the sparse Vandenberg firecrews could attack the flames. The United State Forest Service has provided some manpower, Provencio said, but the crews are not training together. The overall training budget for the department has been decimated and overtime pay is basically non-existent.

But those woes fail to compare with those of the flight line's first responders.

The main runway at the base was designed for the Space Shuttle and stretches 50,000 feet – the longest on the West Coast. That also means the Air Force's heaviest planes are often routed there and, as a rocket and missile testing site, cargo on those heavy lifters is often explosive. Provencio said his engines usually run with four people, but there are only three-person crews now. Provencio said they should have 15 firefighters on duty each shift for a Category 9 fire station such as Vandenberg's, but don't, and the actual numbers fluctuate all the time.

"The guys on the crash trucks have to wait until back up arrives otherwise we can't do two in and two out," Provencio said. "We're seeing increasing risk for our firefighters with these numbers. Enough is enough. This has got to stop."

Provencio said he first spoke to the fire chief about the two in/two out concerns and was told not to go in until backup arrived. But Provencio said by the time backup arrives the plane may be completely engulfed in flames that increases intensity, making it more difficult and much more dangerous to extinguish.

"I didn't like that answer from the chief so we filed a grievance with the wing commander," Provencio said. "The general said he assumes all risk. Well, that's not good enough for us."

Provencio said his department expects to get some relief from military personnel soon but, once again, training issues arise. He said he understands the ebb and flow of federal budgets, but the recent sequester dug too deep this time and endangers firefighter safety, which is unacceptable.

"We've always had fat and lean years," Provencio said. "But we have to meet minimum staffing levels, and we aren't."



Mike Lopez
CPF 6th District Vice President
CPF District 6 represents CAL FIRE Local 2881.

BUDGET INCREASE CRITICAL AS FIRE RISK LOOMS LARGE

The transition to a new leadership team within CAL FIRE Local 2881 is now more than a year into the change. We have appreciated the insights, advice and patience as we move forward. Cliff Allen, our vice-president, said it best when he reminded all of us that professional firefighters everywhere share the common bond of protecting the public and preserving the integrity and viability of our profession. At its core, that is the reason we work so closely with the International Association of Fire Fighters and California Professional Firefighters.

THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

California firefighters have done a remarkable job through some perilous budget cycles. We have obviously kept our attention on our critical mission of protecting the public while at the same time, enduring significant cuts to our infrastructure. We have worked longer hours and confronted severe conditions with fire engines and air support that is sometimes held together with bailing wire and intuition.

As representatives of the firefighters who are on the front line, we have also tried getting beyond political polarization and the ugly barrage of press to participate in responsible pension reform. We have worked with governors from both parties to devise reasonable approaches to funding pensions.

One of the consequences of the

pension discussion has been an underscoring of the contributions we make every day to protecting California. No one doubts that we are there no matter the danger and our training and education is the difference between saving lives and the preservation of property.

This year, Gov. Jerry Brown is promoting a \$1.4 billion budget - \$777 million from the General Fund, to support an all-hazard department of almost 7,000 employees. This is an increase of \$158 million from last year's budget. It reflects optimism by Gov. Brown that, as his economic policies come to fruition, we are in better shape to earmark resources for public safety. The principal adjustments are for State Responsibility Area versus federal responsibility and, importantly, for personnel and workers' compensation adjustments.

CHALLENGES

The drought is real. Those of us from agricultural areas understand clearly that when the federal government tells farmers they will not be getting any water this year, the crisis is profound. CAL FIRE sees the problems as an increase in wildfires and an associated reduction in water supplies for drinking and fire suppression.

We are working diligently with communities on brush clearance and water preservation. The conditions we are confronting in the field are unprecedented: a state that is dried out after decades of urbanization.

Our own private survey revealed that our firefighters are being forced to work longer hours on more catastrophes that are increasing in severity.

Consider that 10 of California's 13 largest wildfires have taken place since

the turn of the new century. Two of the three most significant fires have taken place in the past two years. The fires are long and costly and we stand between the flames and unfathomable destruction. The causes are mostly lightning and humans. As firefighters, we need to propose greater prioritization of our response mechanisms and increased education.

SOLIDARITY

Not all firefighters work under identical conditions. However, as I visit with firefighters at our convention and at IAFF and CPF gatherings, I am impressed by how deeply committed the members of our profession are to keeping their communities safe.

I am honored to represent Local 2881 and to be a California firefighter.



Photo by Cy Phenice



Dave Gillotte

CPF 7th District Vice President

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

7th DISTRICT REPORT

A CALL TO POLITICAL ACTION

Los Angeles County Fire Fighters Local 1014 is pleased to be the host local for this year's California Professional Firefighters Convention. The convention returns to the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City and we know everyone will come prepared to get the hard work done on behalf of the proud first responders we serve.

Speaking of business, we would like to let you know that we stand in full support of the CPF Executive Board resolution to increase political action committee funds. For us, the question isn't whether we can "afford" a PAC per-capita increase, but can we afford not to increase PAC funds.

Each and every one of us will be heavily affected by the current and proposed state legislative, initiative and even regulatory changes we know are on the horizon. Our future - relative to wages, hours and working conditions - will be critically affected by our ability to participate at a level higher than our number of members, stronger than our per-capita, and more powerful than we should be to be effective for our membership. This can only be accomplished by funding everything from technology to social media and going on offense, instead of defense.

MAKING OUR VOICE HEARD

Political action is the key to being heard and heard loudly to have influence on the legislation and initiative process. It seems we are seeing an unprecedented turnover of seats at the federal, state and local levels. The CPF team and its local

affiliates (including CAL FIRE Local 2881) have been very busy interviewing candidates and assessing races and candidates in order to make endorsement decisions for state Constitutional seats, the state assembly and senate districts. The process has been tedious and time consuming, but extremely fruitful in building our effectiveness.

In Los Angeles County, in addition to the numerous assembly and senate races, we are now well into two elections for two open seats on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. These seats are possibly the most powerful of any local government body in the nation. Each L.A. County supervisor represents nearly two million people - more than any state legislative or congressional district and also more than 14 states. The supervisors also serve as fire commissioners for the L.A. County Fire Department, which makes them obviously very important people for Local 1014.

It's been nearly two decades since there have been two open supervisorial seats and it is an extraordinary opportunity to get strong firefighter voices into office.

Local 1014 has allied with the Los Angeles County's sheriffs and probation officers, craft trades, professional and other labor partners in supporting Hilda Solis to replace outgoing Supervisor Gloria Molina. Solis is a true labor warrior: a former United States Secretary of Labor, she also served as a member of Congress, the state Assembly and Senate and the Los Angeles City Council.

In the other seat, former State Senator Sheila Kuehl will likely battle Bobby Shriver of the Kennedy family in the quest to replace outgoing Supervisor Zev

Yaroslavsky. If, as expected, it goes to a general election, the total tab will likely top \$10 million. Local 1014 is withholding our endorsement in the primary election to assess the issues affecting the race.

Speaking of alliances, we would like to thank UFLAC 112 with President Frank Lima for his continued commitment along with his board in working with and alongside Local 1014 on many issues affecting the county and city. We have proven that we can be more powerful when we stand together than stand alone on some of the larger issues affecting us through the Los Angeles Labor Federation concerning political action.

A CRITICAL LOCAL PENSION FIGHT

We also want to call attention to another pension assault initiative that has taken shape in the shadows of the withdrawn initiative from San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. This, of course, is the Ventura County Pension Reform Initiative that seeks to put all new hires into a 401(k)-style savings plan and discontinue the defined benefit pensions that were earned at the bargaining table.

This is key. We all need to rally to fight as we have done in San Diego, San Jose, Stockton and other areas where precedent continues to be set that may affect all of us at some point. Specifically, 1937 Act Counties should contact Second District Vice President Chris Mahon for details on how you can help and consider donating time, money and resources to walk and call on the issue. Folks, we are not done with pension attacks at the local and state level. Please

remain on high alert and don't let down your guard.

WELLNESS/FITNESS INITIATIVE

The IAFF will be tackling the fourth rewrite of the Wellness-Fitness Initiative and, as one of the original founding ten departments and unions, we will be serving on the technical committee and task force to influence the direction of the program. Of particular interest, is a push to address cancer issues with recent changes in practice and data. Also, behavioral health programs will include alcohol and substance abuse help; emotional wellness will include Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and there's even a section on financial health. I hope this piques the interest of our members and please feel free to contact me with your stories or ideas for inclusion, or at least discussion in our work. This is a new phase and it's exciting to say the least.

NEVER FORGET

Finally, Local 1014 would like to remind every member to take a moment to "Never Forget" our brothers and sisters who have given all. It seems like we have had an ever-increasing list of funerals and memorials to plan or attend. I finish these remarks in early April, just after taking a moment with our brothers and sisters from Boston Firefighters Local 718 who will lay to rest brothers Edward J. Walsh, Engine 33, and Michael R. Kennedy, Ladder 15. I also call on our union brothers and sisters to "Never Forget" why we do our work for the membership. It is to protect our membership and their families and to help provide the wages, working conditions and benefits that provide security for our sacrifice and work.



Frank Lima CPF 8th District Vice President

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

8th DISTRICT REPORT

SKYROCKETING CIVILIAN FIRE-RELATED DEATHS IN LOS ANGELES HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR MORE FIREFIGHTERS



Here in Los Angeles, we have been dealing with several critical issues that will determine the fate of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) for many years to come. As of the first week in March, tragically, Los Angeles has experienced our 12th fire-related civilian fatality since Jan. 1. This is an alarming surge in civilian deaths. In all of 2013, there were 20 fire-related deaths. We are facing a dire situation, making our work at the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 (UFLAC) more important than ever.

Our department responds to an average of more than 1,100 calls for service in Los Angeles every single day. While our calls for service have increased over the years, our budget has been cut by 16 percent and we have lost 370 sworn firefighter positions in the process. To make matters worse, we have not hired a new firefighter in more than five years. We have suffered massive cuts that have resulted in delayed response times and severe fatigue among our firefighters. The mismanagement of our department has led to an increase in response times and a decrease in public service.

We are depending on our city's current leadership to make the restoration of the department a top priority during the upcoming budget season and we have made sure our message is heard loud and clear throughout City Hall.

In early February, the Los Angeles City Council had a robust discussion on the future of the LAFD and the importance of prioritizing funding and staffing issues. Specifically, the city council reviewed the findings of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report that was released in June 2013 recommending that the LAFD's funding be reinstated to 2008 levels, that firefighters at the dispatch center be given greater discretion and be replaced with civilians, and that the department's computer systems be overhauled. The city council also considered a motion that addresses the LAFD's staffing imbalance and our firefighter hiring and attrition crisis.

As president of UFLAC, I was invited to speak before the councilmembers to express the union's position on several of these issues. With regards to the grand jury report, UFLAC agrees with three of the grand jury's four recommendations for the department. Our union absolutely supports restoration of

funding to 2008 levels as the union has fought for years to restore funding and resources as a matter of public and firefighter safety. The cuts to the department led to the closure of engine companies, truck companies, ambulances and inspectors, which resulted in higher response times and a greater risk to public and firefighter safety.

The union also supports the grand jury's call for better technology and for more discretion for dispatchers. However, we strongly oppose the proposal to civilianize our dispatchers and believe that proposal needs to be a part of the collective bargaining process and negotiations.

I conveyed the immediate and urgent need to hire firefighters because the department has not hired a single firefighter in five years. In Los Angeles, there is currently one LAFD Academy class in session that began in January. But after graduation in June, the LAFD will have even more vacancies than it does now due to attrition and retirements. I also expressed that staffing must be a priority. In Fiscal Year 2013-14, two recruit training academy classes of 70 firefighter recruits were funded (one began in January and one will begin in June), and the union is pushing for five recruit

training academy classes. I urged the city council to continue to fight to ensure that the department has the personnel needed for full staffing.

The city council directed the LAFD to submit a five-year plan for restoration of fire and medical services for consideration during the upcoming Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget deliberations. All items discussed were referred to the Public Safety and Budget & Finance Committees for further deliberation. Our union's presence was strongly felt in the council chambers with nearly 200 active members and recruits in attendance to represent the rank-and-file firefighters who put their lives on the line everyday in the name of public safety. Our enthusiastic showing paid off with several council members declaring that restoring the fire department will be a top priority during the upcoming budget process.

The LAFD is at a crossroads and UFLAC wants to help lead the effort to make positive reforms. We believe that the people of Los Angeles deserve to have a fully staffed, dedicated cadre of professional, experienced firefighters, paramedics and dispatchers ready to respond at a moment's notice to any and all emergencies.

FOUNDATION **SAVE** PROGRAM AIDS FIRE VICTIMS



Part of the California Fire Foundation's mission is to assist fire and disaster victims. With this in mind, the Foundation has launched its Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) program, designed to provide short-term relief for those who are displaced or deeply affected by such calamities.

"Firefighters are the first line of defense in a disaster and are naturally the first line of protection and solace when tragedy strikes," said Lou Paulson, Chair of the California Fire Foundation. "We have worked tirelessly to get the SAVE Program off the ground and are grateful we are in a position to now expand upon the services our firefighters provide to California disaster victims."

Firefighters throughout California will be able to distribute gift cards in the amount of \$100 to eligible victims of fire or other natural disasters, so they may

purchase basic necessities such as medicine, food or clothing. The Foundation has tested the program in the Sacramento area and plans to roll the program out statewide this summer. The SAVE cards will go a long way in reinforcing the fact that California's firefighters care.

To enroll in the program, the fire chief and the head of the corresponding firefighter bargaining unit or association must agree to the guidelines of the program and sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU is available for review on the California Fire Foundation website (www.cafirefoundation.org). The deadline to submit a signed MOU is July 1, 2014.

This program is available to any officially organized fire department or district.

For more information about the SAVE program, go to Save.CAFireFoundation.org.

For more information, email save@cpf.org or call (800) 890-3213.

DANIEL A. TERRY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHES

The California Fire Foundation can help children of fallen firefighters attend college through the Daniel A. Terry Scholarship Program. The deadline to apply for a \$2,000 scholarship is July 14, 2014.

Named after California Professional Firefighters President Emeritus and California Fire Foundation founder Daniel A. Terry, the scholarships are awarded to children of parents who have fallen in the line of duty.

Since its inception, more than \$100,000 in scholarship awards have enabled 62 students to realize their dreams of attending college.

For more information on how to apply for a Daniel A. Terry Scholarship, please visit www.cafirefoundation.org/go/cff/scholarships-grants/ or call (800) 890-3213.

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

GOT A CAUSE? WE CAN HELP YOU HELP OTHERS

Looking to get the word out about a charity event or fundraiser? Consider partnering with the California Fire Foundation.

The Foundation is honored to be a part of your good works and has the outreach, communication and logistical know-how to spread the word and make your local fundraiser a success. All we ask is that a portion of the proceeds go to the non-profit California Fire

Foundation to further its mission of supporting the families of fallen firefighters and their communities.

With your energy and the Foundation's resources, a partnership with the California Fire Foundation can make a difference for your charity and the charity that serves your profession.

To find out more, contact Foundation Executive Director Hedi Jalon at (800) 890-3213.

ATTENTION ACTIVE & RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS!

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Proceeds Benefit the California Fire Foundation.



JAC TRAINING EMPHASIZES UNIFIED FIRE-LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE



Firefighters and EMS pull-up to what was dispatched as a routine call – a victim having trouble breathing. Instead, they are confronted by a raucous bonfire party and are met by drunken partiers anxious for their help. It could just be a rowdy party or it could be more threatening.

As a first responder, what do you do? Do you wait for the scene to be cleared by law enforcement or go in on your own?

These questions and many others are addressed in the latest training scenario in CFFJAC's Unified Response to Violent Incidents (URVI). Developed under a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), this critical training is designed specifically to increase cooperation between fire and law enforcement agencies when responding to a range of violent incidents with the goal of saving lives.

"Unfortunately, the number of violent incidents is on the rise," said CalOES Director Mark Ghilarducci. "The training you get prior to actually being in a real situation can make life and death differences. CalOES has a long-standing partnership with the CFFJAC and has confidence in their proven, high-quality training programs. Unified Response to Violent Incidents is no exception."

The CFFJAC's train-the-trainer model prepares participants to deliver joint-training classes and exercises to their local agencies. The real-world, video-driven group exercises

include the bonfire scenario mentioned earlier, as well as an active shooter at a middle school and a bombing and sniper attack at a high school football game.

"In these types of incidents, having collaboration between law and fire is imperative," said CFFJAC Program Director Yvonne de la Peña. "CalOES looked to us because we have FireStar Studios, subject-matter experts and the joint labor-management cooperation that really makes developing training like this feasible."

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THE COURSES INCLUDE:

- Unified Command and Operations
- Federal, State, Local Guidelines
- SOP's/SOG's
- Tactical Considerations
- Law Enforcement and Fire Terminology
- EMS Skills Modules
- Rescue Task Force

Classes were offered throughout the state in April and more will be offered as additional funding becomes available. If additional classes are offered, priority is given to fire departments and law enforcement agencies that register together.

Visit the website, www.cffjac.org, for announcements on future Unified Response to Violent Incidents training classes.

CFFJAC'S UNIFIED RESPONSE TO VIOLENT INCIDENTS TRAINING PRAISED AT LEGISLATIVE HEARING



A groundbreaking new training program spotlighting police and fire cooperation in violent incidents is getting new attention in the wake of a wave of frightening attacks, including one at Los Angeles International Airport last year.


California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee Program Director, Yvonne de la Peña, joined a panel of public safety officials at a special legislative hearing to discuss the CFFJAC's timely new training system, Unified Response to Violent Incidents.

"We definitely know this type of training is in demand because the need is so great," said de la Peña. "Fire and law enforcement are responding together to these violent attacks. They need to train together."

The CFFJAC program director was invited by California Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez to speak at a hearing called "Active Shooter Emergency Response: Lessons Learned from the LAX Shooting."

The hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Local Emergency Preparedness was held at the Los Angeles International Airport in February, almost four months after a lone gunman opened fire in Terminal 3 and killed a Transportation Safety Administration officer.

Assemblymember Rodriguez offered praise for the program and the commitment to public safety collaboration. Rodriguez has authored ACR 94, a resolution promoting development of protocols and collaborative training platforms between local fire, police and emergency medical services agencies in an effort to more efficiently respond to active shooter incidents across California.



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014

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