

AFD RETIREE NEWS

June 1, 2016

2-2016

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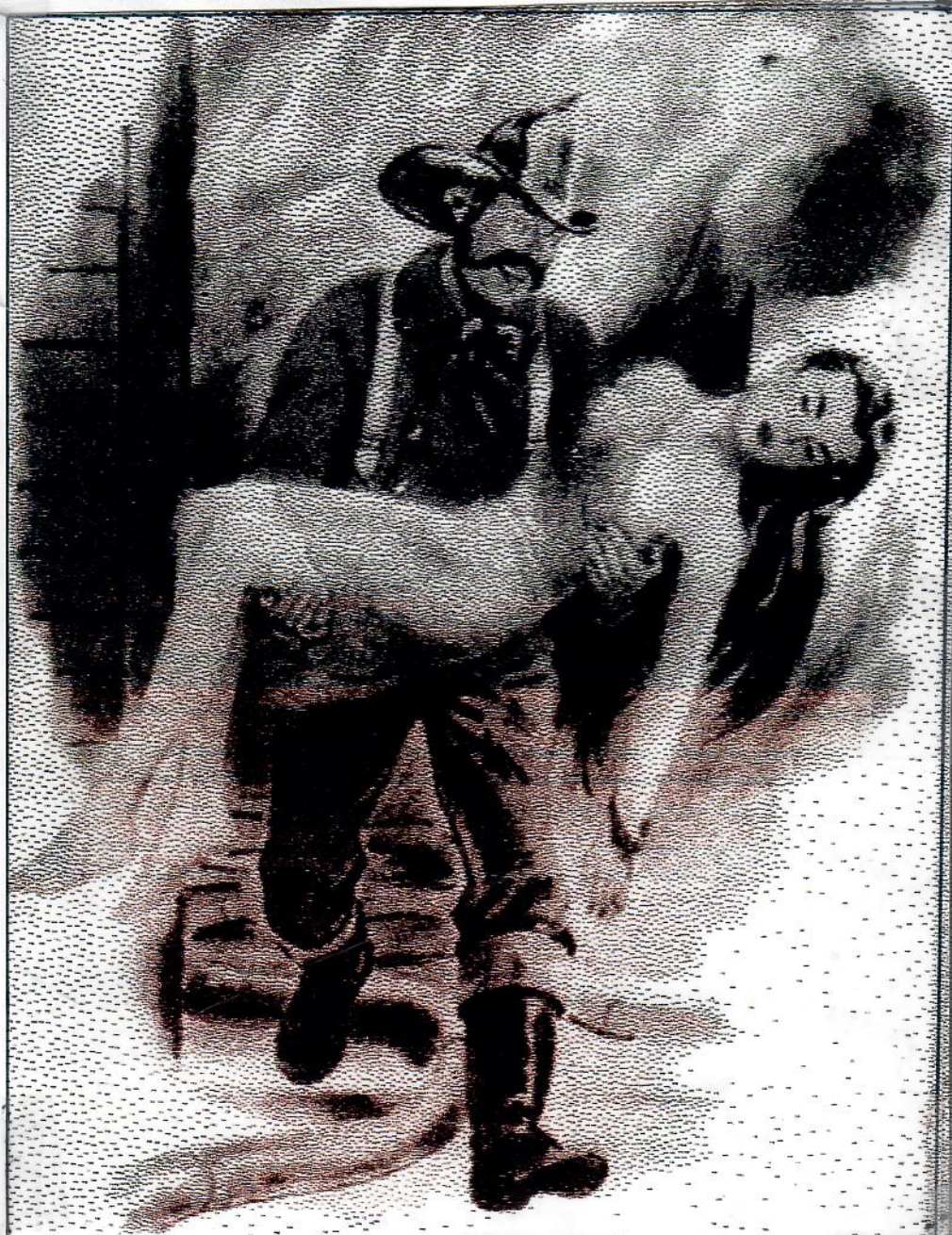
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THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



**EDITOR
HERMAN R. BISHOP**



CLASSIC AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER, DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

CONTENTS

- P -1, Damsel In Distress
Annual Picnic
- P-2, March Monthly Meeting
Death, Tom Baca
- P-3, Story, Frank Maestas
- P-4, Photo, Rescue 2, (1977)
- P-5, Stories, Eddie Abeita
- P-7, AFD Retiree's Association
- P-8, Horses In The Fire Service
- P-9, April Monthly Meeting
May Monthly Meeting
- P-10, AFD Chaplains, Part 2
By: Kerry Horton
- P-14, President's Review (16 yrs.)
- P-15, Death Isaac Montoya
- P-16, Presidents Report

ANNUAL RETIREE F.F. PICNIC

**THE ANNUAL AFD RETIREE'S
PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016
FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.m.
IN DOWNTOWN BERNALLILO, N.M.
GO TO CALLE DON FRANCISCO,
TURN WEST, GO ½ MILE.**

**ADMISSION IS BY DONATIONS.
FOR INFORMATION CALL:
EDDIE ABEITA, @ 869-3082 OR,
250-7895.**

March Monthly Meeting - The 187th AFD Retiree's Monthly meeting was held on March 9, 2016 at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local. 244, at 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order @ 7:10 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. L.C. Trujillo led the opening prayer and a moment of silence was observed for the last alarm of our deceased members. Fellow retiree Tom Baca passed away on Tuesday March 8, 2016. After roll call the March meeting continued.

Sam recognized fellow retirees, John Barnum, John Milligan, and Tommy Tucker who had not attended a monthly meeting for quite some time. "Welcome back brothers!" Our guest speaker was Kathy Duffy who invited us to attend the "Kite Fest," on April 30, 2016 at Balloon Fiesta Park. This event is sponsored by Altamira to support persons with disabilities. Volunteers are requested to assist with the program.

Sam is working with the Fire Chief's staff to recruit volunteers to patrol the bosque and serve as look-outs for fires or suspicious activities. Call Sam @ 899-1500 if you would like to volunteer. Sam is working with the firefighter's union to support the fire pac. If you would like to donate money contact Sam. L.C. Trujillo was appointed by Sam to chair the election committee this year. More on this later.

Fred Casias read the minutes from the February, 2016 monthly meeting. A motion was made to accept the report by Jeff Elks and was seconded by Ed Abeita. The motion Carried. Kerry Horton gave the Treasurers report. He has re-submitted a request to the IRS to renew our application for tax exempt status (501, 3c). Everyone is reminded that we are conducting our annual fund drive now. Hopefully our members will be generous in their donations. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Jose Salas and was seconded by Joe Martinez. The motion carried.

The historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. We mailed 645 newsletters for the March, 2016 issue. Some of our members are moving and failing to notify us of their new address. Please let us know if you have a new mailing address, telephone number or updated e-mail. The June issue will continue the Chaplain program part two. We always appreciate our members calling to let us know they are receiving their newsletters.


Our membership was well represented at the annual Blue Mass held in February. The Albuquerque Journal ran a story with a photo with our Honor Guard and gave credit for our Bell Ceremony, ringing of the four five's. We are proud of our honor guard, "Good Going Guys !"

Recognition was given to Kerry Horton, Pablo Garcia Jr. and Noel Baca for updating the brass tags on our retiree honor roll at the fire museum adjacent to the Fire Academy. This month's raffle was won by Noel Baca, Ralph Padilla and Toby Pino. Best wishes are extended to our members on the sick roster, Jerry Barboa, Victor Sanchez, Paul Graves and Florinio Sanchez.

The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The meeting adjourned @ 8: 43 P.M.

AFD RETIREE TOM BACA DIES
(By Herman R. Bishop)

We regret to announce the death of fellow retired firefighter Tom Baca, age 89, who passed away on Tuesday March 8, 2016 after a long term illness. Tom joined the department on February 14, 1957 and was hired by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld. The department was expanding due to the opening of the new fire station # 1 at 8th & Silver Avenue SW. Tom worked most of his career at Station #1 and was promoted to driver during April, 1960. As a driver he was a role model for younger firefighters coming into the department and was an excellent mentor to up-coming drivers.

		ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT	
		1611 MAN NUMBER	
NAME TOM D. BACA			
11/20/26 DOB	M SEX	BROWN HAIR	
BROWN EYES	5'6" HEIGHT	140 WEIGHT	
SIGNATURE OF CHIEF SWORN MEMBER		SIGNATURE <i>Tom D. Baca</i>	

When the department was developing the agility tests for new firefighters during the 1970's Tom, was chosen to assist in the development of the physical evolutions of the tests for the new firefighter candidates. He was in his late 40's , and although small in stature he was a strong athletic man with great physical strength and stamina. He was of pleasant demeanor and out going personality. He was an avid hunter and fisherman who was well respected by his fellow firefighters. After serving 25 years with the department he retired on June 4, 1982.

RESCUE CREW PLUS 1 RESCUE CALL EQUALS 3 SENIOR MOMENTS

(By: Frank Maestas)

We all know that Firefighters are trained to be Professional, Caring, Compassionate, and Discreet.

One night, before Paramedics evolved, we had a rescue call to a south east heights apartment location. On the rescue were Lt. Ross Aranda, Driver Thomas Plancia. and myself. We arrived at a luxury apartment and proceeded to take our equipment to an upper level room. A very distinguished looking gentleman answered the door and told us "my daughter and I have been celebrating my birthday and she is passed out in the bathroom and I can't wake her up"

Well, The 3 of us opened the bathroom door and yes, there she is. Sitting in the bath tub. No water and naked as the day she was born! Well, we know she is breathing because we can see that! Now she is young and is the MOST BEAUTIFUL FEMALE WE HAVE EVER SEE. So, the 3 of us gawk at her, and have senior moment #1. We don't know how to get her out of the tub and still be DISCREET. Our minds are a blank. So we just gawk at her and finally Lt. Aranda tell the Dad, "bring us a blanket or something to cover her with." Dad hands Thomas a large bath towel and as we go to cover her, Dad tells us," Be careful with her. She came to see me from Canada. She is a MORTICIAN there and SHE HAS A HUMAN EYEBALL RING on her finger.

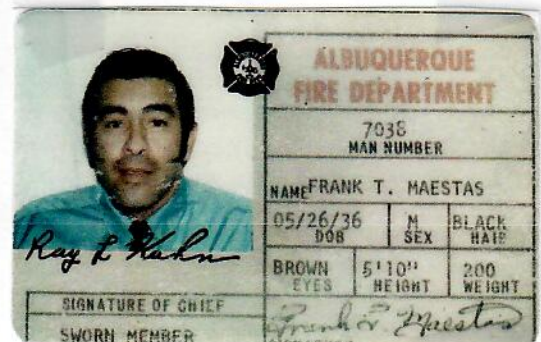
You guessed it, senior moment #2, We stare at her hand etc. and sure enough, there it is. A BIG EYEBALL RING on her finger. Well, she is starting to wake up and remember, we have to be discreet. Thomas and the LT. put a large bath towel on her front and we. Very gingerly, lift her out. The ambulance crew arrives and we get her on the gurney. She is now mumbling a mile a minute to Thomas.

We all wheel her out to the ambulance and NOW she is talking to Thomas about what they can do TOGETHER!! I CAN'T QUOTE HER HERE. Now we are about to have senior moment #3. We all load her in the ambulance, with the towel covering her and before the attendant can cover her with their own sheet, SHE SITS UPRIGHT ON THE GURNEY AND THE TOWEL SLIPS OFF OF HER AND ONTO HER LAP. Everyone freezes and we all stare at her as she sits there and tells Thomas , IN A VERY LOUD VOICE, WHAT THE BOTH OF THEM SHOULD BE DOING RIGHT NOW. Well we just stood there and listened and gawked until the attendant CLOSES THE DOORS AND OFF THEY WENT

On the way back to the station, Ross says" MAN, THAT SURE WAS A DISTINGUISHED LOOKING FATHER" To which we all agreed and laughed all the way back to the station.

Now, do you think I told my wife anything about this call? Of course not and I don't think Ross and Thomas did either. After all, we firefighters have to be professional and discreet and some things are better left alone and not told!! UNTILL NOW, AND NOW THE WIFES WILL KNOW.

Frank Maestas is a former member of the Albuquerque Fire Department. He joined AFD in March 1966, became paramedic and attained the rank of Lieutenant. After serving the department for 13 years he made a career change and joined the Colorado Department of Corrections. He is retired and currently lives in Buena Vista Colorado with his wife Dorothy. He maintains close ties with his AFD retiree friends and is an honorary member of the AFD Retiree's Association.





RESCUE 2, STATION 3 (CIRCA, 1977) L-R, Lt. Frank Maestas, Unknown, Driver Landiur Abakusumo
Photo submitted by: Frank Maestas

The Steve Marquez Story

by Eddie Abeita

5

Steve started his 22 year career with Albuquerque Fire Department, September 2, 1986 and Retired January 1, 2008.

Steve said I thought about starting my career with AFD years earlier but it did not happen. Later on I knew it had to be "a commitment" to be hired into AFD, and become a firefighter which I did do. This is what my dad Evaristo told me about making a commitment he retired after a 29 year career.



Steve Marquez



Evaristo Marquez

As a fire cadet he remembered fellow fire cadets, Peter Romero, Dave Garcia, William Mora and Brandon Moss to name a few. Instructors were, George Nichols, Mel Vigil and Eddie Abeita. We would drill with every piece of equipment carried on the trucks. One particular piece of equipment was a cellar nozzle called the Bresnen Distributor, it shot out spinning revolving spray of water 209 gallons per minute (gpm).

One hose drill evaluation was called, "cellar nozzle to the kitchen floor". Tom Velasquez and I were on the pumper so we estimated the distance, pull the working hose, break the 2 1/2" and rapid advance connection and placed the uncharged hose line and nozzle into the floor. Then started to retreat however the instructor said don't abandon the line, so we held onto the line now being charged with water boy oh boy that was a lot of water coming out of the nozzle and it's spinning spray. We got soaked with water thinking back Steve said; with most drills, we would end up getting soaked (down to the underwear).

Steve said during the interview, you did not fully understand what the instructors were thinking or trying to make you think, maybe more on your own or it was just the "school of hard knocks". One morning it snowed so before class all cadets shoveled and cleaned the snow on the area used for physical exercises. How funny it ended up the instructor said today is the scheduled day we move our exercise location to another place, so we still ended doing pushups in the snow..... You figure!

My first field assignment was at station 13 platoon "B" in which my dad Evaristo was assigned to platoon "A" at station 13. When I walked into station 13, "A" platoon was going on their days off. My dad took me to the bunk room and pointed at a locker and sad that locker and that bed are now assigned to you, okay dad thank you I said. My dad was referred to as a *short timer* with less than a month of service left in his career. At fire station 13 Steve Saddoris and Mark McIntire were the main cooks unless they were on leave or in training then one of us would fill in but just until he returned we relied on Steve's cooking.

E.J. Sanchez was the House Captain I remember engine 13 responding to a car fire in the early morning hours. Temperature was below freezing and upon arrival the car was fully engulfed in flames, the captain called for the hand line to knock down the flames, upon investigation we saw someone in the car the doors were locked, we worked fast to get inside the car. With the water that we used it had turned to ice and we were slipping and sliding trying to get him out, he was not breathing so we started CPR. It was kind of scary because all of a sudden he took a breath and smoke came out of his mouth but quit breathing again. The rescue arrived and started working on the patient while we continued CPR.

The Steve Marquez Story cont.

by Eddie Abeita

The rescue transported the patient to the emergency room because the ambulance did not show up. Our crew felt good about bringing him back but found out later he did not make it.

When I was promoted to Lieutenant my first assignment was at engine 1, later transferred to engine 7. The crew consisted of Willy Vigil, Randy Cordova, John Chavez, and me. John and I were second generation firefighters. John's dad is HH Chavez an AFD firefighter for 25 years, so we felt a lot of pride in being part of AFD. John did most of the cooking he was a great cook. The specialty was carne adovada we picked it up at Nelsons Meats which was down the street, in our running district. One thing our crew had in common was, we all graduated high school the same year 3 from Rio Grande and one from Highland High School.

Steve said one evening we were dispatched to a call involving a gas tanker on fire on Coors Blvd N.W. A few minutes into the fire a second alarm had to be transmitted. This type of fire is hot and smoky which all firefighters will experience in their career. When the fire was under control we told to return to quarters it was late at night. Hours later we were dispatched to the same location a rekindle occurred. During overhauled a security guard approached us and said, can I show you something on the other side of the parked trucks? It was the AFD command vehicle left behind all companies were back in quarters except us. Not to make a big deal out of it I got keys to the academy gate from station 17 and had one of my firefighters drive it to the fire academy for overnight storage.

My last three years of service was in the Fire Marshalls Office which was a big change and a great experience Steve said. I assisted inspectors with some of their inspections that needed additional work. One thing that would come up repeatedly was dealing with some of the business owners or their managers on NFPA Life Safety Codes. EXIT signage not illuminated or visible and means of egress (exits) that were blocked, you would think it would not be a problem with enforcementbut it was.

Steve said another thing I did like about FMO was interacting with the public and being able to assist the field with inspections. Also the inspectors in FMO, I had lost contact with them over the years, I did not know that these firefighters promoted into FMO so it was good to see them again. During that time the movie industry was booming in the Albuquerque area. Inspections had to be made on the movie sets the film crews welcomed us because they were fire conscientious. They knew if a fire broke out on the set it meant a shut down and no work for them and a huge loss in time and money.

After retirement from AFD I still felt I had some good miles left in me so I applied at Sandia Laboratory. With my background I worked with the Fire Protection Group handling private fire protection systems, which included; fire extinguishers, fire alarms systems, automatic sprinkler systems and hood suppression systems.

Still employed it can be sometimes difficult to make the monthly retirees meetings. I mainly attend when my dad calls and says; I need a ride to the meeting stop by and pick me up; once at the meeting I completely enjoy them it's the brotherhood thing. Last year was my first involvement with a retiree's function it was the annual picnic, it was good working with firefighters again. If everything goes well I look forward to helping again it feels good in giving something back to the retirees.

Today I think our family is a lot busier than when I was employed with AFD. We have two kids attending Manzano High School our daughter Tina is involved in music and our son Gabe plays football and baseball. This keeps my wife Thelma and I busy with concerts and ball games all the time. [END]



2015

Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association Prepared By: Sam Trujillo
(February, 2016)

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association continues in lending support to The Albuquerque Fire Department and its members In addition to meeting for social reasons, we assist AFD in many activities from antique fire equipment restoration to meeting with fire department cadets and providing them with AFD's history dating back to the late 1800's The AFD Retirees Honor Guard participates in many of our functions, one of which is the "Last Alarm " funeral services of our Brother Retirees They also represent AFD in both the annual "Blue Mass "that honors all first responders and in the "911 Memorial Services "that honors our Nations Fallen Fire Fighters



The AFD Retirees continue to meet monthly and have just completed our 186th monthly meeting We continue to print a quarterly newsletter and have developed a Master List with over 900 listed AFD Retirees We have also developed both a phone tree that is effective in passing on any information to our members in a timely fashion, and we have developed an e-mail address directory which is also very effective in allowing our Executive Board to communicate with our members on a daily basis

In 2015, our association grew by thirty one (31) members We unfortunately lost eight (8) AFD Retirees who passed away Since June 9, 2000 when we organized our association, we have lost 116 Brother Retirees with an average age of 72.8 years old During that time (6/9/2000 – 12/31/2015) our membership grew by 379 AFD Retirees

A History of Horses in the Fire Service

Horses in the Fire Service -- in 1832, the New York Mutual Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 volunteers purchased a horse to pull their engine. One of the reasons may have been due to a shortage of firefighters caused by a yellow fever epidemic. The other stations were unsympathetic. One evening the anti-equine element crept into the stable, shaved the horse's mane and tail and painted a white stripe down the horse's back, embarrassing the company. To add insult to injury, the Oceanus volunteers beat the horse-drawn Mutuals to a fire.

As steam engines gained popularity they grew in size and weight. Firefighters reluctantly accepted the need for horses. As Ditzel quotes: "A firehouse ain't no place for no stinkin' horse!" At first horses were stabled near the stations. When the alarm sounded, it took valuable time to unlock the barn, fetch the steeds and harness them to the engine. Before long, the horses lived at the station and the reluctance to accept them was replaced by a deep affection for the noble animals.

The stalls were positioned behind or next to the rigs. In 1871, a quick hitch was developed. Two years later, Charles E. Berry, a Massachusetts firefighter, created a hanging harness with quick-locking hames. His invention was so popular he left the fire department and sold his patented Berry Hames and Collars nationwide.

Not every horse could serve as a fire horse. The animals needed to be strong, swift, agile, obedient and fearless. At the scene, they needed to stand patiently while embers and flames surrounded them. They needed to remain calm while the firefighters fought the blaze. This was the case in all weather conditions and in the midst of a multitude of distractions.

The fire departments carefully selected their horses. Veterinarians for the departments evaluated each animal. Both stallions and mares were eligible to serve.

In Detroit, weight requirements were issued for the animals. Those pulling hose wagons must weigh 1,100 pounds, to haul a steamer 1,400 pounds, and to cart a hook and ladder 1,700 pounds. Stations also tried to create matched teams of two and three horses when possible.

Some cities had training stables but most provided on-the-job training. Detroit had a horse college. They claimed to be the only fire department that trained their horses by this method. Ditzel says: "There was a fire station with apparatus, training stalls, hanging quick hitches, a feed room, a horse hospital, and a 700-foot racetrack." Each horse received progress reports and report cards at the conclusion of their training. The horses that successfully completed their education were placed in the city's fire stations. Departments added horse ambulances and horseshoeing wagons to their city's rigs. A horse might work at a station for four to ten years. In 1858, the Philadelphia Fairmount Engine Company gave their fire horses a vacation. This became a tradition in the Philadelphia fire department. This was long before firefighters received vacations.

In the fall of 1872, a form of distemper, called epizootic spread among the horses. Within a period of twenty-four hours, 300 horses died in Buffalo. The epidemic spread rapidly to many cities. The cities relied heavily on horses for transportation and became paralyzed. Fire became a major concern. It was late October in Boston. Out of a total of 75-90 horses, four had died and 22 were unfit for duty. Until the epidemic ended, firefighters with the aid of citizen volunteers often found it necessary to drag the equipment to fires manually. On November 9, the Great Boston Fire burnt continuously for sixteen hours. It consumed 776 buildings, left 20,000 unemployed and 1,000 homeless. There were fourteen fatalities, including eleven firefighters. A century later John P. Vahey, a Boston fire chief, wrote about this catastrophe and renamed it the Epizootic Fire, after the disease that felled so many horses.

It was a sad day at the fire station when a horse was declared unfit for duty. Many retired fire horses continued to work for the city in less strenuous positions. Some were put out to pasture. Occasionally the noble beasts were put up for public auction. The gallant steeds might be purchased by junk drivers and delivery men. At times, the fire horses would forget their new roles and charge down the streets hauling a wagon after hearing a fire gong.

References:

Ditzel, Paul C. *Fire Engines, Firefighters: the Men, Equipment, and Machines, from Colonial Days to the Present*. New York: Crown, 1976.

Smith, Dennis. *Dennis Smith's History of Firefighting in America: 300 years*. New York: Dial, 1978.

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING - On Wednesday April 13, 2016 the monthly meeting of the AFD retiree's association was held at the firefighter's union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order @ 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. We have lost 117 of our brother retirees since June, 2000.

After roll call Sam introduced recent retiree Pablo Chavez a paramedic Lieutenant who served over 20 years with AFD. The members welcomed Pablo into our retiree group. There were no guest speakers. Louie Trujillo invited our members to attend the annual Kite Fest to be held at Balloon Fiesta Park on April 30, 2016.

Secretary Fred Casias was unable to attend the April meeting and Sam asked Herman Bishop to read the minutes from the March meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as read by Jeff Elks and was seconded by Ralph Padilla. The motion carried. Kerry Horton gave the Treasurer's report. He thanked everyone who sent donations during the recent fund drive. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Mike Murphy and was seconded by Tommy Tucker. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He entertained the members with a joke about a wayward Irish girl who had wandered away from home and returned after several years. He gave a summary about items in the upcoming June newsletter. Some interesting articles will appear written by Frank Maestas, Eddie Abeita and Kerry Horton. Look for Part Two, "The AFD Chaplains Program."

The Tom Baca family sent a nice thank you letter and a generous donation to Sam and AFD retirees for the honors and tribute given at Tom's funeral. A special thanks was given to Sam and the honor guard for their assistance and support during this difficult period for the Baca family. Their heartfelt thanks is most appreciated.

Sincere condolences are extended to Orlando Duran who recently lost his beloved wife. Jerry Barboa is now in a nursing home and is suffering from alzheimers. Contact Louie Trujillo @ 604-7732 for information if you would like to visit Jerry. Recently deceased retiree Gill Pohl has been nominated by staff of the Firefighter's Union, local 244, to be inducted in the fallen Firefighter's Memorial in Colorado Springs Colorado during the upcoming year.

The nominating committee for officer elections in at the June meeting, Louis Trujillo, Noel Baca, and John Serino are accepting names for the office of President and Secretary. Please contact them to place a name on the ballot.

Eddie Abeita and Eddie Torres announced that the Retired firefighter's annual picnic will be held on August 27, 2016 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Rotary Park, downtown Bernalillo, N.M. Go to Calle Don Francisco, turn west, go 1/2 mile to the park. Admission is by donations. Your families are invited.

Juan Sandoval gave a talk remembering pleasant memories with his good friend Tom Baca at Station # 4. The raffle was won by Johnnie Marquez and Noel Baca. Chaplain Pat McKinney gave the closing prayer. The April meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

May Meeting - The 189th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on May 11, 2016, 7:10 PM, at the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. After a moment of silence in memory of our deceased members roll call was held. Sam recognized fellow retiree Jesse Lopez who now lives in Northglenn, Colorado. Guest speakers were the following candidates for the New Mexico early voting primaries to be held on June 21, 2016. They were: Linda Stover, Bernalillo County Clerk, Karen Montoya, N.M.. Public Regulation Commission, and Ed Perea, Bernalillo County District Attorney. All three candidates are pro-firefighters and requested our vote. Guest Irene Serna passed out ballot applications for absentee voters in Bernalillo County.

Sam reported that Fire Chief Downey has invited members of the retiree's association to speak to the members of the AFD 88th Cadet class on May 25, 2016, and extended an invitation to attend Cadet graduation ceremonies on May 27th. AFD Retiree Paul Tapia invited retirees to attend ceremonies at the Sunport on June 3rd to honor retired Lieutenant Joe Hernandez who will be returning from a trip to Washington D.C. where he will be honored for his military service in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

A motion was made by Ed Abeita and seconded by Kerry Horton to suspend the April Secretary's report due to the absence of our Secretary, Fred Casias. The motion carried. The Treasurer's report was given by Kerry Horton. A motion to accept the report was made by Joe Martinez and was seconded by Jeff Elks. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. The final draft has been prepared for the June, 2016 newsletter. He shared a humorous story submitted by former paramedic Lieutenant Frank Maestas regarding a rescue call about a naked lady in distress. He was happy to report he and fellow rescue personnel, Ross Aranda, Tom Placencia and himself saved her life.

The nominees for officers of our June election of the AFD Retiree's Association have been submitted by the election committee, Louie Trujillo, Noel Baca and John Serino. President-Kerry Horton, Secretary, Fred Casias. As there are no other candidates, Kerry and Fred will be voted into office by acclamation at the June 8th monthly meeting.

The audit committee, Ed Abieta, Bill Raupfer, and Toby Pino submitted a summary of their audit of the AFD Retiree's Association Treasury during the past year. All financial records were well documented, complete, and up to date. Committee members commended Treasurer Kerry Horton for a job well done. Wednesday's raffle was won by Jeff Elks, Ralph Padilla, and Noel Baca. The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. The May meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was adjourned @ 8:42 P.M.

THE ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN DIVISION

Part 11

(By Kerry Horton)

In the last newsletter, we learned about the history, objectives, and direction of AFD's Chaplain program. This time I would like to introduce you to some of the chaplains that make the program work. The Director of the program is retired Captain, Patrick McKinney. When I approached him for a few words regarding the article, he told me that his wish for the article was to focus on the corps of chaplains that make this program a success in helping our Brothers and Sisters with their spiritual needs and guidance. I respect a manager that puts the spotlight on the work of his crew, and not on himself.

In this article, I want to introduce you to Denise Gilbert, and Fred Perez. Both are civilian chaplains that have been involved in AFD's Chaplain program for many years, and both are very involved in helping AFD's cadets make it through 18 very tough weeks. I will then reintroduce Jerome Rael and Mark Chavez. Mark has been a chaplain from the beginning, and is very instrumental in the local chapter of Random Acts.

The following are Denise Gilbert's words in response to questions I provided her.



My involvement with the AFD Chaplaincy began when AFD Chaplain Jerome Rael spoke at an IFOC meeting I was attending in 2009/2010? He talked about upcoming volunteer chaplain opportunities with the fire department. I immediately expressed an interest. I was officially brought on as an AFD Volunteer Chaplain February 2012!

Just to back up a bit, my credentialing and training comes from the International Fellowship of Chaplains (IFOC), the Federation of Fire Chaplains, CISM, several mental health and NIMS/ICS courses. To make sure I have a well-rounded awareness about first responders, I've attended APD's Citizens Police Academy, BCSO's Citizen Academy and Sandoval County's Citizens Fire Academy. I also serve with CERT and Random Acts.

As a volunteer chaplain, my primary duty is to assist and support each cadet class. I also serve, as needed, during times of duress within the department, such as hospitalization and or loss of a firefighter or family member. I also visit the stations.

My favorite part of this program is the time spent with the cadets. As a civilian, this is an educational process for me too. I enjoy watching the cadets' development from beginning to graduation and beyond.

One of the challenges in the program is the need for a full time director to devote more time to developing the Chaplaincy Program. I would like to see some development along the lines of helping fire fighter families cope with the balance between service and home life. Also, development of a program that would help the women firefighters cope with the challenges they face.

The past four plus years my understanding and respect has grown for the men and women who protect and serve this community. I pray that I will be able to continue to serve for years to come.

Fred Perez provided the following words in response to the same questions.

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(By Kerry Horton)

In the last newsletter, we learned about the history, objectives, and direction of AFD's Chaplain program. This time I would like to introduce you to some of the chaplains that make the program work. The Director of the program is retired Captain, Patrick McKinney. When I approached him for a few words regarding the article, he told me that his wish for the article was to focus on the corps of chaplains that make this program a success in helping our Brothers and Sisters with their spiritual needs and guidance. I respect a manager that puts the spotlight on the work of his crew, and not on himself.

In this article, I want to introduce you to Denise Gilbert, and Fred Perez. Both are civilian chaplains that have been involved in AFD's Chaplain program for many years, and both are very involved in helping AFD's cadets make it through 18 very tough weeks. I will then reintroduce Jerome Rael and Mark Chavez. Mark has been a chaplain from the beginning, and is very instrumental in the local chapter of Random Acts.

The following are Denise Gilbert's words in response to questions I provided her.



My involvement with the AFD Chaplaincy began when AFD Chaplain Jerome Rael spoke at an IFOC meeting I was attending in 2009/2010? He talked about upcoming volunteer chaplain opportunities with the fire department. I immediately expressed an interest. I was officially brought on as an AFD Volunteer Chaplain February 2012!

Just to back up a bit, my credentialing and training comes from the International Fellowship of Chaplains (IFOC), the Federation of Fire Chaplains, CISM, several mental health and NIMS/ICS courses. To make sure I have a well-rounded awareness about first responders, I've attended APD's Citizens Police Academy, BCSO's Citizen Academy and Sandoval County's Citizens Fire Academy. I also serve with CERT and Random Acts.

As a volunteer chaplain, my primary duty is to assist and support each cadet class. I also serve, as needed, during times of duress within the department, such as hospitalization and or loss of a firefighter or family member. I also visit the stations.

My favorite part of this program is the time spent with the cadets. As a civilian, this is an educational process for me too. I enjoy watching the cadets' development from beginning to graduation and beyond.

One of the challenges in the program is the need for a full time director to devote more time to developing the Chaplaincy Program. I would like to see some development along the lines of helping fire fighter families cope with the balance between service and home life. Also, development of a program that would help the women firefighters cope with the challenges they face.

The past four plus years my understanding and respect has grown for the men and women who protect and serve this community. I pray that I will be able to continue to serve for years to come.

Fred Perez provided the following words in response to the same questions.



reply.

I asked Jerome about his personal motivation to get the program started, here is Jerome's

"There are multiple levels of motivation that lead me to a place of resolve and belief that this had not only become a part of my firefighting career, but a true calling.

I think the initial motivation came from just being a part of the "Brotherhood" of the fire culture, and being exposed to the everyday ups and downs, and stressors that firefighters experience in their emergency responses. How these stressors really affected them, both in their personal as well as professional lives. The effects were both positive and negative, but mostly negative.

Another motivation to become an AFD chaplain came from my personal spirituality, and belief in God. This gave me the inspiration, vision, and drive to make a difference with positive solutions in addressing the negatives, as well as supporting and building up the positives.

All in all, I think the greatest motivating factor was my love for the firefighting profession, and knowing that the services we bring to the families, and people of our community are far reaching. Firefighters, being a part of that community, need to be at their best in all areas of their lives, both on and off the job. Thus, adopting the AFD Chaplain motto of "Serving those who Serve."

I asked Jerome what he saw as some of the challenges facing the future of the program, here is his response.

"I see the biggest challenges in every generation of firefighters; there are same, similar, and different issues.

The same issues, are the stressors that are contributing factors of negative behaviors, both on and off the job. These stressors include professional challenges, administrative directives, lack of resources, poor leadership, personal and professional conflicts, and conflicts among Local 244, the Department, and City Officials.

The similar issues are personal issues like divorce, substance and alcohol abuse, domestic and self abuse, interpersonal conflicts, health and injuries, depression, and even retirement.

The different challenges include cultural and generational differences, departmental and City policy and procedural changes, leadership styles, and societal changes.

I think the greatest challenge of the Chaplain Division is keeping true to the foundational principles laid from its beginning in mission vision and purpose, and building upon it in a way the will serve the current needs of the fire family, department, and community."

We will finish up this article with the words of Mark Chavez, a long time chaplain and retired Captain with AFD. Mark has seen the development of the Albuquerque Chapter of Random Acts from the beginning, and these are his words.



President's Review of The Last 16 Years
(By Sam Trujillo)

I have been reflecting back on the past sixteen years (16) and on the steps that we have taken in making our association a success We formed our Association on 6/9/2000 during the **AFD Centennial Ceremony** held at The Albuquerque Convention Center During that event, Chief Morris Huling held nomination / election activities and we elected our officers at that event Our first association officers were Sam Trujillo – President, Frank Sierra – Secretary, Ralph Sedillo – Treasurer and Herman Bishop – Historian, After our election, we started out by meeting at our homes and putting together names , phone numbers and addresses creating a Retiree Master List Once we had a list of retiree's, with the help of Chief Huling, we printed a two sided one page message as our first newsletter on 8/1/2000 During that first year, we replaced our Secretary (due to illness) and added Robert Murphy as our Secretary but on 12/21/2000 Robert passed away Louis C. Trujillo stepped up and was elected as our Secretary for the next 12 years

In 2001 we developed our Association "**By-Laws**" and we began the task of applying for a Non-Profit Corporation status and we added the Vice President position giving our association a five member executive board We also held our first annual picnic at the Ellena Gallegos campground site Over the years we moved our picnic to Sandia Lakes but the rental price grew more each year until we were gifted with the use of Rotary Park in Bernalillo Our picnic event has allowed us to purchase our own tables, chairs and BBQ grill which are available for use by all retiree members Our annual picnic allows new retirees to attend and get recognition from **IAFF Local 244** for their service to both **AFD** and **IAFF Local 244**

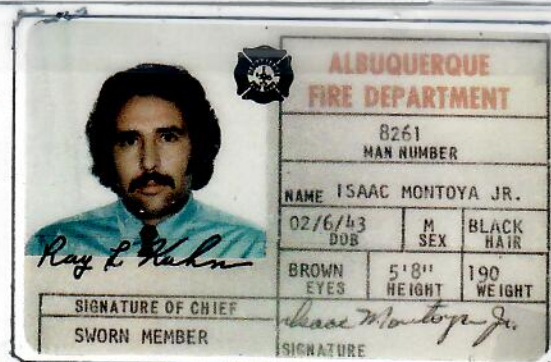
Our quarterly newsletter has been a success as well From a two sided one page newsletter we now have a 16 page informative newsletter that allows us to communicate with AFD Retirees throughout the United States Our Historian, Herman Bishop deserves praise for his commitment to developing a first class newsletter The newsletter has been paid for with donations that our members have given I think back of the early years when our advisory board members helping us in the mailing of the newsletter Herman Bishop would create then print the newsletter, then we would meet at a fire station and form an assembly line where one member would fold the newsletter, another would stuff the newsletter into an envelope, another would attach the mailing address label and another would lick/ attach the stamp At the end of the assembly line Herman Bishop would do Quality Control making sure that we were mailing a quality product I remember getting my butt chewed off for attaching a stamp upside down As we grew, we were able to farm the printing and mailing of the newsletter out Yes, we have come a long way!

Other accomplishments that our association has accomplished include the passing of our Retiree Prestige License Plate in 2004, the creation of our "Last Alarm Funeral Truck " in 2006 and the development of our "Striking The Four Fives " Ceremonial Bell in 2010 In 2010 we also accomplished in honoring the AFD Fire Fighters of yesterday by creating and placing the beautiful 6 ft. by 6 ft. granite Memorial at the Fire AcademyI take pride in knowing that future generations will know the names of the Fire Fighters that were the back bone of the Albuquerque Fire Department between the years of 1900 and 2010

I also take pride in knowing that our association has lent support to the families of 118 AFD Retirees that have passed away in the last 16 years Our support starts with advising our members in making sure that their families know and understand the wishes of the AFD retiree prior to their passing Since 2002 we constantly remind our members by providing a "Check Off List " which guides our members by informing their family of their wishes upon passing away We have improved our involvement in the funerals by honoring our fallen retiree and guiding the family during this difficult time I can assure you that of the 118 funerals, no two have been alike With the support of Albuquerque Fire Department we are able to use " The Last Alarm Funeral Truck " if the family requests a traditional Fire Fighter Funeral within the Albuquerque area I am proud and honored to have helped the families of our fallen brothers during the past 16 years

I want to thank our Executive Board and Advisory Board Members for their support in making our Association a success I also want to thank IAFF Local 244 for their support in all our endeavors and especially for working to protect our PERA Pension / COLA plan I plan on staying involved in our association and future activities and I will lend support to my replacement as needed To date we have held 190 monthly meetings and each meeting has been memorable and enjoyable Our current AFD Retiree Master List now includes about 850 Retiree Named (deceased included) The monthly meetings have allowed our members to maintain the bond that were formed at the Fire Station where we worked and lived together I am proud of my service to both The Albuquerque Fire Department and to our Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association

Isaac Montoya Death - We regret to announce the death of our brother and fellow retired firefighter Isasac Montoya, age 73 who passed away on Thursday morning, April 28, 2016. He had suffered from a long term illness during the past few years. He joined AFD on August 14, 1967 and after spending over 20 years as a firefighter/paramedic he retired on June 16, 1987. Shortly after the paramedic division was formed he attended UNM Regional Medical school and certified as a paramedic. He was promoted as a rescue driver during April, 1980. On January 13, 1984 he was promoted to Lieutenant.



He served his community and the fire department honorably for many years. He really enjoyed being a firefighter/paramedic and always had a great sense of accomplishment as he responded to rescue calls and had the opportunity to help people who were in need. He knew his job well and was well respected by his fellow firefighters and officers alike. Isaac was born and raised in Cuba, New Mexico, a place he dearly loved.

After his retirement from Albuquerque he moved his wife and family back to his home town. Unfortunately during the past year he lost his beloved wife and a short time later he lost a son. These tragedies have hit the Montoya family really hard, loosing three family members over a short period of time. Currently funeral services are pending. Isaac did request a firefighter's funeral. Arrangements for his funeral services will be announced at a later date. Our most sincere condolences are offered to the entire Montoya family.

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Sam Trujillo

President's Message
(By Sam Trujillo)

My final Presidents Message to you (my Fire Family) this quarter will stress the importance of remaining united and supportive of our AFD Retiree's Association ... For the past 16 years, I have asked you to please lend support to the officers of our association I have asked all of you to please remain involved in our AFD Retiree's Association It is important to remember that we must continue in also supporting IAFF Local 244 Fire Fighters Union since they continue protecting our defined pension plan including the current pension COLA that we get yearly It's very important to remain vigilant on issues regarding our own PERA Pension plan I am very thankful for all the support given to us by IAFF Local 244 for the past 16 years

I also want to remind you to keep your family (spouse & children) informed on your final wishes and related financial issues The recent passing of one of our out of town brother retiree's is an example of the surviving family not knowing of the retirement benefit of a paid up life insurance policy that this retiree received as part of his retirement They were stressed out not knowing how to pay for funeral costs I met with the family and gave them relief through guidance I will continue in standing ready to lend support to our Fire Family (as needed)

The past 16 years have flown by so fast and I recently reflected on where our association is today and in steps that we took to get from 6/9/2000 to today I wrote down some of our accomplishment and I will share those with you within this newsletter

Please keep me informed (899-1500 / 400-3644 or samtruj@aol.com) on any address / telephone number changes.... This includes e-mail address changes Again, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to have served you these past sixteen years!

This is a brief history of the AAFRA. Random Acts started at a Chaplain conference in Oklahoma in the year 2007. Senior AFD Chaplain Jerome Rael brought the concept back to Albuquerque after being introduced to it from a firefighter from Oakland California who had successfully started the first chapter in Oakland. Jerome came back excited with the idea that maybe there was a way for firefighters to give back to the community as well as therapy to help firefighters to deal with the stress that is part of the job.

Jerome tasked myself and a couple of other firefighters from AFD and BCFD to look into starting an Albuquerque Area Chapter. We spoke to Larry Hendricks from Oakland who started Random Acts about his vision for Random Acts. We learned how to get started, and as with any organization, we had a lot of ups and downs, and a lot of growing pains. It took a couple of years to work out the bugs and get a flow going. After a few years we found a good combination of officers and board members, and have been hard at work ever since.

We decided we would keep our mission simple, help firefighters and positively impact our community. We have always tried to keep a low profile with emphasis on the well being of the firefighter. We opened a website with a link from the Union website to make it easier for firefighters to learn about the program. Some of the younger social media savvy board members decided we needed to start a Facebook page. The Facebook page has really helped get the word out.

So, how are Random Acts initiated? First, on our website there is a link for nominations. The nominations have to be initiated by firefighters. For instance, a crew is dispatched to a home for trouble breathing or some other medical problem. Once there, the firefighters notice it's a grandma who is taking care of her grandkids and they are sleeping on the couch or the floor. The firefighters decide to nominate this family for some beds for the kids. Random Acts board members discuss the possible Random Act, (RA), and decide if it is something RA can do. Random Acts does not independently conduct the RA but involves the crew in the purchase and delivery of the request. It has proven very rewarding for the crews. We also help firefighters help other firefighters who are going through difficult times. For example, we have built sheds, helped pour concrete, replaced air conditioners and many other tasks to help firefighters dealing with health problems, etc. There is no end to how RA has helped the community.

So, how is Random Acts funded? Most of our funding comes from firefighters themselves. We get involved with the United Way each year during refreshers. We get a short time slot to tell firefighters about RA then encourage them to designate funds they contribute through United Way to RA. Random Acts receives 100% of those funds. We also have several partnerships with businesses in the community that help us. We have developed some good relationships.

Our hope is to continue to offer an opportunity to firefighters to make their lives, their careers, their families better and more satisfying.

How do you get involved? The best way to learn about Random Acts is to frequent our website, and like our Facebook page. You will get information and updates often to give you opportunities to participate. Please check us out! Albuquerque Area Firefighters Random Acts Facebook.com
www.firefightersrandomacts.org

There are many other folks that donate their time and energies to make the AFD Chaplain program work, but I had to make the tough choice and decide who would be featured in this article. They all deserve to have their hard work celebrated, and I'm sure we will see them in future articles.



L-R. PAUL GARCIA SR. & LEONARD "TOASTIE" ZAMORA (Circa, 1955)