

# "UNITED WE MOVE FORWARD !"

## AFD RETIREE NEWS UNITED WE MOVE FORWARD

News 1

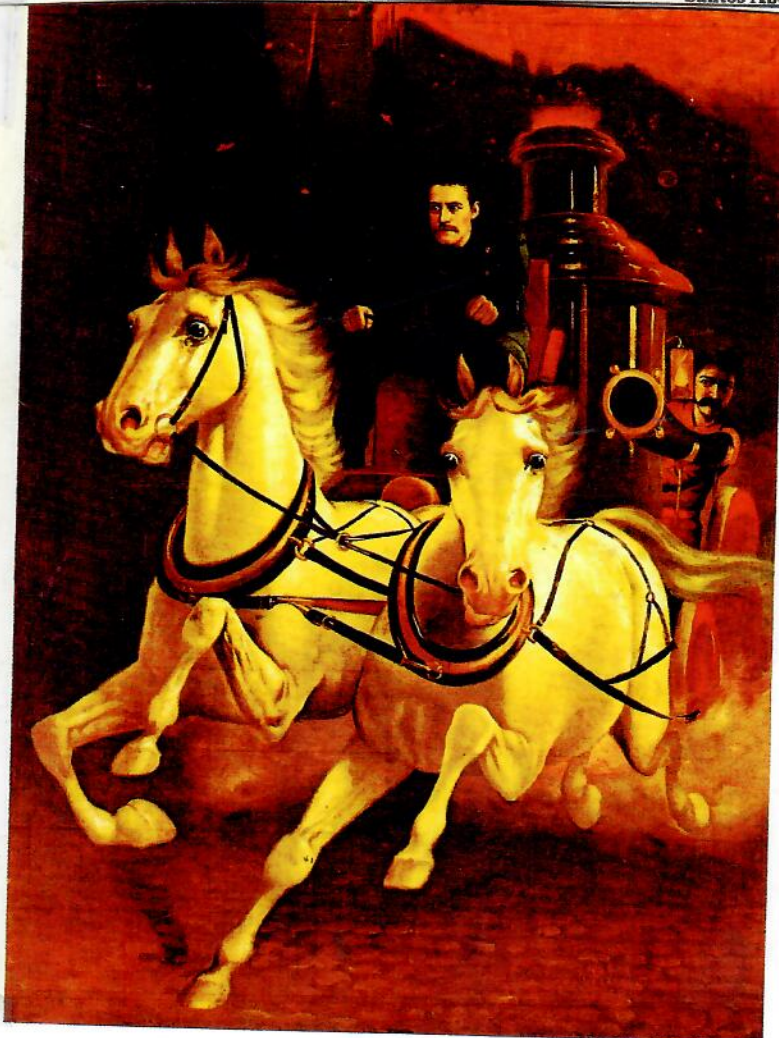
June 1, 2015

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION  
#- 2-2015

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Vice President, Bill Raupfer	19 Valley Trail, Edgewood, N.M.	87015	281-8478
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Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. NE, Albuquerque NM,	87111	294-7165

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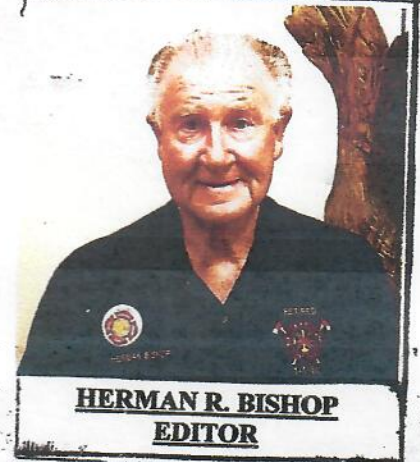


### GOING TO THE FIRE

A painting by R.A. Fox & J.A. Fraser Jr. Horse drawn steamers began to appear in the 1870's. By 1900, steamers were pulled by two or three fire horses.



**PUBLISHED BY  
THE AFD RETIREE'S  
ASSOCIATION**



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**MARCH MEETING** - The monthly meeting was called to order @ 7:08 P.M. on March 11, 2015 at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE by President Sam Trujillo. After the Pledge of Allegiance Juan Sandoval led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased retirees. Sam introduced our guest Gerald Chavez who is running for the PERA board. Gerald is a former City Employee who retired from the water department. He asked for support from the AFD retired firefighters.

Sam introduced Fire Chief David Downey who addressed the retirees. He assured the retirees that we have his full support and has enjoyed working with us during his tenure as fire chief during the past year. He is working to re-create the AFD flag which was lost and never replaced several years ago. He is working with Sam to up date our board of brass tags listing all AFD retirees. He is working with Kerry Horton to complete the display of names and photos of all fire cadet classes, some dating back to the 1920's.

Firefighter Jacob Tapia addressed our group and explained the raffle the firefighters are conducting. The prize is a 2015 Harley Davidson Motorcycle . They are selling only 500 tickets for \$100.00 each. The drawing will be held on March 21, 2015.

Sam Trujillo gave a report on Vice President Bill Raupfer who recently underwent major surgery for colon cancer. He has had a difficult recovery time but now he appears to be on the mend. Bill needs our support and prayers. He loves to have visitors. Call Sam for more information as to which hospital he is staying. Sam gave a report on Gil Pohl who is retired on a medical disability. Sam, Herman, and Chaplain Pat Mc Kinney visited Gil recently and presented him with the retired firefighter's axe on behalf of the Firefighter's Union, Local 244.

Secretary Fred Casias read the minutes from the February meeting. A motion to accept was made by Eugene Baldonado and was seconded by Eppie Ortega. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. He reminded everyone that we are conducting our annual fund drive. Your donations are tax deductible. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Victor Escarcida and was seconded by Greg Armenta. The motion carried.

Historian Herman Bishop gave the historian's report. He has received lots of positive feedback on the March 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter. Sam and Herman recently toured the new facility for Adelante Mailing Service who mails all our newsletters. They are a community service organization and employ many handicapped people. During the past year they have done a good job with our newsletter mailings. Herman read a nice letter of thanks from the wife of our recently deceased brother Floyd Torres, Dora Torres, thanking Sam and the retirees for the honors paid to her husband Floyd at his funeral.

Chief Downey explained that the funeral truck would be moved to Station #7 shortly to make room for a new Batallion Commander at Station # 2. John Serino reported that he and members of the honor guard are working with the AFD mechanic shop personnel to make necessary repairs on the funeral truck.

Sam, Herman, and Louie Trujillo recently paid a visit to brother retiree Big Joe Hernandez. He is 88 years old and in good health but has difficulty walking. He sends his regards to his retiree buddies. President Sam Trujillo asked that we offer prayers and support to our fellow retirees who are on the Sick roster, Orlando Robles, Gil Pohl and Bill Raupfer. Louis Trujillo read a proposal written by Eddie Abieta for the accountability and maintainence of our equipment, tables, chairs, coolers, trailer, barbeque grills etc. A motion to accept was made by Noel Baca and seconded by Juan Sandoval. The motion carried.

Chaplain Mark Chavez led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned @ 8:50 P.M.

**March 4, 2015 - Gill Pohl, front center, poses with 18 fellow firefighters who along with Gil were in the 60<sup>th</sup> fire cadet class of August, 1999.**



**August 3, 2015 - Sam Trujillo, left, and Herman Bishop, right, Present Gil Pohl with the firefighter's axe recognizing his 15 Years fire service on behalf of the Firefighter's Union, Local 244.**

**DANCING WITH THE DEVIL**

**DEDICATED to all the FIRE FIGHTERS who have gone on their last ALARM**

**by former AFD paramedic Lieutenant  
Frank T. Maestas**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**If you have SEEN the colors red, orange, yellow, green, black blue and white at the fire..**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if you come out of the fire with BLISTERED EARS.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if your brother PULLED YOU OUT of harms way..**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if you have SUCKED air at floor level.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if your air pak ALARMED and you are in a smoked filled room and you CAN'T SEE**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if you HEAR and SEE rolling thunder inside.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if you used NARCAN on OVERDOSE pt. And they wake up with a gun or knife in their hands.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if you HEAR SCREAMS coming from inside the location.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if CPR didn't work including the very young.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if the gas tank EXPLODED on a vechicle fire, especially with folks TRAPED inside.**

**YOU HAVE DANCED WITH THE DEVIL--**

**if you went with a injured BROTHER to the HOSPITAL and kept watch with him.**

**AND SO WE TELL OUR LOVED ONES, WHEN WE GET HOME FROM OUR SHIFT,  
"IT WAS JUST A ROUTINE DAY" SO AS NOT TO WORRY OR STRESS THEM AND WE  
LIVE IT AND REMEMBER AND HOPE OUR NIGHTMARES WILL NOT BE TOO BAD.  
AND YOU GO TO WORK THE NEXT SHIFT BECAUSE WHAT YOU DO, DOES MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE AND YOUR BROTHERS DEPEND ON YOU AND YOU ON THEM.**

**"THE FIREFIGHTER'S CREED"**

In the Fire Academy during the early stages of training a Firefighter is taught loyalty, honor, integrity, honesty, duty, respect, selfless service and personal courage. One is taught the importance and value of teamwork, and to feel proud of being part of a cohesive team.

A firefighter is taught to obey authority, to be strong in mind, body, and soul and to live by a creed that lets one function as and individual and at the same time to serve for the good and welfare of all.

As part of the Fire Department and service to the community, a firefighter is taught to be patriotic and to wear the uniform with pride, honor, dignity and respect.

**THAT'S WHY I AM PROUD TO BE A FIREFIGHTER**

**"FAREWELL"**

IN HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE ARMY CORPS OF CADETS ON MAY 12, 1962, GENERAL DOUGLAS MCARTHUR STATED, "OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST FADE AWAY."

IF WE MAY RESTATE GENERAL MCARTHUR'S FAMOUS QUOTE FOR OUR FELLOW RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS WHO CLOSED THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT CAREERS BY PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND WHO HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO FULFILL THEIR CHILDHOOD HOPES AND DREAMS BY SERVING THEIR FELLOW MAN, WE TOO SAY, "OLD FIREFIGHTERS NEVER DIE, THEY JUST FADE AWAY."

**RETIREE'S PICNIC**

THE ANNUAL AFD RETIREE'S PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015

FROM 11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM,

IN DOWNTOWN BERNALILLO,

N. M. AT ROTARY PARK. (GO

TO CALLE DON FRANCISCO),

TURN WEST, GO 1/2 MILE.

PRICES ARE BY DONATIONS,

\$5.00 PER PERSON, OR MORE

IF YOU ARE GENEROUS.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE

ALWAYS FREE. FOR MORE

INFORMATION CALL EDDIE ABIETA AT: 869-3082 OR, 250-7895.

**AFDRA Picnic and Christmas Celebrations**

By: Eddie Abieta

This year's 2015 picnic and Christmas celebrations will have changes that will affect date, time, location and pre event ticket purchase. All retirees will need to keep contact with the retirees association for these changes. Information, progress reports and needs will be reported and updated at our regular scheduled monthly meeting(s). Retirees living out of the Albuquerque will be given updates via USPS or electronic mail if requested.

Over the year's one of the biggest question and concerns for planning these celebrations has been the estimated amount of retirees and their families that will attend these celebrations. Do not rely solely on our wonderful AFDRA quarterly newsletter for all information .....depending on the dates of the celebrations the updated current information may not be available in the newsletter.

All retirees are welcome and encouraged to attend these celebrations. The bottom line is you participating and attending regular scheduled meetings to keep informed .....come and enjoy all celebrations with your brother/sister retirees.

## Rudy Sanchez Story

by Eddie Abeita

### ***Bunkers started coming apart including mine from the chemicals***

Rudy started his Albuquerque Firefighting career in January of 1960 and retired 25 years later in February 1985.

Rudy said I received my fire training at the "Tower" located at 1510 Kit Carson SW. Back in those days the fire academy was referred to as the "tower" because the drill tower was the only structure on the grounds. However construction was underway on a building that later would become the classroom for instruction. Now the facility is currently located at 11,500 Sunset Gardens SW.



*Photo of Rudy Sanchez*

Our cadet class had one training officer which you could say, "that's all we needed" because he was great, that training officer was Ray Kuhn who later became the Chief of AFD Rudy said.

Some of my old classmates were; Bart Vallejos, Raul Rollie Gomez, Earl Gleason, Augustin Torres, Ted Allred, Joe Parra, Herman Jaramillo, and Joe Aragon. My first field assignment was Engine two located at Edith and High SE Rudy said. At that time we worked two (2) weeks of days and two (2) weeks of nights. After a short tour I was transferred to station number one.

Looking back at all my service time, combing the total time at station one I actually worked half my career at fire station one Rudy said. When you get a promotion this generally means a transfer to another station, district or platoon (battalion) that comes with the promotion its good because you work with different firefighters and emergency calls. As a pipemen (firefighter) assigned to station one there were two pumpers Engine 1-A and Engine 1-B. I was assigned to Engine 1-A, and at that time went to a lot of working fires. At station one with the two engines, ladder and rescue there were a minimum of 18 people on duty per shift.

I remember one big hot fire it was the Albuquerque Public School Warehouse. At the time we did not know the water runoff we were walking in; about a foot of water had chemicals that leaked from containers. We returned back to quarters and started getting our trucks and equipment back in service we noticed some bunkers started coming apart including mine from the chemicals. One positive thing was the officers (Sid Garcia and Phil "Tom Cat" Montano) made us ware our SCOTTSS (self contained breathing apparatus) during firefighting otherwise it could have been tragic with respiratory injuries or illness from that fire.

When promoted to "driver" the vacant position was that of; "chief's driver". Duties were to drive the district chief to all fire calls, special rescue calls and multiple alarms. You had to do a little of everything at all fire calls. One important function was to help in payroll checks, sort them out for each station and district and deliver to each fire station in your district. If you were dispatched to a fire call the checks had to wait and that was an unpopular thing keeping the off duty firefighters waiting at their assigned station for their check. When the DC made his normal rounds in his district the firefighters thought you knew all the latest rumors and would ask all types of questions.

Rudy said when promoted to Lieutenant my permanent assigned was rescue one, back to station one. I enjoyed the rescue my driver was Toby Pino and pipemen Nidel Martinez. We had a mixture of calls in the downtown areas as well as residential areas. When the captain promotion happened I worked at station four and back to station one which was good. Noon lunch was the highlight of the day you would be surprised at the amount of information that was discussed over lunch, I did not do a lot of cooking however helped the cook like peel potatoes for Toby Pino and his meat loaf. Every now and then I would make sopapillas to help Orlando Duran in his special dishes. Paul Garcia Senior had an excellent dish, Pork Chops in Gravy, boy that was good. People would ask if lunch was ever interrupted by a fire call, it did happen but were lucky it did not happen that much, just one of the casualties of duty.

I was involved in sports all my life playing or coaching, I played in the City Basketball league with Zack Romero we were on the same team Rudy said. Playing fast pitch softball with different teams was good but playing with the AFD firefighters was fantastic. The neat thing about playing with firefighters was looking forward to our annual game with El Paso Fire Department (EPFD) we alternated each year in hosting the game. When EPFD came to Albuquerque we would play a double hitter game and have a nice luncheon followed by an evening dance at our firefighters club located at Cedar SE. El Paso firefighters thought we were so lucky to have our own club, they said there next mission was to organize and build a club for their firefighters.

Speaking of El Paso softball Rudy said I remember a comical episode with a trip to El Paso which included a pool party at the motel that was reserved for us. Tom Lopez had received a brand new western hat as a birthday gift he was so proud wearing it around the pool he kind of looked like Freddie Fender Rudy said. That was short lived the hat needed to be baptized. I grabbed his hat put it on and dove into the pool with it on. That started a chain reaction almost every firefighter took turns diving into the pool with Tom's hat on. Tom was given back his hat but it looked like a wet cardboard box. Tom shook his head and said my fault I know these guys's and then laughed! Another turn of events, Herman Bishop had some pretty new Italian shoes on and he found out his shoes, shirt, pant and wallet were not water proof....he needed a towel after being tossed into the pool!

As far as sports Rudy said I played (tried) golf but somehow just not my game, I did coach my son's Rudy Junior's baseball and basketball teams from elementary through high school. He is now deceased however I still have good thoughts and memories of the days we spent together on and off the fields. After retiring from AFD Rudy worked an additional 17 ½ years in banking security and with Federal Contract Inc. Rudy made a change from security to working at Sandia Casino along with retired firefighter Bobbie Baca. Their duties included coordinating and training Sandia Casino's Security Officers on emergency procedures in First Aid and CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation). This was something Rudy had done for many years in his career. That job was nice but after 2 ½ years it was time for Rudy to retire for good.

Rudy said my wife Angie and I frequent local casinos now and then; Angie won a pearl/white colored Harley Davidson motorcycle at the 66 Casino. It was a beautiful bike never ridden but we sold it because we have never been the biker type couple although Angie did tell me, if you want it..... keep it? Angie and I had plans like other retirees on traveling abroad like to Spain and Italy, however with all the unrest in foreign countries we think it's best to travel in the continental United States. Our trips to California and places in Nevada were always fun and enjoyable but like work after a while they can be tiring Rudy said. Our most enjoyable vacation times have been with our two daughters. When our daughter Theresa lived in Carlsbad NM we would meet her at a cabin in the mountains around Ruidoso and just enjoy the peaceful time with her. She now lives in Austin TX where we go and enjoy the city with all their attractions they offer. Our other daughter Evangeline lives here in Albuquerque which is wonderful being close to her, we enjoy our home here in Albuquerque NM... **Rudy Sanchez**

**MOTORCYCLE BIKERS AFD RETIREES**  
**(BY: EDDIE ABEYTA)**



- ❖ It's like therapy on the open road looking at the beautiful scenery.
- ❖ Felt proud and honored to be part of the Last Alarm Funeral Procession.
- ❖ One of my most memorable rides was a 22 day road trip my wife and I took.
- ❖ It's a good feeling connecting with all our brother and sister firefighters

**Johnnie Marquez**, I've been biking since my high school days back in the late 60's. That was when the Japanese were selling bikes like crazy like the Honda 50. However my first bike was a Suzuki. I am not sure if it was the 124cc or 196cc 2 stroke air cooled engine, however for that time it was great. Now I ride a 2006 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic which meets all my needs and wants. Sometimes think I may get me a newer Harley but that's short lived I am happy with the one I have. **JM**

When I was a younger biker riding a long distance was not a problem, recently I rode with Mark Lucero to Elephant Butt and it was great but now at our age a body can feel the miles. I like "Bike Runs" it's a gathering of motorcycle riders for fun and games (?), my involvement is not for the actual events but more to be around my biker friends. Now on long trips it's not uncommon to have your bike placed on a trailer and hauled to the run.

I think most bikers may have had a close call at one time or another they could have been in an accident. When biking it's soothing or as some would say like therapy just on the open road looking at the beautiful scenery. Can't get to comfortable because in a split second of not watching the road it could be detrimental to your body .....Well that's the end of that subject?

One ride that's hard to explain is the emotion of participating in the "Last Alarm" funeral procession of our deceased retiree brother(s). Following behind the fire truck hearse is just something hard to explain it's an honor but still hard to explain. One funeral there was 30 bikers and at another funeral we had 2 bikers. It would be nice if we had something a little more structured when we have a retiree funeral so bikers can participate. We all get our call up notification however bikers need better communication for coordination/planning, where to be, times and if the funeral will be out of town etc.

**Joe Costales**, I've been riding bikes since I was about 16 years old, the first one that I owned was a Cushman Eagle with a stick shift that had a low gear and a high gear. I worked hard to buy my bike even washed dishes at the Court Café, but my strength was from my mom who was always there to help. I even rode a Honda 350 for many years even while in the fire department. I sold it to Pick (Carmen Padilla) I wonder if he still has it? During that time I bought a Harley 74 which had a 1200 cc engine that particular engine required an oil gas mixture but I enjoyed it.

The bike I currently ride is a Harley Electric Glide some people call it a "bagger" because of the side bags it has. I have driven it over 300 thousand miles which seems like a lot but hard to remember how I put on the actual miles....so I know it was enjoyable miles!

My favorite biker run *was* to Ignacio Colorado it was pleasant and the Ute Tribe had a nice campground and a one day ride from Albuquerque. However as with all good things it changes just not enjoyable anymore. I been to the big bike run in Sturgis SD 13 times, 11 times I rode my bike to and from Sturgis



the other 2 by car. Thinking back as we get older going to Sturgis by car was more comfortable, and can't beat air conditioning in the summer time.

Johnnie Marquez and I participated in some retiree funerals like when we rode out to Daniel Johnsons funeral it was sad but we felt proud and honored to be part of the Last Alarm funeral procession. **JC**

**Robbie Sanchez** I've been riding motor type bikes since I was about 12 years old. The first bike I had was purchased at Sears and was called a mini bike it had a small engine but at that time it was great. Talking about small old bikes now I see bikers looking for and buying "Cushman" scooters they were popular back in the 60's. It is kind of a nostalgia thing and they are expensive now a collector's item.

When I started my career with AFD I had a Harley "Sportster" which was not there most expensive bike but it got me to and from work and it was a Harley. Now I drive an Ultra Classic with saddle bags and compartments. One of my most memorable rides was a 22 day road trip my wife Lisa and I took. We drove our bike to Milwaukie WS and down to New Orleans LA, caught the highway through the Gulf of Mexico, to Austin TX and Back home approximately a 5,000 mile ride.

There are nice bike runs here in NM such as the Fire and Ice in Grants and the Red River Rally; it seems the big ones that bikers go to are Laughlin NV and Sturgis SD. This year my wife and I will take our first trip to Sturgis in September. I like when Mat Gutierrez goes along because he is a retiree brother and a motorcycle mechanic.

I was one of the initial bikers to serve in a retiree's funeral procession it was for Pat Mulligan. The participation was great but the feeling of being part of the procession for a brother retiree is beyond words! I wanted to do more participating in this area but I was taking care of my mother who was ill and now deceased. Not that I want to ride in funerals processions it's just if/when it happens I hope to have time to participate for our lost retiree brother(s) or sister(s). **RS**

**Mark Lucero** Officially I have been biking for about 9 years that's when I started driving a Harley Davidson motorcycle. In high school I had bought a Cushman scooter from Robert Otero which at the time was a wonderful bike to drive. There is a little story behind the purchase of my first Harley. I attended a cousins funeral out of town and on the way back stopped in Santa Fe went into a Harley dealer saw a shiny bike on the showroom floor and said *I will take this one!*. It was a Road King. I did not even test drive the motorcycle because I did not have a license. Upon receiving the motorcycle I had to learn all over in driving a motorcycle. A few years back I had bought a "Gold Wing" made by Honda, it was nice to drive and real comfortable on the road, I sold it because it was not a Harley I am hooked on Harley's!

The first long trip was to Rockford Ill it took us a little longer to get there because I did not drive fast. I have several trips in the state and a few to AZ. I have not driven to the big bike runs or rallies yet however I did drive to the Fire & Ice Run around Grants NM. I like the booths with all the merchandise for sale, a lot of the items are not available in local bike stores.

Things can happen to bikers that may not seem important but they sure can happen. I heard of bikers that have dropped their bike on the ground and had trouble picking it back up, remember some weigh over 800 pounds. Another thing that could happen if you wear short pants on certain bikes you could burn your leg... this will happen only once to a biker.....next!

I have participated in three of our fallen brother's funeral procession it's a good feeling connecting with all our brothers and sister firefighters in attendance that are paying tribute to our fallen brother. Driving a bike is one thing however being part of the funeral procession is "*quite touching*". **MGL**

**April Meeting** - On April 8, 2015 the 176<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. After the Pledge of Allegiance Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. Emilio Carriaga was the last member to pass away on February 14, 2015.

After roll call Sam Trujillo recognized retirees Greg Vallejos and Ron Sanchez who attended their first retiree meeting. Both Greg and Ron are second generation firefighters. Our members gave them a hearty welcome.

Sam introduced our guest speakers, Dan Mayfield our PERA representative, and Gerald Chavez who is running for the PERA Board of Directors. Dan asked us to support Gerald in the upcoming election. In the past Gerald has worked closely with the N.M. firefighters and would appreciate our support and vote. Our other guest speaker was Kathy Duffy the representative for Altamera who assists people with disabilities. Kathy asked for volunteers who would like to work with her to assist in the Kite fest a fund raising activity on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sam Trujillo gave the President's report. He is working with the fire administration who asked us to submit an article about the AFD Retirees for the department's annual report. A new cadet class is scheduled to begin August 1<sup>st</sup>. The last alarm truck will be moved from Station 2 to Station 7 in June or July. Sam stated that he was successful in adding AFD firefighters, Charles T. Oliver, and Donald Hershberger, who died in the line of duty, to the IAFF firefighter's memorial in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The memorial is being redone and the ceremony will be held on September 19, 2015 honoring firefighters who died in the line of duty. AFD firefighter Atilano Fernandez who died in the line of duty is already listed on the memorial. Recently Sam visited Florenio Sanchez, and Bill Raupfer who is on the sick roster. Florenio asked us to visit him at Volcano Vista nursing home. Bill is in Veterans Hospital and would like to have us visit him as well. Sam thanked IAFF, Local 244, for their generous donation recently to our association.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report from the March meeting. A motion to accept was made by Mike Murphy and a second was made by Eddie Abieta. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report for the month of March. A special note of thanks was given to Ernie B. Chavez, Art Pitsford, Ralph Padilla, and Ernest Lopez for their generous donations during our annual fund drive. A motion to accept was made by Jimmie Candelaria and a second was made by Santos Abeyta. The motion carried. No historian's report was given at the April meeting as Herman Bishop was on vacation.

This month's raffle winners were Henry Chavez, Ron Sanchez, and Ralph Padilla. Congratulations to our winners! Fred Casias reported that he talked to Phil Candelaria, Tom Candelaria's son. He is recovering from his illness and is positive and optimistic. He is responding well to the new drugs being administered.

Kerry Horton told us about the Cadet Class project displays he recently completed at the Fire Academy. He prepared class photos and lists of names of fire cadets from the years 1919 to 1995. They will be displayed along with the rest of the cadet class rosters displayed throughout the academy. Members of the classes after 1995 are working with Kerry to complete their displays.

Kerry is working with the fire administration to update the brass tags display boards as well.

Louie Trujillo gave a report on the Association's Equipment, Tables, chairs, Grills, Coolers, etc. He thanked those members who assisted in the equipment inventory, and cleaning party. They were: Fred Teupell, Joe Serna, Jim Moffet, Joe Martinez, Sam Trujillo, Louie Trujillo, Fred Casias, Eddie Torres, and Kenny Sewell. A list will be compiled of those people who wish to borrow equipment from the association. So far John Serino and Eddie Torres have reserved the use of tables and chairs. A deposit of \$100 will be charged to those who borrow the equipment. This is intended to recover costs of equipment damage and cleaning costs.  
**Equipment Inventory:** 34 - Tables, 183 - Chairs, 2 - BBQ Grills 4- Propane Bottles, 3 -Ice Coolers.

Sam appointed Eddie Abieta to head the election committee for Treasurer, Vice President, & Historian. Bill Raupfer was nominated for Vice President, he accepted. Kerry Horton was nominated for Treasurer and he accepted. Herman Bishop was nominated for Historian and he accepted. All three people were voted to those positions by acclamation. A discussion was held about our retiree web page. It costs \$247 per year. The traffic is not that heavy and our feed back is low. The questions addressed were: is it that useful for our association and do we really want to keep it? More discussions about this later. Condolences were given to Mike & John Padilla Who recently lost their mother. Best wishes to Bruno Bernasconi who is on the sick roster.

The closing prayer was led by Henry Chavez Sr. and the March meeting adjourned @ 8:55 P.M.

STEAM FIRE ENGINES  
(The Age of Steam)

The beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the genesis of the age of steam. John Fitch, Oliver Evans, and Robert Fulton in this country, as well as James Watt and George Stephenson in Great Britain, contributed to the harnessing of engines to the power generated from the pressure of mere vapor. The steamboat and the locomotive had become well established before the steam fire engine made its widespread appearance in the 1850's. Ericsson and Braithwaite had built a steam fire engine as early as 1829, but all attempts to introduce this type of machine met with popular opposition.

The first city in the United States to adopt steam fire engines wholeheartedly was Cincinnati, Ohio, and subsequently, one of its citizens, Alexander B. Latta, pioneered the movement by making several of these engines for companies in cities along the eastern seaboard.

The early steam fire engines were drawn by hand but, with the rise of the paid fire department system, horses supplanted manpower. And of course, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century horses bowed to motor driven apparatus.

Even when the coming of the "steamer" was inevitable, the old volunteer firemen clung desperately to the hand pumper. This attachment for the hand pumper found its parallel on the sea at this time where men with sails vied with steam vessels. Just as many clippers outran the steamboats of the era, an 1855 contest at City Hall Park in New York City between one of Latta's steamers and the "Hay-Wagon," a powerful hand engine, ended in a close decision favoring the latter. Yet, the relentless stamina of the steam fire engine was realized and firemen who witnessed the event knew that "steam is here to stay." A new epoch in firefighting had already begun. On land and sea, the age of steam was getting into full swing.

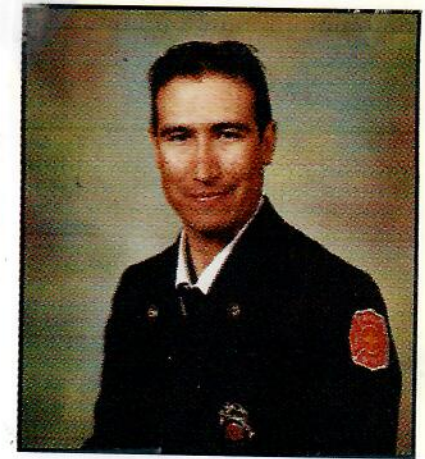
The coming of the steam pumper meant a period of transition for firemen. The telegraphic invention of Samuel F.B. Morse presaged the introduction of electrical alarm systems. Previously, the alarm system was by vocal means and the use of rattles kept by householders in order to alert the volunteers. Church bells were also traditional alarm systems in many communities.

In New York fire spotters took turns in the cupola of City Hall, looking for blazes all through the night. The steeple of Independence Hall provided quarters for an entire family, the father of which served as a fire lookout. (Old records state that a child of the fire watch was born in the tower). The sudden appearance of flames and smoke in Philadelphia triggered the lookout, who began sounding the Independence Hall bell. The system was simple and served what was then a small, clustered community; the bell strokes were geared by number to points on an eight-point compass. This code supplied the direction in which the fire had been spotted. For example, the volunteers listened while the Independence Hall bell struck twice followed by a pause, then four more strikes. This was the two-four code and meant that apparatus was to be pulled toward the southwest of the city.

Two other innovations were looming that were equal the advent of steam in their impact on fire fighting. One was the horse drawn "steamer," supplanting human muscle as the motive power for apparatus. Old Dobbin was taking over as the concomitant of steam. The other new development was the demand for a paid department in many large and growing communities that for years had depended on volunteer companies as the front line of defense against fire.

Source: The Historical Collection, Insurance Company of North America, By: M.J. McCosker, Philadelphia, Pa. 1967, Pages 153, 154

**Gil Pohl, Death** - We regret to report the death of our brother retired Firefighter Gil D. Pohl, age 49 who passed away on Saturday May 2, 2015 After a long term illness. He joined AFD on August 16, 1999 and retired On September 1, 2013 on a medical disability. Gil was a member of the 60<sup>th</sup> fire cadet class and was promoted to Lieutenant during the last year Of his career. He was an active member of the AFD Retiree's Association And was a faithful member of the IAFF Union, Local 244.



Gil D. Pohl

At the time of his passing he was comforted at his bedside by his two loving sisters Darlene, Donna, and brother firefighter chaplains, Pat McKinney and Mark Chavez, who offered prayers for Gil and the Pohl family. Funeral services are pending at this time. On behalf of the AFD retirees We offer our most sincere condolences to the Pohl family.

**WHY DO FIREFIGHTERS REFER TO STATIONS IN THE POSSESSIVE ?**  
**THEY SAY THINGS LIKE, "I WORK AT THREE'S."**

Today, fire stations and apparatus are most often numbered as they are put into service. When a department builds their sixth station and puts their sixth engine into service, it is naturally named "Engine 6" But it was not always that way. In fact, the larger and older departments still may not Number their stations.

Years ago fire apparatus was so expensive and so prized that they were christened or named like boats. The Dallas Fire Department still has a vintage steam pump in it's museum called "Old Tige." (One of the few in the country to survive the "scrap campaigns" of WW II.) This was named after the mayor Dallas, (W.L. Cabell) in 1884. The station where the men used this piece of equipment, were stationed at "Old Tige's" house. Firefighters don't work at a building called "Number 3" they come to work where Engine 3 runs out of. For many parts of the country, it is not Station Three but rather Engine 3's house. The station might be referred to as, "The Washington Avenue Station." Even if truck 47 is at the station with engine 3, the "truckies" will often say that, "Truck 47 is at 3's."

(Source: Dallas, Texas Fire Museum)



Rael, Jerome P.



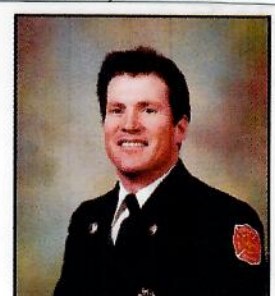
Ranney, Sara



Rantanen, Lloyd



Rebarchik, James A.



Reed, William



Reule, Lynn



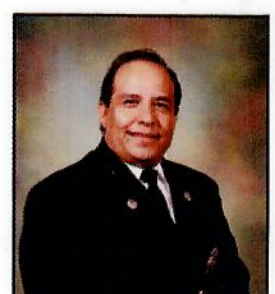
Rhiger, Chuck



Rhoades, Courtney



Rincon, George



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**REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST (2003)**

**REMEMBERING TWO FAMOUS ALBUQUERQUE FIRES**

**SEARS ROEBUCK FIRE, 1953**

**PAYLESS DRUG STORE FIRE, 1963**

**(By: Herman R. Bishop)**

Recently I was contacted by Mr. Roland Penttila an active member of the Albuquerque Historical Society. While reviewing AFD Retiree's website he discovered some interesting information about AFD history. Currently Mr. Penttila is one of seven tour guides who provide walking tours of downtown along Central Avenue from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday mornings @ 10: 00 A.M. The tours start in front of the Century 14 Theater (1<sup>st</sup> Street and Central Avenue SW) These tours are sponsored by the Albuquerque Historical Society. While searching for photos of the downtown area from the 1880's to the 1960's he found our web site and wanted to know more. Particularly Mr. Penttila wanted to know if we have photos and news stories of the Sears fire, 1953, (5<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Avenue N.W.) and the Payless Drug Store Fire (Barnett Building), 1963, (2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Central Avenue S.W.)

Yes, we do have photos and news stories of both fires. After reviewing the information we have on file it brought back memories of our fire department's history especially those of us retirees who attended and fought both fires. The loss of each fire was rated at over 1 million dollars each and was rated among the worst fires ever in Albuquerque history. The Barnett building was a total loss and was torn down. There is a vacant lot on the site today. The Sears Building was salvaged, renovated and still houses business there today.

Sears Fire (5<sup>th</sup> Street & Central N.W.) - This fire occurred on Monday at 10:15 P.M. A 14 year old girl started the fire deliberately when she dropped a lighted match into a pile of papers to see what would happen and as the fire grew she watched it burn and grow larger. Prior to closing time she hid in the store until the store closed and the workers went home. She outfitted herself in boys clothes, Western wear and a base ball cap. She stayed in the store until several hours later the fire got so hot and smoky she had to get out. Along with the clothes she took two Italian made pistols from the store. She used the pistols to break the door glass and stepped out into the street. Because she was wearing boys clothes, witnesses who saw her leave the store reported they had seen a young boy break the door glass and leave. Bus driver Ben Murphy was across the street and reported he saw someone leave the store. He thought that person was a young boy and had set the fire.

Police officer Robert Mercek was at the fire scene and noticed a person who he thought was a boy and noticed that the person was watching the fire intently and was suffering from a cut and bleeding hand. Upon questioning her he realized she was a girl and suspected she may have set the fire. She left the fire scene initially for a while but eventually came back to the scene to watch the fire with the other onlookers. When arrested she had in her possession two Italian pistols, three papers sacks of matches, and a miniature bottle of whiskey. She was turned over to juvenile detention officers and taken to the Juvenile Detention Home for questioning.

She admitted to playing hooky from Jefferson Middle School that day. She went to three movies that afternoon and then went to Sears and set the fire after everyone left the store. After intensive questioning District Attorney Paul Thackett said there was sufficient evidence to charge the girl with arson.

Fire Chief Art Westerfeld reported the fire was pretty well controlled within a couple of hours after the fire department responded. However, there were many hot spots and smoldering fires that kept firemen there all night. At 8:00 A.M firemen were still pouring water on the fires. The Chief ordered firemen out of the building after the roof partially collapsed creating a dangerous situation for all of them. He said, "the heavy black smoke and excessive heat kept the firemen from fighting the fire from the inside."

The City Water Department reported that between 1.5 million gallons and 2 million gallons of water was used on the fire. Overall the City's water supply was never threatened. Mutual Aid was provided by the Kirtland Air Force Base Fire Department and by the Santa Fe railway fire department .

Albuquerque firemen hospitalized after being overcome by smoke were: Joe Gonzales, Fred Jaramillo, Louie Jurado, and Daniel Tafoya. Volunteer firemen overcome by smoke were; Jose Ortiz and George Ergenbright,

Note: Carolyn Jo Rhodes, 14 at the time of the fire was born in 1939 and would be 76 years old today. We do not know the penalties she received or how long she was in prison, or where she is today.

**Payless Drug Store Fire (Barnett Building)** The Payless Drug Store fire occurred on January 20, 1963 at 1:00 P.M. on a Sunday afternoon. The temperature that day only reached 20 degrees and at night it was -7 degrees. It was one of the coldest days of winter that year. It was known as the Barnett building and was located at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Central Avenue S.W. It was built in 1903. The fire started in the basement of the three story building and quickly spread throughout the structure. Fire investigators determined it was caused by an electrical short in the basement wiring. Someone reported smelling smoke and alerted the store manager. The manager and some fellow employees attempted to fight the fire with fire extinguishers to no avail. There was speculation that there was a delay in calling the fire department but the manager denied the delay and said he called the fire department soon as he determined the fire was too large for he and his crew to extinguish.

The second floor was occupied by Ware's Art Shop a women's tailor shop. They suffered heavy fire and smoke damage but no occupants were injured. The Lane Hotel was on the third floor of the building and was occupied at the time of the fire. Fire rescue crews immediately began search and rescue and initial responders Lieutenant Dorrance Myrick and Ben Dauber led all the occupants to safety with no injuries. Karl's Shoe Store was next door and did not suffer fire damage but did suffer heavy losses due to heavy smoke and severe water damage.

Within an hour the entire building was totally involved in heavy fire and dense black smoke. A general fire alarm was called which brought nine engine companies (36 F.F.) three ladder companies (15 F.F.) two rescue Units (6 F.F.), Personnel from Training and Fire Prevention (4 F.F.), three Asst. Chiefs (3 F.F.) the Deputy Fire Chief and the Fire Chief. The entire off shift was called in which brought an additional 64 F.F. Approximately 130 AFD firefighters were at the fire. According to our mutual aid agreements Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia Base fire departments sent three pumpers (15 F.F.)

Although the fire was declared under control in six hours at 7:30 P.M. it continued smoldering into the next day. Fire crews were on the scene all day Monday and Monday night extinguishing spot fires and moping up. The Salvation Army and nearby National Bakery provided coffee sandwiches and doughnuts to the firemen throughout the night and into the next day. The firefighters took lots of punishment due to the heavy smoke and intensity of the fire. Fire crews were pulled out early on due to the collapse potential. Several hours later the entire roof, third and second stories collapsed. Firemen at the scene had ice cycles hanging off their helmets, bunkers, and noses. Many said the cold weather was the worst they had ever experienced at a fire.

Fire Chief Simon Seligman declared this the second worst fire he had fought in his career dating back to 1926. He said the Sears Fire in 1953 at 5<sup>th</sup> and Central N.W. was the worst of all. He remembered some of the major fires he had fought. On April 25, 1933 the Old Fourth Ward School at 513 6<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. burned. At the same time that day the Occidental Building at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Gold S.W. suffered a major fire, the firemen had their hands full that day. The late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld reported that on February 1, 1939 the Breece Lumber Company fire occurred at 401 1<sup>st</sup> Street N.W. He said that was the hottest and most dangerous fire he ever fought in his 40 year career.

Chief Seligman recalled other major fires as well. The old Ice Arena at 133 Truman N.E. burned on December 1, 1933. The Safeway Grocery Store fire broke out on December 1, 1953 at 3004 Central S.E. causing heavy losses. The Court Café at 109 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. was destroyed on November 12, 1962.

It was reported that 1,000 on lookers braved freezing temperatures to watch the fire. Police had their hands full Trying to keep the crowds behind the Fire lines. Unfortunately the Barnett Building fire caused 45 people to loose their jobs and the Payless Drug Store was never rebuilt. The building was just torn down. Today the lot at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Central Avenue is still vacant.



PAYLESS DRUG STORE (1-21-2963)  
2ND & CENTRAL SW, BARNETT BLDG.

Courtesy : Mark P. Byrne

**MAY MONTHLY MEETING** -The monthly meeting was called to order on May 13, 2015 at 7:12 P.M. by President Sam Trujillo at the firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. After the Pledge of Allegiance Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed in memory of all our deceased members and for retiree Gil Pohl who passed away on May 2, 2015. Sam conducted roll call of the executive board and Advisory Board members. A quorum was determined and the meeting continued.

Sam introduced Henry Chavez Jr. retired AFD Captain who attended his first retiree meeting. His father is AFD retiree Henry Chavez Sr. A big welcome was given to both father and son.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Ed Perea attorney at law who is running in the June 16<sup>th</sup> primary on the Democratic ticket for Bernalillo County District Attorney. Ed spent 24 years as an Albuquerque Police Officer and is now a lawyer. He is well familiar with issues involving public safety officers and has worked closely with many AFD firefighters, now retired. He stands for law and order, citizens rights, and fairness for all. He asked members of the retiree's association for their vote in the up coming election.

President Sam Trujillo reported that a new cadet class is underway. He has been working closely with Fire Chief Downey to include a story about the AFD retirees in the 2014 Fire Department Annual Report. The annual report can now be found on-line. Nominations for officers were accepted. Vice President, Bill Raupfer, Treasurer, Kerry Horton, Historian, Herman Bishop. Louie Trujillo made a motion that they be accepted by acclamation. Ray Flores seconded the motion and the motion carried. The election will be held in June and the officers will be sworn in at the July meeting for terms of two years each.

Secretary Fred Casias read the minutes from the March 11, 2015 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Mike Murphy and was seconded by Ralph Sedillo. The motion carried. John Serino gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept was made by Ray Flores and was seconded by Santos Abeyta. John continues his struggle with failing eyesight and advised he will not run for Treasurer this term. Sam along with all our members gave John a big thanks for his outstanding service during the past few years as Treasurer.

Historian Herman Bishop was contacted recently by Mr. Roland Penttila a member of the Albuquerque Historical Society. He wanted information about two of Albuquerque's most famous fires, the Sears fire, 1953 and the Payless Drug Store fire (Barnett Building) 1963. Herman provided information about both fires to Mr. Penttila. He summarized the fires at Wednesday's monthly meeting and stories about both fires will appear in the June 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the AFD Retiree newsletter.

**Sears Fire (5<sup>th</sup> Street & Central NW)** This fire occurred on Monday May 18, 1953 at 10:15 PM. A 14 year old girl hid in the store and at closing time when everyone left the store and locked up she started a fire in a shoe box full of papers and watched as the fire grew in intensity. She stole two pistols from the gun shop and when the fire grew hot and smoky she escaped by breaking out the front door with a pistol. She left the fire scene and sometime later came back to watch the action. A police officer noticed she had a cut hand and questioned her. Soon he determined she was a suspect and juvenile officers took her in for questioning. She admitted to setting the blaze. This fire was rated as one of Albuquerque's largest fires, causing over 1 million dollars in damages. A general alarm fire was called causing all of AFD fire resources to be deployed, including all members of the off shifts. The fire was brought under control within a few hours, however, firemen remained on the scene for two days mopping up hot spots. Presently we do not know how much prison time the girl served or what became of her. Today she would be 76 years old.

**Payless Drug Store Fire (Barnett Building)**-This fire occurred on January 20, 1963 at 1:00 PM on a Sunday afternoon. The temperature that day was 20 degrees and was - 7 degrees at night. The fire started in the basement and was caused by an electrical short circuit. The building was totally involved upon arrival of AFD. A general alarm was called. Response was 9 pumpers, 3 Ladders, 2 Rescues, 3 Asst. Chiefs, 1 Fire Chief, 63 F.F. Of the off shift and 3 pumpers from Kirtland and Sandia military bases. About 145 F.F. fought the fire. The fire was brought under control in about 6 hours but fire crews remained for two days mopping up hot spots. It was declared the second largest fire in AFD history, and caused over 1 million dollars in damage. 45 people lost their jobs and the building was declared stucturely unsound and was demolished.

The raffle drawings were won by Mark Chavez, Kerry Horton and Jimmie Candelaria. A big thanks goes to Ralph Sedillo and Eddie Abieta who acquire items for the drawings and conduct the raffles each month Our best wishes go the following people who are on the sick roster, Eddie Brito, Ernie Saintestevan, Jerry Barboa, Jim Dahl, and Larry Trujillo. Condolences go to Bob Martinez who lost his beloved wife recently. The closing prayer was led by Mark Chavez. Adjournment 8:59 PM.

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Sam Trujillo

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

By: Sam Trujillo

As we approach mid-year of 2015, I want to thank our Retiree's for their financial support .... Without your support we cannot continue in sending our quarterly newsletter .... I am asking all AFD Retiree's to stay involved in OUR Association and to please step up and lend support to our AFD Retiree Association .... As stated in previous newsletters, we need the younger retiree's to help us in making our retiree association stronger .... **Why? .....** As we learned while working at AFD, together we can remain stronger on issues such as our PERA solvency, and this includes the Annual COLA that is so vital to our defined pension .... We have learned that as a group, we have a much stronger voice in PERA related issues, I ask you to not take your PERA Retirement Benefit for granted and that you get involved with our association and make our voice even stronger ....

I also want to remind you to keep me informed (899-1500 / 400-3644 or [samtruj@aol.com](mailto:samtruj@aol.com)) on any address / telephone number changes. This includes e-mail address changes. Our e-mail network has grown extensively and this allows us to communicate with our members on a daily basis if needed .....

If you happen to run into another AFD Retiree, ask them if they get our newsletter and if they say no, please forward their name and phone number to me and I will include them to our AFD Retiree Master List .... Thank you for your support!