

AFD RETIREE NEWS

December 1, 2018

4-2018

President, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W. Albuquerque	87120	934-2969
Vice President, Mike Murphy	433 Merlida S.W.	87121	264-1153
Secretary, Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, N.M.	87004	269-0370
Treasurer, Sam Trujillo	5318 La Colonia N.W. Albuquerque	87120	899-1500
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. Albuquerque	87111	294-7165

ADVISORY BOARD

Eugene Baldonado	344-6866	Joe Martinez	792-1867	Noel Baca	836-2480
Vince Holcomb	897-2667	Jose Salaz	898-8373	Mike Fox	385-7292
Louis C. Trujillo	873-1544	Bill Raupfer	269-7210	Morris Gutierrez	881-7833
Eddie Abeita	869-3082	John Serino	710-6030	Tommy Romero	855-9389
Fred Teupell	259-6521	Pablo Garcia Jr.	363-2233	Ralph Sedillo	273-0613
Ray Flores	898-8948	Santos Abeyta	620-0670		

Old Fire Station # 2, 301 High Street S.E. (Highland Neighborhood

The present fire station # 2, located at 2401 Alumni S.E. was opened in 2014 and Replaced the old station # 2 at 301 High Street S.E. The first fire station # 2 was Opened in 1908, serving the Highland neighborhood and was located on Edith St. Between Silver and Lead Avenues S.E. In 1927 the station was relocated to 301 High Street S.E. and a new station was constructed of stone. After 29 years of Service fire station # 2 was re-designed and rebuilt at the same location. During The renovation Engine # 2 crew was temporarily housed at a vacant fire station Owned by the Sante Fe Railroad at the intersection of 1st Street and 2nd Street S.E

STATION # 2, October 16, 1982

Photo By: Louie Montoya.



PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



EDITOR
HERMAN R. BISHOP

CONTENTS

- P-1 Photo Old Sta. # 2
- P-1 Christmas Dinner
- P-2 Victor Escarcida Dies
- P-2 Minutes September Meeting
- P-3 Kat Basile Story By F. Casias
- P-5 Blue Mass, (9-25-2018)
- P-6 Death, Ted Allred
- P-6 Death, Juan Sandoval
- P-6 Death Frank Romero Jr.
- P-8 Story, Ed Abeita
- P-10 Story, Ed Abeita
- P-12 Group Photo, Retiree Picnic
- P-13 Felix Garcia, Death
- P-13 Minutes, November Meeting
- P-14 St. Florian, Patron Saint of F.F.
- P-15 AFD Retiree's Assoc. Formed (6-6-2000)
- P-15 AFD Historical Excerpts
- P-16 President's Report

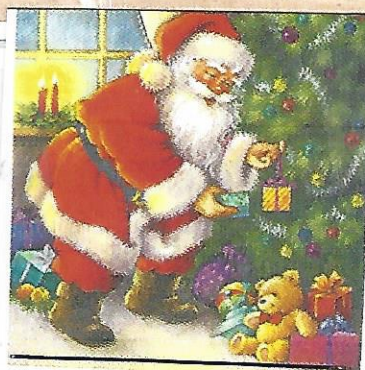
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Date : Thursday, December 13, 2018
 PLACE: MOOSE LODGE 2929 EDITH N.E.
 COST: \$ 13.00 PER PERSON
 SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
 DINNER: 7:00 pm
 TICKET DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8TH
 DINNER CHOICES: CHICKEN BREASTS,
 OR, CHICKEN FRIED STEAKS
 TICKETS ON SALE: NOV 14TH MEETING
 TICKETS: CALL Sam @ 899-1500

"MERRY CHRISTMAS !"



Merry
Christmas



Page 2

Victor Escarcida Dies – Our good friend and fellow retired firefighter Victor Escarcida, age 82, passed away on Friday August 24, 2018 after suffering a long term illness. He was hired on March 9, 1964 and retired during 1980 after serving many years of faithful and dedicated service to his department and to the community. Early in his Career he broke in at Station # 1 at 8th and Silver Avenue SW and served on pumpers, ladders and the rescue squad. He got lots of firefighting experience early in his career and at that time we rode on the back of the truck just holding on to the grab bar for dear life on the rear tailboard. The trucks travelled at break neck speeds when responding in the downtown area. There were no safety belts or closed cabs to prevent one from falling in case of a fire truck wreck. Later in 1964 his brother Victor Escarcida joined the department following in his brother's foot steps. Although they did not look like twins we affectionately called the two brothers the Escarcida twins. In the early 1960's we were just equipping our department with self contained breathing masks. The old timers from the 1940's and 1950's were used to working in smoke filled environments with out breathing masks. They called the younger firefighters sissys if they used the new masks. When most folks have fled a burning building for their lives, that is when a firefighter's job begins. It requires a person who is brave dedicated, caring , and willing to give of his time and service to his fellow man and to the community. Victor Escarcida was such a man. When we formed the AFD retiree's association Victor became a good and faithful member until his health failed. Victor was a fine fellow and during his years service we are happy to have known him and to call him our friend and brother firefighter. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the Escarcida family. He will be truly missed.

By: Herman R. Bishop

September Minutes – On September 12, 2018 the September monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton at 7:03 PM. Eddie Abeita led the opening prayer and a moment of silence was held for our deceased members. Roll Call – Kerry Horton, President, Mike Murphy, Vice President, Sam Trujillo Treasurer, and Herman Bishop, Historian. Absent – Secretary, Fred Casias. Kerry Horton welcomed retired firefighter Joe Luna. Special Guests: John Millia, Pera Board member, Gerald Chavez, Executive Director, N.M Retired Public Employees Association Both members spoke of the issues facing the Public Employee's Association and urged retirees to remain active in working with the N.M. State Legislature, N.M. Retiree's Association, PERA, F.F. Union, and N.M. Public Employee Unions to protect our retirement benefits, particularly to save our annual COLA's.

President Horton said that Fire Chief Dow was not invited to our 2018 annual picnic. Chief Dow expressed an interest in attending future retiree picnics. The Chief and his staff will be invited in the future. Kerry reminded all retirees to attend the Blue Mass on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 @ 12:00 P.M. at St Jude Thaddeus Parish, 5400 Paradise Blvd. N.W. Due to the absence of our Secretary a motion to suspend reading of the August, 2018 minutes was made by Noel Baca, and was seconded by E. Abeita. The Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. All expenses for the annual retiree picnic have been paid. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Toby Pino and was seconded by Eugene Baldonado. The motion carried. Herman Bishop gave the historian's report and he offered color photos of the retiree group picture taken at our annual picnic for \$10.00 each. Contact Herman if you would like a copy, @ 294-7165.

Retirees John Barnum, Bernie Martinez, Sam Trujillo, Gabe Sanchez, Pat McKinney, Kerry Horton, and Mike Fox Joined active duty firefighters in raising \$52,000 for the annual Muscular Dystrophy Drive, conducted in September. A big thanks goes to them for their assistance and dedication to this worthy cause. Louie Trujillo has requested members to assist him on October 13, in an inventory, and equipment cleaning (grill, tables, chairs, and trailer, etc). The meeting will be held at Louie's place 2301 Malpais Rd. S.W. Call Louie for time and details @ 604-7732 if you would like to help.

Kerry Horton appointed Eddie Abeita and Vince Holcomb to chair the retiree's annual Christmas Party. Details regarding time, date and place will be announced later. The raffle was won by Morris Gutierrez, & John Barnum. The Closing prayer was led by Eddie Abeita. The meeting adjourned @ 8:45 PM.

Kathryn Basile AFR is Awarded Instructor Of The Year for 2018



I met Kat when the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy (NMFTA) was giving a Hazardous Material Technician Course, at the Albuquerque Fire Academy.

(J. R. Watley, Eldon Offutt, and myself were there for the class.)

Kat was accepted into AFD's 77th cadet class. She graduated from the cadet program and was working at AFD and volunteering with Moriarty Fire until 2011. In 2010 she started paramedic school with AFD while still on probation. She obtained her paramedic license at the end of 2010. In 2011 she was promoted to the position of Paramedic Driver with AFD, and in 2016 was promoted to Rescue Lieutenant.

In 2011 she started to increase her knowledge of the fire service by taking classes at the New Mexico State Fire Academy. Her energy and personality was noticed by the State Ropes Program Coordinator Eldon Offutt. Eldon explained what the adjunct instructors at NMFTA consisted of, and how they are always looking for energetic Instructor to teach for the state. Kat became an Adjunct Instructor toward the end of 2011.

Kat began teaching the ropes courses and expanded to other classes, vehicle extrication, firefighter I/II, structural firefighting, flammable liquids, LPG emergencies, RIT/RIC, Hazmat A&O, Haz-Mat chemistry, and Haz-Mat Technician.

Kat grew up in the East Mountains with her mother, father,



and younger

brother. Her mother was a volunteer EMT-I with the Edgewood Fire Department. She (her mother) would take Kat and her brother to fire department meetings and community gatherings. Kat would see her mother get up in the middle of the night and rush to calls. Kat never expected to get into the Fire Service and follow in her mom's footsteps.



Kathryn Basile AFR is Awarded Instructor Of The Year for 2018

Kat graduated from Moriarty high school in 2001. She attended CMN (TVI) and UNM for four years and obtained a bachelor's of science in Chemistry and Psychology in 2005. While attending collage she worked at a plasma donation center. She started as a phlebotomist and became cross trained in reception and processing. Kat took one year away from the plasma center to work in a drug testing and forensic laboratory. She returned to work at the plasma center as the quality assurance/compliance specialist.



One of Kat's co-workers was an EMT instructor and was teaching an EMT-B class near where she lived and invited her to attend. The class was composed of students of volunteers from Moriarty and Torrance County Fire departments.

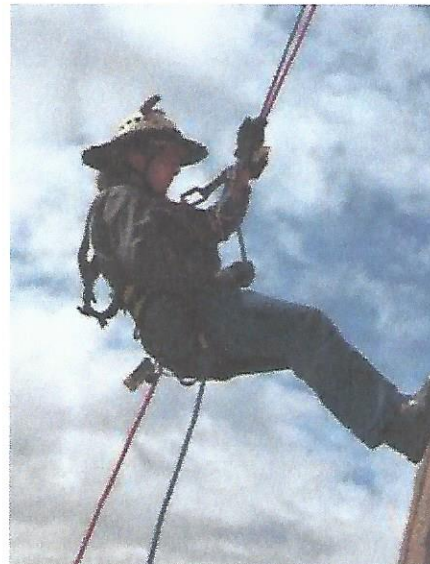
She made new friends and went on several ride alongs with Moriarty and Torrance Fire which peaked her interested in the fire service. It was during this time she obtained her

EMT-B license and in 2007 she joined the Moriarty Fire Department as a volunteer. She received her Firefighter I Certification, and in 2009 she decided to apply with Albuquerque Fie Department.

Kat is extremely grateful for the opportunity to work/instruct alongside the knowledgeable instructors she had learned from. She explained by teaching she is keeping her skills up and learns new trends. With New Mexico having so many great instructors in the fire service, she was surprised and honored to be nominated to receive the **2018 State Instructor Of The Year Award**.

She plans to continue to expand her knowledge by taking classes and listening to her peers so that she may fine tune her skills and become a better Firefighter/Paramedic.

(Kat it seems to me you are accomplishing your goals, **Good Luck In Your Career**)



Archdiocese of Santa Fe
11th Annual
BLUE MASS



Presider: Archbishop John C. Wester

Tuesday, September 25, 2018 @ 12 p.m.
St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Albuquerque, NM

Deaths of Three Retired Firefighters Reported. By: Herman R. Bishop

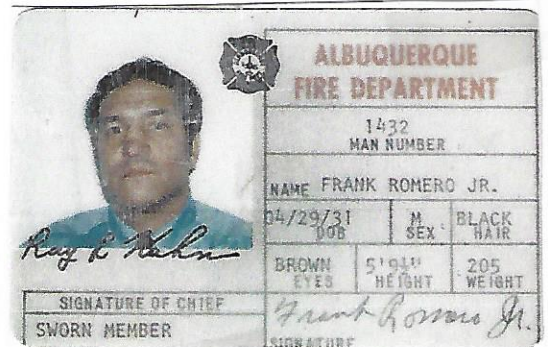
Ted Allred, Death – We regret to report the death of retired Assistant Chief Ted Allred, age 79, who passed away on June 8, 2018. He joined AFD on January 18, 1960 and after serving over 25 years with the department he retired on December 31, 1985. Ted was born in Wayland, Iowa on August 20, 1938 and graduated from Wayland High School in 1936. After serving four years in the United States Air Force he joined the Albuquerque Fire Department. He loved sports and followed professional baseball, the Cubs, and was a great fan of the Dallas Cowboys and the University of New Mexico Lobos. During February 1973 he was promoted to Lieutenant and in March, 1973 he was promoted to Captain. After graduating from fire training school he was assigned to stations on the East side of town where he worked many years in the fire suppression division. While serving as a Lieutenant he was assigned to the Fire Academy where he served as a training instructor as a Lieutenant and as a Captain. On March 10, 1980 he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief and served as head of the training division the last five years of his career. Ted was a dedicated firefighter and was well respected by his fellow coworkers. In the early 1960's he was instrumental in forming the Firefighter's Union, Local 1455 where he served on the executive board and also as Union President. He was active in the Union bargaining unit along with fellow union members and was successful in winning many benefits, pay raises, F.F. life insurance, and improved retirement benefits for firefighters. He also served faithfully as a member of the AFD Rules and Regulations Committee which included rewriting and upgrading AFD's Rules and Regulations for the improvement of the department and fair treatment of all firefighters. Our sincere condolences are extended to the entire Allred family.

Juan Sandoval Death – Sadly we serve notice on the death of our brother and fellow retired firefighter, Lieutenant Juan Sandoval, age 84, who passed away on Monday October 8, after a long term illness. He joined AFD on March 27, 1967. After serving over 20 years of faithful and dedicated years service to his Community and the department he retired on March 27, 1987. After retirement He was active with the retired firefighter's association and was a good and faithful Member for over 18 years. Juan was promoted to Driver in March, 1974 and was Promoted to Lieutenant during March, 1982. He served most of his career at Stations on the West side of town. In addition to his fire department career he Was known throughout the State of New Mexico as a religious wood carver. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. requested that he place a wood carving In the museum representing the Spanish speaking people of the SW United States. The largest display of his gifted works are currently displayed at the Santuario de San Martin Church located in Southwest Albuquerque. He artistic images are Known as "Bultos," simply, "Figures In The Round." During the past few years he Has travelled through out the three Dioceses within the State of New Mexico Sharing his teachings and showing the "Bultos," carvings. Our sincere condolences are extended to the Sandoval family



Juan Sandoval

Frank Romero Jr. Death – It is with sincere regrets that we report the death of our fellow retired firefighter, Frank Romero Jr. "Champ," age 87, who passed away Monday the 8th of October, 2018. He was hired by the late Fire Chief "Art" Westerfeld during late September, 1956. It was an exciting time to be a firefighter in Albuquerque when Frank joined. The department was expanding, hiring new men and purchasing new Seagrave ladder trucks and pumper. The new fire station # one was getting ready to open and AFD needed new additional firemen. Frank spent most of his Career at Station # 1 and floated in and out of the stations in district # one where he got lots of firefighting experience. He was a good firemen who loved his job. He was as a jovial individual and was liked by everyone he came in contact with. We called him "Champ," due to his boxing experience in the Albuquerque area. He was a sparing partner to Joey Limas who was a professional boxer in Albuquerque area during the 1950's/1960's. He served many years as the Sergeant At Arms for our local union 1455 and he was famous for keeping order at the local union meetings. Our most sincere condolences go out to the entire Romero family.



October Monthly Meeting- On October 10, 2018, the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was led by Eddie Abeita and a moment of silence was held to honor our deceased members. Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President ,Mike Murphy, Treasurer Sam Trujillo, and Historian Herman Bishop. Secretary Fred Casias was absent. The following retirees who had not attended our monthly meetings for the last few meetings were recognized by President Kerry Horton: Jesse Lopez, Chris Chavez, Edward Chavez, and Robby Sanchez.

President Kerry Horton advised that a small change has been made to our By-Laws regarding our meeting agenda. The change regards our order of business to include the President's report, Item # 7. He also reported that City Councilor Brad Winters has proposed that a memorial be built to honor firefighters and public safety officers at fire station # 20 on the West side of town. Requests has been made to members of the AFD retiree's Association for input.

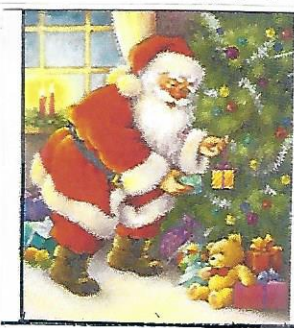
Kerry has requested that all retirees attend our November 14 th monthly meeting. A special presentation will be made by PERA Board members and discussions will be held regarding the future solvency of PERA, COLA's, And retiree benefits for all public employee retirees of State, County, and local Government agencies. We need to make our voices heard to members of the PERA Board, the Governor, and to members of the New Mexico State Legislature.

Our guest speaker was Mary Baca a representative of of Oddessy Councelling Services. Her organization offers counseling services to active duty and retired public safety officers who are suffering from job and stress related psychological disorders such as depression, panic, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, and other life's trauma. Mary can be contacted through Mike Murphy @264-1153.

Due to the absence of Secretary Fred Casias Herman Bishop read the September, 2018 monthly minutes. A motion to accept was made by Toby Pino and was seconded by Ed Abeita. The motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. He thanked Diego Arencon, President of the Firefighter's Union, local 244, for the generous donation given recently to the retiree's association to support our quarterly newsletter. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Ray Flores and was seconded by Jesse Lopez. The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He has been working with active duty firefighters from Local 244, Miguel Titman and Ty Camp who are working on the history of the AFD Firefighter's Union. Herman has provided a brief history of the firefighter's union attempts to unionize as early as 1915 through the early 1920's. In 1962 the local firefighter's union was chartered as Local 1455 by the International Association of Firefighters. In that year the City of Albuquerque recognized the Union and entered into a contract with AFD Firefighter's Union Local 1455.

Eddie Abeita Chairman of the Retiree Christmas dinner announced that the retiree's annual dinner will be held on Thursday December 13, 2018 @ 6:00 PM, at The Moose Lodge, 2211 Edith Blvd. NE. Ticket prices will be \$13.00 each and will go on sale at the November 14th retiree monthly meeting. Meal choices are Chicken Fried Steaks or Chicken Breasts. The deadline for ticket purchases is December 8 th in order that we may know how many meals to prepare for the event. Our best wishes are extended to our retirees who are on the sick roster: Felix Garcia, Danny Saavedra, Gilbert Roybal and Danny Gonzales.

The October raffle was won by Edward Chavez, Joe Martinez, Morris Gutierrez, and Vince Holcomb. The closing prayer was led by retiree Richard Ortiz. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM



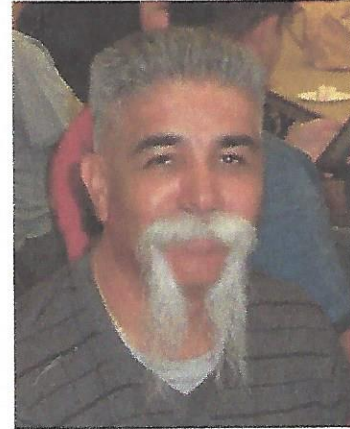
Riding for Our Fallen Brothers

we wear our pride to honor our fallen brother

Robbie Sanchez & Jeff Elks

By Eddie Abeita

I've been asked how we, retired firefighters organized a motorcycle funeral escort Robbie said? Well, when we lost our brother Patrick Mulligan (AKA Killer) it struck me and Jeff Elks as such a personal loss of a good friend and brother firefighter. One question, we thought about, is there something we could do to honor Patrick? Our retiree's association already has in place a well-structured procedure for funerals to honor a fallen brother.



When Patrick's funeral was being planned Jeff and I started to discuss our thought for our brother Patrick? We both rode motorcycles with Patrick and his sons many times before. We thought maybe participate in the funeral with our motorcycles (aka bikes). How we would participate we were not real sure, maybe park our bikes at the church or at gravesite, just us two? After a little discussion we knew how retirees who ride motorcycles always try to attend funeral services for a fallen firefighter and support the brother's family. Also, we thought it adds to what Sam Trujillo mentions during funeral services; that we are our deceased brother's other family.

We came up with the idea for retirees who ride motorcycles to be part of the funeral procession. So where would an appropriate place be in any funeral procession? Jeff and I thought we can join in somewhere, however talking it over with Sam Trujillo he said maybe you could line up behind the funeral fire truck. Great idea, now that has become our location in all funeral procession.

With this being our first funeral ride, Jeff and I hoped we could get a sizable number of bikers to ride in Killers funeral procession and we knew, we needed to get the word out quickly. Jeff started calling retirees with phone numbers he had, I only had a few numbers of retiree bikers, but I knew where some lived so I drove to their houses knocked on their doors and said "let's do the final ride for our brother Patrick".

For some reason, I can't remember the exact number of bikers that showed for Pat's funeral, maybe a dozen or so. Jeff wore his fire helmet and a few others brought theirs and they all looked sharp. Some who did not bring their helmets said; I didn't know we could wear our fire helmet wish you would have told us, we would have brought ours, Jeff and we quickly responded together *next ride you can!* That lead to if you want you can wear your bunkers and don't forget your hood.

The fire helmets looked great however remember the helmets design? Great for keeping you safe from bricks falling on your pumpkin head, hot debris, hot water and tar from burning your neck. However, on the bike, the big brim would work like a sail in the wind the faster you went the force of the wind could pull you off the bike. Well the bottom line we told all riders, only uses the fire helmet just for slow speeds not on highways. Safety would always come first don't want anyone to get injured, Once Jeff even had us break out of a procession because of no police or security escort, traffic can get dangerous without police.

Riding for Our Fallen Brothers

Robbie Sanchez & Jeff Elks

Jeff has worked hard in organizing and contacting retiree bikers, another plus for Jeff was he being recognized for all he does and appointed as the state chairman of the NM Chapter IAFF MG, 10th District, well deserving said Robbie!

A lot of retirees will say I will try and make the funeral however things happen that take precedence over them attending. Once we thought 15 bikers would show up for a funeral but only 4 did show. In our personal life being retired does not mean you have nothing to do sometimes it seems we are a lot busier now than in the fire department. Sometimes it's hard to reschedule a doctor's appointment when you have been waiting for 2 months for it, so you miss the funeral. One thing I did not know was the automatic rule; you retire and that makes you eligible to be the grandkids baby sitter.

There are motor cycle groups who wear their colors, *we wear our pride to honor our fallen brothers*. On one funeral ride a biker asked if the deceased retiree rode a bike I said no, he never rode a motorcycle however I said we ride with all fallen brother(s) when we can, it's an honor.

After Patrick's funeral we did a "Killer's Memorial Ride" with bikers from other groups. It started in Albuquerque and we rode to Jemez, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Golden down Highway 14 and back to Albuquerque.

The Blue Knights who are retired Albuquerque Police Department Officers asked if they could be part of our funeral procession. That was so wonderful that the Blue Knights wanted to participate which brought a great brotherly feeling! There have been other groups including military veterans who have participated some just show and ride with us to pay their respects!

One escort ride that was so rememberable was when Farmington firefighter Jimmy Crawford and family were killed in a fiery accident near Cuba NM. Jimmy had just recently retired from Farmington Fire Department. He and his family were transported back to Farmington from Albuquerque. Albuquerque Fire both active and retired, Blue Knights, Albuquerque Police, Bernalillo County Sheriff, County Fire, ex-military bikers and other local first responders escorted our brother and family to Sandoval county line. It did not stop there, myself and another retiree continued the ride on Highway 550 west towards Cuba. Sandoval county police, fire, Rio Rancho police, fire and, NM State Police took the lead. The heart-warming thing was that communities along the way you never heard of would join in the procession or would stage alongside of the highway with lights on at attention and so many other first responders. San Juan county including Farmington police and fire escorted our brother the rest of the way, from about state road 537.

One thing that Jeff started that has significance is our biker breakfast which is open to all, even non-bikers that just want to visit with other retirees. Now there are two retiree breakfast groups going on, Phil Candelaria started one so retirees can get together somewhere, someplace just to be together. Bottom line is firefighters have a camaraderie that won't die!

By Eddie Abeita



“With Age Comes Changes to our Bodies and the Chronic Illness that Comes with Life”

Phil Candelaria Story

by Eddie Abeita

These past years Phil has had many conversations with AFD retirees which is always stimulating. Phil said just like old times I run into retirees everywhere, sporting events, concerts, malls and of course casinos. But the one place that can be a downer at times is when the conversation is at a doctor appointment(s) or visitations at hospitals.

Phil said we are all getting older and with age comes changes to our bodies and the chronic illness that comes with life. In my conversations with retirees comes the down side of physical or mental problems. Many years ago, the terms Dementia and Alzheimer's was not used a lot but now it's common language in our conversations with one another. You hear a lot about hips, knees, backs, eye sight, hearing, diabetes, cancers and other organ problems that happen in our “golden years”?

When the term “golden years” comes up, all I can say is, yeah sure what's so golden about it? Must be talking about the bathroom function! Retired or not, seems firefighters are still the same, some are open about their personal health and others just say they are OK however willing to share information about other retirees Phil said.

Now and then Phil said, I have thought, maybe what Big Bird said many years ago and up to the last days when he passed away now makes more sense (RIP). He had a chronic illness and would say; I am going to play more golf, talk and visit with my friends, now, before it's too late so first I will have a party, all invited!



Phil said, I have thought about his philosophy and applied it to “we need to see one another periodically while we can. Yes, life is short and I hate to think that we should have visited more with one another. Sam Trujillo does a good job with his sick call information its good because that gives us an opportunity to at least visit or call retirees who are ill. You always wonder when our “angel of death” (Sam) will e-mail us about a fallen comrade One thing that troubles me is when we find out about a fellow retiree who died and was buried without our knowledge but maybe it was their wish, or the families, who can say, we don't know?

So, going full circle Phil said, my thought was, do something now, it did not take long to think where to start. I knew one thing, start with food any firefighters will go where there is food. Remember the old days in the fire station(s) food was always a great motivator so to speak. Lunch was the *highlight of the day* we had excellent cooks a lot of them had their food specialties.

With all that being said, I thought, I will set up a “breakfast get together”. Heck give it a try if only 1 or 2 show up it will be fine. So, to start the ball rolling retirees who I talk with or ran into I told them; we are getting together for breakfast at El Charritos on Saturday and asked them pass it on and If anyone asked for directions or an address to the restaurant just tell them across from the old fire station seven on 47th street

“With Age Comes Changes to our Bodies and the Chronic Illness that Comes with Life”

Phil Candelaria Story

by Eddie Abeita

The first breakfast started out with approximate 10-15 retirees now it grew to about 30. This growing number of retirees may cause us to find a larger location. The reason for this restaurant was, good food and service also the steak fingers severed there are easy to chew so good on the old teeth.

At breakfast, conversations range from everything under the sun to just plain old “good to see you”. I selected a Saturday because, although we are retired some are not fully retired. In fact, some of our retirees have started another career or full-time job and may work during the week so Saturdays works out well for them.

My dad retired from AFD many years ago although deceased his words are still in my mind, especially all the stories he told our family and some he never finished but would laugh out loud and say I will tell you the story later, but that never happened, wonder why?

One thing my dad said was when you make rank always remember where you came from and where you started from. The pipemen (firefighter) is the foundation of what is accomplished in our service. They can make or break you remember that!

The camaraderie was always strong but when you retire you lose contact with one another and you wonder if it's still their however wherever you see a retiree you know our camaraderie is alive and doing well and its solidified with hugs and handshakes but no kisses.

The one thing that I have been told at our breakfast that was so nice to hear from older retirees like Ray Flores, Toby Pino, Leroy Barboa, Fred Casias, Phil Aragon and Eddie Abeita; I remember your dad or worked with him years ago! Some of these retirees were on the picket line in 1973. From stories I heard the strike happened to make a better life for firefighters. I remember this each time I receive my pension check from PERA.

While in the fire service I was lucky to have experienced 2nd generation firefighters. I may have worked with their fathers at one time and now it's their sons or daughters. Looking back, I remember instructing an EMT-B fire cadet class at the fire academy when it was on Kit Carson SW and now some of them cadets are retired.

I was pleasantly surprised when an *almost newly* retired firefighter Elizabeth Hernandez called to inquire about our breakfast, I felt that was great for her to call. I notice that a lot of the retirees attending breakfast have retired within the last 5-6 years.

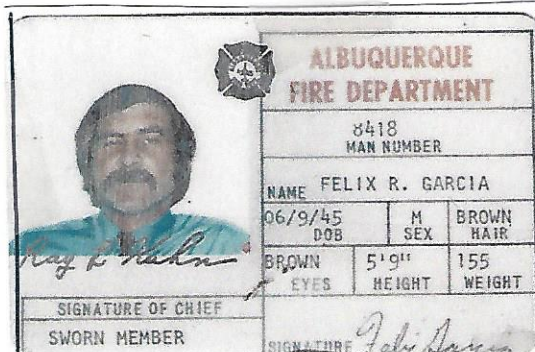
Retiree James Dahl repeats over and over “boy this is great being around fellow retirees”! With 15 conversations going on at one time and a ton of laughter it's so hard to talk with everyone Phil said one bonus thing is all the entertainment is free, *come join us!*



AFD RETIREE'S ANNUAL PICNIC, AUGUST 18, 2018, BERNALILLO, NEW MEXICO

Photo By: Vickie & Raul Herrera

Felix Garcia, Death - We were notified of the death of our retired Firefighter friend, Lieutenant Felix R. Garcia, age 73 who passed Away on Friday October 30, 2018 after a long term illness. He Followed in the footsteps of his older brother Isidro Garcia who Served over 30 years with the department. Felix Joined the department on August 14, 1967 and after spending over 20 years of faithful and dedicated service to the community and to the fire department he retired on June 19, 1987. He was a faithful and dedicated member of the department and was well liked by his supervisors and fellow firefighters. He served most of his career in the Rescue Division and was promoted to driver on July 8, 1976. He was successful on the Lieutenant's promotional Exam and was promoted to Lieutenant on January 13, 1984. He was part of the first Albuquerque firefighters who attended the University of Albuquerque and graduated with an Associates of Fire Science degree in 1971. We have lost a good friend and brother. On behalf of the members of the AFD Retiree's Association we offer our most sincere condolences to the Garcia Family.



November Monthly Meeting – On November 14, 2018 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's union hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:03 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by brother Edward Abeita. A moment of silence was held to remember our deceased members. **Roll Call** – President, Kerry Horton, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo and Historian, Herman Bishop. Vice President Mike Murphy was absent.

This was a special meeting with invited guests, PERA Executive Director, Wayne Probst, Board members, Dan Mayfield, Christina Pera, and John Milia. to discuss the future solvency of our PERA Retiree benefits, and future COLA's. As this meeting was expected to be a lengthy one, President Kerry Horton stated that we would suspend the Secretary's report, Treasurer's report, and Historian's report.

PERA Meeting Summary: A slide presentation was made by Wayne Probst, and Christina Pera, Representing PERA. They were joined by Dan Mayfield and John Milia, PERA Board Members. They gave an overview of the PERA retirement fund as it exists today and laid out the 40 Year plan to ensure that future funding is stable. Plans were discussed for PERA to become solvent in during the next 40 years. They gave an overview of necessary adjustments that may be necessary to put our PERA fund back on the right path to become solvent. During the January, 2019 NM Legislative session, If adjustments are required, we must work jointly With PERA and other retiree groups to protect our future funding to ensure we do not face Benefit reductions. There is a possibility that retirees may face a reduction in the annual COLA benefit and active duty members may face increased contributions to the fund. At the end of the PERA presentation a question and answer session was conducted for our members.

Eddie Abeita gave details of our annual Christmas dinner to be held on Thursday , December 13, 2018 @ 6:00 PM, 2929 Edith NE at the Moose Lodge. Tickets are: \$13.00 each. Ticket purchase deadline is : Saturday December 8, 2018 @ the F.F Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. For tickets Call Sam @ (505) 899-1500. Wednesday's raffle was won by: Dave Chavez, John Marquez, Morris Gutierrez and John Barnum. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.





St. Florian
Martyr
c. 250 - c. 304
Memorial - 4 May

Saint Florian Patron Saint of Firefighters

- He was born in 250 AD in Weisselmauer, Austria
- As a young man he joined the Roman Army and was a soldier
- The Powers to be were anti-Christian
- Early on Florian did not profess his Christianity
- The Emperor Diocletian ordered his soldiers to kill all Christians
- The Emperor was shocked that Florian did not carry out orders to kill Christians
- He ordered that Florian be put to death by fire
- Florian challenged the soldiers not to light the fire
- Instead they beat and flogged him heavily.
- A millstone was tied around his neck and he was thrown in the river and drowned
- Later a pious woman recovered his body and arranged an honorable burial

600 years later his body which had been buried in the Augustinian Abbey was still in the church. Already he had been named the Patron Saint of Poland. The Bishop of Krakow Poland petitioned King Casimir to appoint Florian to Sainthood of Poland, Austria, and firefighters. The request was granted and Saint Florian is currently the patron Saint of Poland, Austria, and of firefighters.



INTRODUCTION

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association was formed on June 9, 2000 at the 100 th anniversary celebration of the Albuquerque Fire Department, held at the Convention Center downtown. Fire Chief Morris Huling and his staff sponsored a fine reception and dinner which was attended by about 350 people. An election of officers was conducted from the floor and The Association was formed. The idea of an Association for retiree's was conceived during meetings with the Fire Chief and several retirees during the previous year.

The purpose of the Retiree's Association is to create an organization where retired members of the Albuquerque Fire Department can belong, socialize, maintain past friendships, and to maintain that fellowship which bonds retirees, active duty members and their families together for the preservation of the fire department, past, present, and future.

Bylaws governing the association were adopted on December 13, 2000. Monthly meetings are held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. on the second Wednesday Of each month at 7:00 P.M.

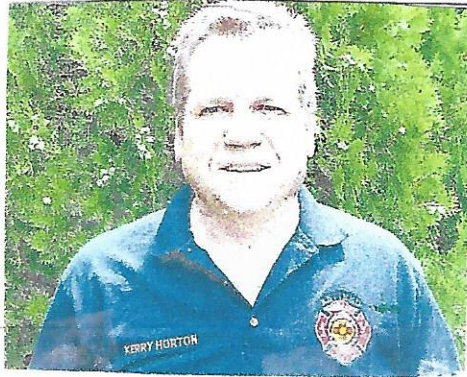
All retired members of the Albuquerque Fire Department are eligible for membership. Dues are by donation only.

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT, HISTORICAL EXCERPTS

12. In September, 1908, Fire Company #2 went into service at the Highland Fire Station with a crew of four men (one previous member who was named Asst. Chief and three new men). A new team of horses, harness, and Seagrave Combination Hose-Chemical Wagon had been delivered within the last month. The new wagon went to Station #1, Station #2 having received the old wagon.
13. In June, 1910, a horse and buggy were bought for the Fire Chief, the first Albuquerque Chief's vehicle.
14. Albuquerque's first pumping engine as well as its first motorized unit was delivered Feb. 28, 1912. This was an American LaFrance 600 GPM pumper. The city never owned a steam pumper or a manual pumper, but relied strictly on hydrant pressure until this vehicle was delivered.
15. On October 18, 1914, the last regular run by Albuquerque's fire horses was made. On Oct. 19, the city's second automobile engine, another American LaFrance, was placed in service at Number 1 Station, the 1912 engine being sent to #2. Runs with horses were still made at least as late as Sept. 1918 on a temporary basis only. The department did not have a reserve motor truck, so each time one truck was out of service, a team of horses was brought from a local stable and used with one of the old hose wagons.
16. Two-platoon system went into operation on Feb. 1, 1920.
17. The department's first aerial ladder truck arrive Dec. 31, 1920. This was an American LaFrance Type 31 aerial.
18. A third pumping engine, a 1924 American La France, 600 GPM pumper, was delivered And accepted by the Department during February, 1924.
19. In May 1927, Pumper #2 and the Chief's car collided with a city streetcar, wrecking both units and injuring several firemen, including the Chief. In July 1927, two new American LaFrance 750 GPM pumps were delivered, one of which is still owned by the department.

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
5318 LA COLONIA N.W.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87120

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Albuquerque NM
Permit No 1322



KERRY HORTON

President's Message

By Kerry Horton

Happy holidays everybody, I hope you are all healthy, and having a great holiday season. There has been a lot of talk, and some miss information, about the future of PERA, and our pension. I want to spend some time to address some of the topics that I have heard, but I want to make it clear that I am not an expert on these issues.

I want to say up front that I have been told that you are not at any risk of having your pension reduced, or stopped. That being said, some adjustments will be made in order to maintain the solvency of PERA. The adjustments that were made seven years ago did not have the positive effect that the Board thought it would, and we are looking at more adjustments to put the fund back on the right path to meet the 40 year solvency plan that is required.

Both retirees, and current working members will have to make some kind of financial adjustment to make this work. I am only able to talk in generalities because nothing will be decided until the up-coming legislative session. The most likely scenario is that current working members will have to contribute more to the fund, and retirees will have their COLA adjusted. Keep in mind that the COLA was never part of your original pension, and it was added later when times were good and the fund was healthier. The bottom line is that we must protect the fund to assure that we do not face a reduction in benefits. Whether we are looking at a 1% reduction in the COLA, or a temporary stoppage of the COLA, will be determined during the legislative session.

We will keep you informed as information becomes available, but there are ways for you to get involved to protect your pension. Join use this January as we head to Santa Fe to monitor and influence the decisions that are made by the politicians, and go to nmpera.org, go to the Board Membership page, and contact the PERA Board members about your concerns.