

AFD RETIREE NEWS

March 1, 2019

1-2019

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

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Ray Flores	898-8948	Santos Abeyta	620-0670		



VOLUNTEERS OF THE ALBUQUERQUE SCOTT MOORE AND ANGUS A. GRANT HOSE COMPANIES (Circa, 1890).

Mr. Scott Moore was a prominent businessman, the manager of the Armijo House Hotel, a volunteer fireman, and an avid financial supporter of the fire department. Hose company number one was named after him.

Mr. Angus A. Grant came to Albuquerque in 1880 as a contractor to build the railroad. He was a prominent figure and businessman who promoted the growth of new Albuquerque. He was a financial supporter of the fire department and an active volunteer fireman with hose company number two which was named after him. It was customary to name fire companies after financial supporters of the fire dept.



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ASSOCIATION**



**EDITOR
HERMAN R. BISHOP**

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ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

It is time for our annual fund drive. For the past 18 Years we have depended on our members, for financial support of the retiree's association. As you know our operating funds are by donations only. We really appreciate your support over the years. Send donations to: "AFD Retiree's Association, C/O Sam Trujillo 5318 La Colonia NW Albuquerque, N.M. 87120

**" ANNUAL FUND"
" DRIVE !"**

Moe Dauber, Death - Sadly, we were notified that our fellow retiree and good friend, Deputy Chief Moe Dauber Age 90, passed away on December 6, 2018. Moe was one of our longest living retirees. He joined AFD on July 13, 1951 and after serving over 29 years of loyal, faithful, and dedicated service to his community and the fire department he retired on February 4, 1980. He was the youngest of the three Dauber brothers who served the department. After Moe joined the department he was followed by his older Brothers Joe and Ben who joined the department on February 13, 1956. Together they served a total of 71 years with the department. When Moe joined AFD there were only 85 fireman on the force and seven fire stations. After stations 8 and 9 were opened, Station #10 was opened on March 26, 1956 and he was promoted to Lieutenant. After his promotion to Captain in 1962 the Fire Chief's staff noticed his skills and talents in training, budgeting and knowledge of equipment specifications and brought him to work in fire administration.



Soon in 1966 he was promoted to District Chief and was moved into the firefighting division. As the department grew in 1973 he was promoted to Assistant Chief as a shift commander, supervising over 150 firefighters. Moe graduated from Albuquerque High School and his fellow class mate was Arthur Martinez. They served several years together as fire department officers. During 1974 Arthur Martinez was promoted to Fire Chief and he appointed Moe Dauber to be his Deputy Chief of operations where he served for six Years until his retirement in early 1980. Moe was a pleasant and congenial person who was an asset to the fire department and was a well respected by his fellows. Moe is recognized for his contribution to the fire service and he will be missed by all who knew and worked with him. Sincere condolences are given to the Dauber family.

December Monthly Meeting – The 220 th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at the firefighter's union hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:05 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by brother Jose Salaz and a moment of silence was held for our deceased members. Roll Call: President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo and Historian, Herman Bishop. Kerry recognized retirees Craig Lake and Tim Payne who have not attended recently. Guest, Cynthia Raupfer.

President's Report – Kerry gave a summary of the PERA Board meeting he attended in Santa Fe on Tuesday December 12, 2018. The purpose of this meeting was to address the PERA solvency issues faced by our retirement association for the next 20 years. The board is attempting to develop a plan which will be presented to the N.M. State Legislature which will resolve the solvency issues. The Legislature meets for a 60 day session on January 15, 2018. PERA represents 40,000 N.M. retired government workers, including firefighters. To become solvent retiree's may have to fore go the annual 2% COLA's for the next three years. The basic monthly retirement benefits do not appear to be threatened at this time. The PERA Board will ask the Legislature for a \$200 million appropriation to shore up the pension fund. During the election campaign Governor elect Michele Lujan Grisham promised to oppose cuts to benefits for government retirees, including cuts to the annual COLA's. Representatives of the firefighter's union, Local 244, active duty firefighters and members of the AFD retiree's association will be working to protect our retirement benefits.

The Secretary's report was given by F. Casias. Motion to accept by Ed Abeita, Second by T. Romero. The motion passed. The Treasurer's report was given by S.Trujillo. Motion to accept by Mike Fox, second by Eugene Baldonado. The motion passed. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report and he reminded all to notify us about address and telephone changes. He gave a short talk about Moe Dauber retired AFD Deputy Chief who recently passed away. Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to our brothers on the sick roster, H.H. Chavez and Jeff Elks. Wednesday's raffle was won by Louis Trujillo, Craig Lake, and Eulogio Lucero. The closing prayer was led by brother Jose Salaz. Meeting adjourned: 8:55 PM.

Forty Five Years Service Celebrated

(By Herman R. Bishop)

AFD active duty fire Lieutenant Ron Herrera age 66, recently celebrated his 45 th year of Service with the department. He joined in 1973 and was a member of the 24 th cadet Class. He still loves his job and maintains the physical fitness required of a firefighter. He said, " when I joined AFD fire station # 15 had just opened on Academy N.E. The Department had just over 300 firemen and 15 stations. There were rescue squads But there no paramedics as we know them today." He remembered his first officers, Captain, Santos Abeyta and Lieutenant D.A.Myrick. "They were experienced veteran Officers and took me under their wings and taught me the ropes. I had a lot of respect For those two guys. I trusted them fully and would have followed them anywhere. Later he moved to the old station two at 301 High Street S.E. His Lieutenant was Joe Hernandez and District Chief Herman Bishop. We went to lots of big hot smoky fires. "Both Joe and Chief Bishop were really nice to me and I looked up to them. They were Good role models he said." I still find going to work exciting especially when we have a big working fire Ron added. I was born to be a firefighter and the fire department is where I should be." On December 17, 2018 His friends and fellow firefighters along with Fire Chief Paul Dow congratulated him on his years longevity and presented him with a beautiful plaque honoring his dedication, loyalty and service to the department and to the community.



Lt. Ron Herrera

AFD MEMBERS AND YEARS SERVICE PRIOR TO 1975

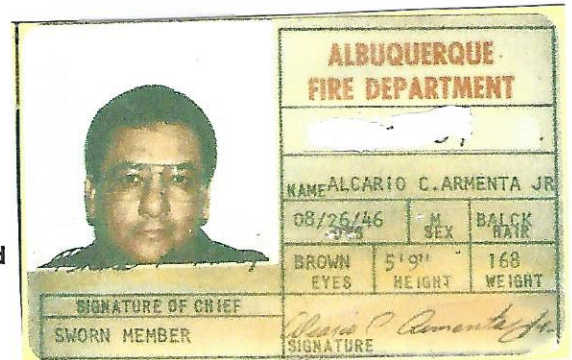
Milton Grande	Born 1896 (AFD 1919 – 1966)	47 years service, Assistant Chief, retired age 70
* Arthur "Art" Westerfeld	Born 1896 (AFD 1919 – 1962)	43 years service, Fire Chief, Died age 66, while still chief
Ed Lucero	Born 1892 (AFD 1926 - 1969)	43 years service, Lieutenant, retired age 77
Simon Seligman	Born 1903 (AFD 1927 – 1968)	41 years service, Fire Chief, retired age 65
		<u>First Fire Chief To Retire, July 15, 1968</u>
J.C. "Slim" Davidson	Born 1915 (AFD 1939 - 1975)	40 years service, (4 yrs. parks/recreation, 36 years AFD.) age 60
Reno Stableton	Born 1903 (AFD 1930 – 1966)	36 years service, Lieutenant, retired age 63
S.B. Skidmore	Born 1915 (AFD 1938 – 1973)	35 years service, Assistant Chief , retired age 58
Louie Jurado	Born 1907 (AFD 1934 – 1968)	35 years service, Assistant Chief, retired age 61
Carl Macaluso	Born 1906 (AFD 1936 – 1970)	34 years service, Assistant Chief, retired age 64
George Tafoya	Born 1905 (AFD 1933 – 1966)	33 years service, Assistant Chief, retired age 61
Maurice Cordova	Born 1907 (AFD 1937 - 1969)	31 years service, Lieutenant, retired age 62
*Joe Bowdich	Born 1922 (AFD 1933 – 1962)	29 years service, Assistant Chief, died age 51, did not retire
Matt Ortiz	Born 1907 (AFD 1939 – 1966)	27 years service Assistant Chief, retired age 59
Trinidad Lopez	Born 1914 (AFD 1947 – 1974)	27 years service, Driver,retired age 60
Lou Valdez	Born 1905 (AFD 1942 – 1968)	26 years service, Lieutenant, Alarm Superintendent , retired age 63
Leo Renaud	Born 1901 (AFD 1941 – 1966)	25 years service, Assistant Chief, retired age 65
Lucius Springer	Born 1903 (AFD 1940 – 1965)	25 years service, Driver, retired age 62

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT FIREFIGHTERS OF LONG AGO Firefighters who were hired during the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's, did not have a very good retirement plan. The retirement system for firefighters was rather poor during that era. Usually they worked into their 60's and 70's. The above people worked many years and probably had not planned to retire. In the 1960's most were mandatorily retired due to new laws regarding health and safety of firefighters. Fire Chief "Art Westerfeld and Assistant Chief Joe Bowdich died prior to retirement while still employed by the department.

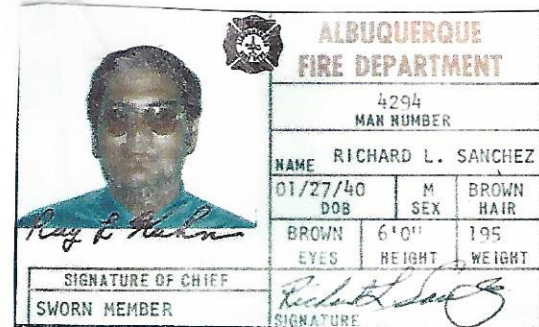
Fire Chief Simon Seligman was the first Fire Chief to retire. Lieutenant Ed Lucero worked until age 77 as a line officer at station # 10 on Rio Grande NW Lieutenant Reno Stableton worked until age 63 as a line officer at station # 5, Chico and Dallas NE Lieutenant Maurice Cordova worked until age 62 as a line officer at station # 14 on 98 th Street SW Drivers Lucias Springer and Trinidad Lopez worked to age 62 as a pumper drivers.

Lieutenant Ron Herrera, age 66, a line officer at fire station # 21 was recognized Fire Chief Paul Dow and fellow firefighters on December 17, 2018 for his 45 years service with AFD. He joined in 1973.

Death Al Armenta - We regret to announce the death of our friend and Retired fire captain Alcario C. "Al," Armenta who passed away on January 17, 2019. He joined the department on March 3, 1969. After serving 23 years of faithful and dedicated service to the community and the department, he retired on December 28, 1992. He was promoted to fire inspector during October, 1976. After serving 7 years in the fire prevention bureau he was re-assigned to the Arson Division as a fire investigator. He served 3 years in the Arson division and was promoted to Lieutenant on January 1, 1986. He was assigned to the fire marshal's office as a plans examiner. When he was promoted to Captain in November, 1990 he was assigned to fire suppression. Al was a true professional while serving in all of his assignments. He was well liked and respected by his peers, firefighters and supervisors alike. He Along with fellow fire fighters earned an Associate Degree of Fire Science from the University of Albuquerque in 1971. Al was an active member of the Retired Firefighter's Association for 18 years since it was established in 2000. Our most sincere condolences go to his wife Jeannie and the entire Armenta Family.



Death, Richard L. "Dickie Pops," Sanchez - We were notified of the death Of our good friend and retired fire captain, Richard L. "Dickie Pops," Sanchez Who passed away on January 16, 2019. Richard joined AFD on June 29, 1961. He retired on April 25, 1986 after serving 25 years of faithful and dedicated Service to the department and his community. On September 9, 1968 he Was promoted to driver. Four years later he was promoted to Lieutenant in The fire suppression division during March 1974. When the paramedic units Was formed in 1978 he was one of the first paramedics to graduate from the University Of New Mexico Regional Center. He was assigned to Rescue #1 and Served as a paramedic for 6 years until his promotion to Captain in January, 1984. He was re-assigned to the fire suppression division until his retirement In 1986. Richard was a good and faithful firefighter/paramedic who loved his job and was dedicated to the fire service. He was a jovial, likeable person who worked well with his fellow firefighters and chief officers alike. If there was a firehouse prank he was always in on it. His buddies delighted in pulling firefighter stunts on him as well. He loved firehouse humor and was able to laugh at himself too. On behalf of the retired firefighters our most sincere condolences are extended to the entire Richard Sanchez family.



THE SWAYING TREE

By Nicolas Gonzales, Arson Lt. Retired

During 1957 while working at Station #2 at High and Silver S.E. I was working the opposite shift on Engine #2. Adelino Jiron a pipeman had gone to a fire which turned out to be a storage shed in the 1500 block of Edith S.E. During the process of putting the fire out Jiron took the fire hose to a near by tree and climbed up into the tree to get a better vantage point for directing water on the fire. As he was fighting the fire from the tree the tree would sway back and forth as he would turn the pressure on and off.

Within a short time, then Fire Chief Art Westerfeld, who had just arrived at the fire noticed the commotion in the swaying tree. The Fire Chief was enraged to see one of his firemen engaged in such an unusual firefighting maneuver. This was a ridiculous situation and considering the possibility that he could fall out of the tree and cause further embarrassment to the Fire Department really raised the ire of the Chief. As was typical of Adelino Jiron he had the ultimate come back in answering the Chief. "Look Chief, I'm putting the fire out aren't I?"

AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

(By Herman R. Bishop)

January 4, 2019

THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION RECENTLY CELEBRATED OUR 18 TH ANNIVERSARY. THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED ON JUNE 9, 2000 WHEN AFD CELEBRATED IT'S 100 TH ANNIVERSARY AS A PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT. FIRE CHIEF MORRIS HULING AND HIS STAFF HELD A FINE BANQUET AND CELEBRATION AT THE ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER.

OVER 350 ACTIVE DUTY FIREFIGHTERS, RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ATTENDED. AS A RESULT OF MEETINGS WITH THE FIRE CHIEF DURING THE PAST YEAR IT WAS DECIDED THAT A RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION WOULD BE FORMED AT THE BANQUET.

AN OFFICER'S ELECTION WAS HELD FROM THE FLOOR THAT NIGHT AND SAM TRUJILLO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, BOB MURPHY WAS ELECTED SECRETARY, RALPH SEDILLO WAS ELECTED TREASURER AND HERMAN BISHOP WAS ELECTED AS HISTORIAN.

WE SPENT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ORGANIZING, GETTING NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND ADDRESSES OF RETIREES. WE ESTABLISHED A MISSION STATEMENT, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND SET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

CURRENTLY WE HAVE OVER 600 RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS LIVING IN NM AND THE ALBUQUERQUE AREA. THIRTY (30) OF OUR RETIREES LIVE IN OTHER STATES.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO:

1. PRESERVE THE RIGHTS, INTERESTS, AND WELFARE OF RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
2. TO PROMOTE SOCIALABILITY AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG FIREFIGHTERS
3. TO KEEP FIREFIGHTERS IN TOUCH WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FAMILY ON A REGULAR BASIS.
4. TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A COHESIVE, CORDIAL AND WARM FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS AND RETIREES WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATE IN:

- WE CONDUCT MONTHLY MEETINGS
- AN ANNUAL PICNIC IS HELD EACH SUMMER
- DURING CHRISTMAS WE HAVE AN ANNUAL DINNER
- A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED. WE JUST COMPLETED OUR 18 TH YEAR OF THE NEWSLETTER.

WE RAISED OVER \$20,000 TO PLACE A BLACK MARBLE PLAQUE WITH GOLD LETTERING HONORING OUR RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS BOTH LIVING AND DECEASED. THERE ARE OVER 400 NAMES ON THE PLAQUE AND IT IS LOCATED AT THE BACK ENTRANCE OF THE FIRE ACADEMY.

IN THE FIRE MUSEUM THERE ARE DISPLAY BOARDS WITH BRASS TAGS HONORING ALL OUR RETIREES. THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THE MARBLE PLAQUE. NAMES ON THE BIG MARBLE PLAQUE ARE SET IN STONE AND WE CAN NOT ADD TO IT, HOWEVER, WITH THE BRASS TAGS DISPLAY BOARDS WE CAN ADD NAMES AS OUR FIREFIGHTERS RETIRE ANNUALLY. WE HAVE ERECTED A MEMORIAL FLAG POLE WHICH DISPLAYS THE

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NAMES OF ALL AFD DECEASED FIREFIGHTERS. THIS FLAG POLE IS LOCATED IN THE FRONT YARD OF COSMOS HAIR SALON, At 2721 SAN MATEO NE. IT IS IN FRONT OF A BUSINESS OWNED BY ONE OF OUR RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS, MORRIS GUTIERREZ.

FIREFIGHTER FUNERALS

THE DEPARTMENT FURNISHES AND MAINTAINS A BLACK FIRE TRUCK WHICH IS USED AT FIREFIGHTER'S FUNERALS. AT THE ROSARY OR FUNERALS OF OUR DECEASED RETIREES WE CONDUCT A FIREFIGHTER'S CEREMONY TO HONOR OUR FALLEN MEMBERS. WE MAKE A PRESENTATION AND READ A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE MEMBER'S FIRE SERVICE. OUR RETIREE HONOR GUARD IS ALWAYS PRESENT IN FULL DRESS UNIFORM.

WE ALSO GIVE A FIREFIGHTER'S EULOGY, AND DURING THE CEREMONY WE INVITE ALL FIREFIGHTER'S PRESENT, BOTH ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED TO COME TO THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH TO HONOR THE DECEASED MEMBER.

AT THE GRAVESIDE SERVICES OUR HONOR GUARD PRESENTS THE COLORS, PLAYS TAPS, AND RINGS THE FIRE BELL IN A SERIES WE CALL, "THE FOUR FIVES," SIGNALING THE DEATH OF A RETIRED FIREFIGHTER. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE THE UNITED STATES FLAG IS PRESENTED TO THE FAMILY.

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE MUSEUM

THE PAST FEW YEARS OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE FIRE CHIEF AND HIS STAFF TO CREATE A FIRE MUSEUM WITH DISPLAYS, TO REFURBISH AND MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT THERE.

IN THE FUTURE WE HOPE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS WHICH WILL HELP OUR DEPARTMENT TO REMEMBER AND PRESERVE OUR INTERESTING AND RICH HISTORY DATING FROM 1882 AS A VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE PROGRESSED FROM HAND DRAWN HOSE CARTS AND LADDER WAGONS, TO HORSE DRAWN EQUIPMENT IN 1900, TO MOTOR DRIVEN APPARATUS IN 1912, TO OUR PRESENT MODERN DAY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION TODAY

OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE BOARD - PRESIDENT, KERRY HORTON, VICE PRESIDENT, MIKE MURPHY, SECRETARY, FRED CASIAS, TREASURER, SAM TRUJILLO, HISTORIAN, HERMAN R. BISHOP

ADVISORY BOARD - EDDIE ABEITA, NOEL BACA, RAY FLORES, PABLO GARCIA JR. VINCE HOLCOMB, BILL RAUPFER, JOSE SALAZ, JOHN SERINO, SANTOS ABEYTA, EUGENE BALDONADO, MIKE FOX, MORRIS GUTIERREZ, JOE MARTINEZ, TOMMY ROMERO, RALPH SEDILLO, FRED TEUPELL, LOUIS C. TRUJILLO

CHAPLINS - DEACON SANTOS ABEYTA, CHAPLIN MARK CHAVEZ , CHAPLIN PAT MCKINNEY.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED

WE INVITE ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS SUCH AS STORIES, PHOTOS OF PEOPLE, APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, OR FIRE STATIONS. WE ALSO WELCOME ITEMS FOR DISPLAY IN THE FIRE MUSEUM SUCH AS BADGES, PATCHES, HATS, UNIFORMS, AND EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF OUR OFFICERS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION. THE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF OUR OFFICERS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTERS.

Minutes, January - The 221st meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on January 9, 2019 at the firefighter's union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the opening prayer was led by Morris Gutierrez. A moment of silence was held in honor of our deceased members. Roll call, President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, and Historian, Herman Bishop. Secretary, Fred Casias was absent due to a family illness. Retiree A.J. Bonnett was recognized as this was his first attendance at our monthly meeting. Members gave A.J. a hearty welcome.

President Kerry Horton gave the President's report. IAFF Union President, Local 244, Diego Arencon is retiring from AFD

To take a staff position in Governor Michelle Grisham Lujan's administration. He will be a labor relations/management consultant. Congratulations were given to Diego by members of the AFD Retiree's Association and he was given a big thanks for his many years of service and working with the retiree's to ensure our success as an organization and to protect the retirement benefits of firefighters both active duty and retired. AFD fire captain Jackie White was appointed to Governor Michelle Lujan's cabinet as well. Our sincere congratulations are given to Jackie.

Kerry reported that Chief Dow is supportive of the retiree's efforts to upgrade and improve the fire museum at the fire academy. Chief Dow has extended a hand of friendship to the retirees and wants to work with us to preserve the history of our department. He also offered to publish our quarterly newsletter. On January 4, 2019 Chief Dow invited Kerry Horton, Herman Bishop, Eddie Abeita, Fred Casias, and Sam Trujillo to give a lecture to the Fire Chief and his staff on the history of AFD. Our history began in 1882 when the volunteer F.D. was formed with hand drawn apparatus. In June, 1900 the first paid department was established and Albuquerque purchased the first fire horses to pull the hose wagons and a hook and ladder truck. The first motorized fire pumpers were purchased in 1912 and 1914 respectfully. In 1919 AFD had two fire stations and 25 firemen.

The Secretary's report for December was given by Herman Bishop who was filling in for Fred Casias. A motion to accept the report was made by Eddie Abeita and was seconded by Joe Martinez. The motion was approved The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. A motion to accept was made by Toby Pino and was seconded by Ralph Sedillo. The motion passed..

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. We were notified that a ground breaking ceremony will be held in March, 2019 for a new Station # 9. It will be located at Menaul and Eubank N.E. across the street from the present Station

9. It will be adjacent to the Mister Car Wash on a vacant lot there now. Captain Greg Aragon is coordinating efforts with Deputy Chief Adam Eakes to build a historical display of AFD photos, Equipment, and other appropriate items from our department's past. Herman Bishop has agreed to assist and to provide photos and items for the new displays. The new station will be a multiple apparatus building and will be designed on the pattern of the present fire station # 5.

Committee Reports – Eddie Abeita reported that our Christmas dinner was a great success and was well attended. It was fun to meet again with old friends and families and to re-tell many of our old war stories which seem to get bigger and more colorful each time they are told.

Bill Raupfer reported that the department staff has worked well with us to keep the funeral truck serviced and up to date. He thanked our retirees who always give a good response to wash the truck, drill, and make our equipment, honor guard, flag presentation and bell ceremonies funeral ready. A big thanks to retiree Joe Martinez who serves on the honor guard and has practiced the presentation with the new electronic trumpet at funerals. If we didn't know better we would think Joe is a professional trumpeter.

Morris Gutierrez reported that a flag ceremony will be held in the near future to honor our recently deceased members (Date to Be Announced.) Family members of the deceased will be invited. Our best wishes goes to our retired members on the sick roster: Greg Armenta, H.H. Chavez, Jeff Elks, Kerry Murphy, and Bernie Martinez. The raffle was won by : Lynn Ruele, Morris Gutierrez, and Joe Martinez.

The closing prayer was given by Morris Gutierrez. The meeting was adjourned @ 8:30 P.M.

Football Sundays Would Bring Out all the Game Foods

The A.J. Bonnett Story

By Eddie Abeita

A.J started his Fire Service career October 2001 and retired 2017. A. J's fire academy instructors were Lieutenant Leon and Lieutenant Andrew Avilucea, who maintained a high level of discipline that would be carried out to the field with each new firefighter.

The 63rd Cadet Class

Aragon, Gregory	Bonnett, Adam J
Chavez, Dion	Deal, Craig
Doughty, Matt	Eakes, Adam
Fernandez, Javier A	Garcia, Arthur M
Garcia, Eddie	Hansen, Jeremiah
Jackson, Brian	Jonas, James
Knight, Eric	Lopez, Joseph
Martinez Michael J	McCoy, Martin M
Nieto, Edward	Pacheco, Brian
Palmer, Michael	Quintana, Christopher
Ruelas, James	Sveum, Glenn
Valenzuela, Manuel	



A. J's. old cadet friend Jim Jones still active duty @ R-6 they still communicate with one another and Matt Doughty now retired is now a pilot they keep in touch on a regular basis. A.J. attended paramedic school in 2004, the instructor was Dave Weaver. Dave was so serious as an instructor it was a challenge to humor him.

A.J 's first field assignment was Engine 2 the station was located on High Street S.E. The station was so small that the engine had only a few inches between the front bumper and the overhead door. If you walked behind the pumper you had to duck your head under the ground ladders the ladders were inches from the wall, AJ said.

AJ said Engine 2 had a large running district so it was odd if we had one call a shift, so station 2 being my first assignment, was good to experience the call volume said AJ.

There were excellent cooks throughout the fire department, I was Captain at station 5 (five), Anthony Martin and Mike Berecult were the cooks and were great. If we were on duty for any holiday, they would challenge themselves to cook or create something special for the crew. We would wonder what creation they would come up with. Football Sundays would bring out all the game foods you see advertised like wings and various other Bar BQ foods, what a treat.



Football Sundays Would Bring Out all the Game Foods

The A.J. Bonnett Story continued.

By Eddie Abeita

At station 4 (four) Chuck Zamora was the main chef and had many food specialties. I later found out that Chuck was also a singer, he even sang the National Anthem at a Fire Cadet Graduation.

As an officer, supervision could be a chore, however even as a captain I did not have problems that would be considered troublesome. It seems that I was lucky to have firefighters who wanted to be at certain stations like five's and elevens. When firefighters want a particular assignment, it seems they want to be part of a good crew and work hard to make things happen. They spent little time complaining and had more time to maintain quarters and also welcomed training.

I hear other firefighters talk about emergency calls they responded to which comes back to them now and then. I guess the calls I responded to have not given me any "flashbacks"!

Now retired I am able to ride my motorcycle that sat in my garage a lot. Also like to snowboard when there is snow available. I have two sons age 10 and age 13 who are deeply involved in swimming. This year they will be competing in state competition. Before, while still active duty firefighting I would miss many of their swim meets and could only watch them perform on videos the day after. Now it's been great to watch them live in competition.

My wife is still working, she has her own business and we both had to adjust to new work schedules again, just like when I was active duty but retirement made it a lot easier. My last 5 years of service, I was a flight medic which was good my wife had no problems in making any type of adjustments. I attended my first Retiree meeting in January, I also did attend the retiree's picnic this past August 2018 where I received my retirement ax. Great to see retirees that I worked with for years. [end]

When is Cinco de Mayo? By Eddie Abeita

Remember when the question was asked "When is Cinco de Mayo"? You were not sure if the person asking was pulling your leg or they were serious with their question?

Well same question "when is the Retiree's Picnic"? Well to take the strain off your mind, mark your mental calendar, wall calendar, cellular phone calendar or whatever to attend the Retirees Picnic this August. This question comes up in the summer months, so remember the picnic normally is the 3rd Saturday of August.

The 2018 picnic was a big success and was held at Bernalillo NM with over 160 people in attendance. The picnic is for retirees and their family. Bottom line want to get crazy? Come to a monthly retirees meeting and ask questions.

Another crazy thought could be "When is the Retiree's Christmas Dinner? Well it's in December on a Thursday evening. The Christmas Dinner is for retirees and family members. One retiree said I bring my in-law(s) to the dinner and that's their Christmas Gift. The 2018 Christmas Dinner had over 100 in attendance, a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!



SPECIAL NOTE: - Paul Graves is a retired AFD District Chief and now lives Victor, Montana where he has resided the past few years. He joined AFD on October 17, 1966 and spent 27 years with the department until His retirement on December 31, 1993. Prior to his retirement he wrote a history of AFD. During his research he interviewed several old timers, both Chiefs and firefighters. Paul submitted this article from an interview he conducted with former firefighter "Babe" Perenti. (Circa, early 1990's)

Taped interview;

Perenti: I was born right here in Albuquerque in 1906. I'm 87 years old. I put in seven years on the fire department all together under Russell, he was a good man. Bradley and Westerfeld, I don't know if you knew them.

Graves: No, I didn't.

Perenti: Russell died and Bradley took over, he was the Assistant Chief. Then Westerfeld was a captain, he kept the trucks running, he was a good mechanic. He worked on them right in the station, he'd overhaul them and everything right there at the station.

Note: I was unable to find any record of Chief Bradley filling the department chief position after Chief Russell's death, although it very well may have been at least for a few months until Chief Westerfeld took over. Bradley's name does appear on personnel lists and old station logs.

Graves: I guess Carl Macaluso took his place repairing trucks after awhile?

Perenti: Yeah, Carl Macaluso.

Graves: Our old payroll records show that on August 15, 1927 you first showed up on the job.

Perenti: Yes, there were two stations then, the Highland Station and the Lowland Station. In 1927 on 2nd and Central there was one of the worst wrecks the fire department ever had.

Graves: That's when Simon Slegiman and Chief Russell got hurt.

Perenti: Simon had just gone to work that evening. This car came and hit the fire truck and the streetcar and Simon went over the truck and landed on top of a Packard, and he crippled his leg and he limped the rest of his life. He died not too long ago.

Graves: I was at his funeral, yes, I knew Simon.

Perenti: That was a good man.

Graves: That was the oldest chief I knew. I wanted to ask you about some of the older chiefs, if you know any of them? Ruppe, did you know him?

Perenti: Oh Ruppe, yeah, the old man was an Army man, a straight man, Very generous with the people. I chummed around with his nephews, Charlie Burgess, I don't know if you knew him. We were together for a long time. Ruppe bought a ranch south in the big arroyo in the Manzanos. Ruppe had a drug store on 2nd Street on the 100 Block of 2nd Street, then he move south down in the Barelas area and it's still in existence,

but I think his nephew's run it now. Old man Ruppe was quite an active man in the city. He was a military man alright.

Graves: Yeah, he fought with Perishing. He was part of the G Company National Guard. I talked with his grandson and he told me quite a bit about Chief Ruppe.

Perenti: Ruppe was pretty well off at that time. He had all the old timers business, he was always filled up.

Bradley was a good fire chief, you knew him didn't you?

Graves: No, I didn't know him. Bradley was not the chief was he? I show him as an Assistant Chief.

Perenti: He was an Assistant Chief under Russell.

Graves: Did you know Chief Hubbs?

Perenti: Not to well. I knew of him that's about all.

Graves: Chief Nash?

Perenti: No, I worked under Russell on the extra board. I decided to go to work at St. Mary's on the athletic department to work with the kids there. I did that until they closed the High School, 43 years. Then I went over to St. Pius for awhile and then I spent one year at Bernalillo.

Graves: Ray Kuhn?

Perenti: Yeah, where is he at?

Graves: He's here in town. He said to ask you if you remember when you were having coffee with Westerfeld in the front office of Station 4 when the truck came back, what happened in the kitchen?

Perenti: Oh, I don't remember those things, that was a long time ago.

Graves: The smoke rolling out of the back of the kitchen?

Perenti: No, I don't remember.

Graves: Chief Kuhn had told me that something like a pot of beans had been left on the stove. Tell me about Chief Russell.

Perenti: He was a good man. Strict, he had his rules, oh yeah. (Mr. Perenti had tears in his eyes now and found it hard to talk) Excuse me for being like this, but I can't think about those without being like this. Maybe that's why they call me "Babe". (I completely understand how Mr. Perenti feels - I feel the same way about so many courageous firefighters I've worked with).

Graves: When the firemen wanted to start a union the city fired all of the firemen. Fred Russell didn't like that and he quit because of that. They put Collister in there for awhile, did know him?

Perenti: I remember him slightly, I think he worked out at the Santa Fe (RR) Fire Department for awhile. They had a truck down there and they used to bring it over to have Westerfeld work on it. You have a lot of new trucks haven't you?

Graves: Yes sir, fancy trucks, big trucks. What kind of trucks did you work with?

Perenti: LaFrance.

Graves: 1927 Models?

Perenti: Do you still have any of those around?

Graves: Yes, one.

Perenti: What happened to the big ladder truck, do you still have it?

Graves: Yes, it's been restored and it's being stored at a station out on the west mesa. I work with a fireman by the name of Paul Garcia and he was one of the men who restored it. The other man was Ralph Sedillo, they did a beautiful job. Retired Chief Al Lujan did the woodwork on it also.

Perenti: I worked for four years on the department and then I did about three and a half years extra. So I only worked nights so I could go to school in the day time. I had a lot of funny experiences with the men there. They were good people. We had some hot one's, there was a barn here that was a lumber yard.

Graves: Breece?

Perenti: Yeah, and it burnt down.

Graves: I have some pictures of that.

Perenti: Then the red barn down on Copper, that burned down, that was a hot one, it was all wood. That really burned, they got the horses out of there. Do you remember Bells Livery Stable?

Graves: No.

Perenti: They were on 2nd Street across from where the Hilton Hotel is at now, they built the hotel after that burnt up. They were all wood, we had some hot one's alright.

I don't know how you do it now, but we went to work at 6 o'clock in the evening and got off at 8 o'clock in the morning and would get off at 6 o'clock in the evening if we worked the day shift. We only had two shifts. I drove the car for the chief. I used to have to go after him at night and take him to the fire, that was my duty for the first three months. Then they put me in as a pipeman and I worked there for about a year, then I started driving. I drove up at the Highland Station, what's that one, number 2? We only had two stations, that one and the one at 2nd and Tijeras, that was the main station. They

had two trucks and a ladder truck, I drove them all.

Graves: What kind of car did you drive for Russell?

Perenti: I was in an accident with Chief Russell at 2nd and Central. May the 7th, 1927.

Graves: Were you driving that day?

Perenti: No, I had picked him up and slid over and he was driving. We had to come back and go over to the Occidental Building on 3rd and Copper, it was a false alarm on a box, kids or something pulled the box. The accident was on 2nd and Central. The Highland Station came downtown for all calls to help with fires.

I went after Russell, he lived on Fruit Street, we were coming down 2nd and came on two streetcars, one on 2nd going south and one on Central going east. They went as far as the YMCA on Central and the railroad tracks. (The YMCA was located on the north side of Central immediately west of the AT&SF overpass) The fire truck hit the streetcar that was going east also. Westerfeld's sister was knocked back, but it didn't hurt her. (I believe Westerfeld's sister was driving the streetcar).

Graves: I understand Russell almost lost his ear.

Perenti: Oh yeah, they found him under the car, his ear was in bad shape. I stayed in the car and the first thing I saw was the front wheels of the Highland truck out in the middle of the street on Central. The car came to rest in front of the Ringling Brothers Pool Hall. So I turned the switches off for the engine, siren, and lights, it was a Packard, the city used to buy the car for Russell.

I got out of the car and I was bleeding from my nose, I guess some glass hit me or something. My sister was there with a couple of other girls and they saw it all so she came and got men and took me to Doctor Conar at the First National Bank, that's where most of the doctors were at that time and he sewed it up me.

Graves: Simon was off the job for a long time.....

Perenti: Oh, he was off a long time. Simon went over the truck and landed on Frank Oriolas car, they owned the pool hall across the street. Simon's knee was crooked after they got through with him. He could never straighten that knee out. There was a man that had just been released from the hospital and something hit him from the accident and they had to send him back to the hospital.

After Westerfeld died Simon became chief. I wasn't on the department then and I didn't go to the station much because I was pretty busy at the school at the time.

I used to go and help them sometimes, I lived on 1st Street. My

Mother and Dad had a little hotel, the Perenti Hotel. The Sterges Hotel was on the corner and then a dry goods store, a grocery store and then our hotel, we just had about 15 rooms. The Alvarado Hotel was across the street.

Jim was honored with the Carl J. Standefer Meritorious Service Award at the 2018 New Mexico Fire and EMS Expo. (Which is The Career Achievement Award)

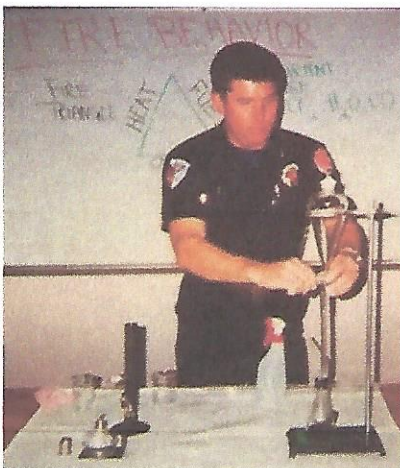


Jim began his fire department service in 1972 as a volunteer for Bernalillo County, Paradise Hills District 7. His grandfather was the Assistant Chief and taught him the big three, cleaning and rolling hose, washing and waxing the two engines and cleaning the bathroom.

He joined the United States Air Force in 1974 as a Fire Protection Specialist and in 1977 as a structural crew chief, was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving a security policeman in cardiac arrest.

Jim returned to New Mexico in 1978 and was hired by the Bernalillo County Fire Department. In March of 1979, he was accepted into the 7th University of New Mexico, EMS Academy Paramedic program. This was the first class to not only complete the 480 hours curriculum but a four week internship. He was assigned to the south valley, Rescue 3.

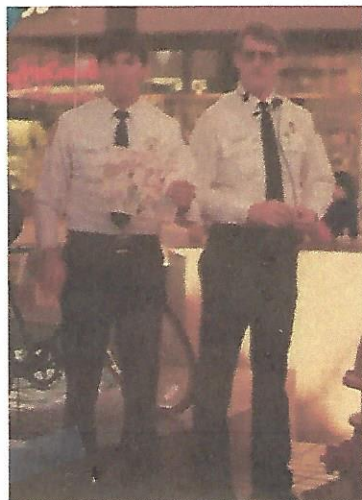
Jim joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in 1984 and spent the next 13 years in EMS, fire suppression and the fire marshal's office as a plans reviewer. His greatest accomplishment was the certificate of occupancy for the now Hyatt Regency hotel complex. He transferred to the fire academy in 1993 as an instructor and cadet program coordinator. Many of his cadets went on to upper level administrative positions within AFD.



In 1997, Jim returned to Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue as the Assistant Chief of operations. With the retirement of Chief Santos Baca in 1998, Jim was elevated to interim fire chief. In 1999, he was promoted to Deputy Chief. He was instrumental in rewriting and updating the departments Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines. He worked extensively on fire department funding with Governor Gary Johnson and his staff. Firefighter safety was his passion.

Jim retired from BCFD in January 2000. He taught for the National Fire Academy in Maryland and was hired by the U.S.

State Department as an instructor for the Antiterrorism Assistance Program. In 2004, he was sent to Athens, Greece prior to the Olympics to assist in Hospital Emergency Management. In 2005, he became a contractor for the military in Weapons of Mass Destruction, Hazmat reconnaissance and search and rescue.



During this time, he was the Training Manager and Task Force Leader for the New Mexico Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. State training was essential across the state, from Las Cruces to Durango Colorado. He also coordinated training with the New Mexico 64th Civil Support Team for hazardous materials.

He has been an instructor with the New Mexico firefighters training academy since 1989 and continues to teach upper level classes. He is currently the training officer for the Elephant Butte Fire Department.

To solidify his career, Jim was honored to receive the Carl J. Standefer Meritorious Service Award at the 2018 New Mexico Fire and EMS Expo.

February Monthly Meeting – On February 13, 2019 the 222nd monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:04 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Chaplain Chris Garcia and a moment of silence was held in memory of our deceased members. After roll call President Kerry Horton recognized our members who have not attended recently. Dax Martinez, Ramon Gallego, Kevin Jarvis, Paul Gonzales, and Chris Garcia. Our guest was Robert Armenta, Greg Armenta's son. Our special guest was Brian Colon, NM State Auditor a friend of the firefighters who thanked everyone who supported him during his campaign for State Auditor. The President's report was given by Kerry Horton and he gave an update on the status of the PERA questions faced by the 2019 NM State Legislature. He gave a progress report on the work we are doing at the AFD Fire Museum. He also thanked Chief Dow and his staff for printing our March 1st quarterly newsletter in color. He read a letter from Jeannie Armenta who thanked members of the AFD Retirees for the honors given at her husband's funeral Al Armenta.

The January Secretary's report was given by Herman Bishop who filled in for Fred Casias who was off sick. A motion to accept was made by Ed. Abeita and was seconded by Tom Romero. The motion was approved. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report and a motion to accept was made by Mike Fox and was seconded by Morris Gutierrez. The motion passed. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report and he thanked Kerry Horton, Eddie Abeita, Paul Graves, and Fred Casias for the articles they submitted for the March 1st newsletter. He also mentioned that March 1st kicks off our annual fund drive for the association. He asked that everyone make a generous contribution. Your donations keep our association alive and active. Also your donations are tax deductible. Morris Gutierrez invited everyone to attend the flag pole tag dedication in honor of our deceased members on Monday, May 20th @ 10:00 AM, 2721 San Mateo NE Cosmos Hair & Nail Concepts. Kerry announced next month we will be nominating officers for two year terms V. President, Treasurer and Historian. Let's nominate people to run for these offices. Wednesday's raffle was won by Robert Armenta, Joe Martinez and Robert Sanchez. The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Chris Garcia. Adjournment @ 9:05 PM.

2019 NM Legislative Session
By Kerry Horton

As you all have heard me say in the past few months, there is a lot of controversy regarding our pension plan, and the plans to fix the solvency issues are muddled at best. Even our PERA Board members cannot agree on the severity of the solvency problem, much less come up with a unified solution. Now that the 2019 Legislative Session has started, it is getting even more convoluted.

The issue at hand is that actuaries done by the PERA board show that our fund will be unable to meet its goal of paying off our unfunded liabilities by 2047. Anytime you hear unfunded liabilities, think COLA. As I understand it, our COLA's have never been funded, the cost has just been absorbed by our fund. With volatile markets, retirements out pacing new hires, and the failure of the 2013 adjustments to meet their goals, the PERA board needs to come up with a solution to guarantee that our fund stays solvent well into our kids' futures.

Those are the facts, now what is the problem and solution. Before we can agree on a solution, we must first agree on what the problem is. Some on our PERA board think the unfunded liability issue is being blown out of proportion, and that we can invest our way out of this mess. Some on the PERA board want to get ahead of the situation and make the necessary corrections now, to prevent major funding issues in the future.

No matter which side prevails, the most important thing is that we do not let our fund end up like some other state pensions which start paying 80% or less, of promised pensions. New Jersey has set aside just 31 percent of what it needs to pay pensions costs, which will lead to pension and benefit cuts. Kentucky, (31 percent) Illinois (36 percent) Connecticut (41 percent) and Hawaii (51 percent). These states got in this position because they did not take the steps necessary early enough, and now their current and future retirees are paying the price.

So, what is the solution? Well that depends on who you talk to. Like I said, some PERA board members want to invest our way out; one group wants to put the burden on retirees and stop COLAs, one group wants to put the burden on current contributors and increase their contributions; and, one group wants to do both. Retired Public Employees of New Mexico, the watch

dog group for all of us retirees, is fighting tooth and nail to prevent our COLAs from being touched any more than the 2013 legislative measures did. The proposal that was presented by our PERA Board, in a 7-5 vote, is now House Bill 338, and sponsored by Representative Tomas Salazar. That bill, though confusing as all get out, wants to affect both COLAs and contributions.

House Bill 338, in a nut shell, will tie contribution increases and COLAs directly to the Pension Funded Ratio, with the multipliers tied directly with the Consumer Price Index, or CPI. The Bill is 56 pages of very confusing formulas that calculate how much each pension group will have their contributions increased, and 7 pages of formulas tying our COLA to Pension Funding Ratios, multipliers, and the CPI, to explain when we will receive a COLA, and how much it will be. No COLA will be greater than 3%, and all COLAs will be suspended until 2023. Public Safety retirees cannot receive COLAs until the age of 60, other municipal retirees must wait until age 65 to receive a COLA. If this Bill is voted into law, these provisions will apply to all PERA members, with no one being "grandfathered."

Senator George Munoz was going to sponsor a Bill that put the burden on contributors and leave the issue of COLAs to the PERA Board, but that Bill was never presented. This may be because a similar bill, House Bill 501, was introduced.

House Bill 501, sponsored by Jim R. Trujillo, Micaela Lara Cadena, and Sheryl Williams Stapleton, is a 10-page bill that sets contribution levels for each fund group at a set rate. The amount of increase is dependent on which municipal group the contributor is in. This Bill does not address COLAs at all, and I assume that the intent is to put this burden on the PERA Board to figure out the best course of action.

By the time that you are reading this, I do not know if any of these bills will survive this legislative session. This is truly a sensitive subject, and I fear that politicians will just kick this can down the road to be addressed another day. I think that this is a shame, as we have all worked hard to earn our pension, and we must work harder to preserve it.

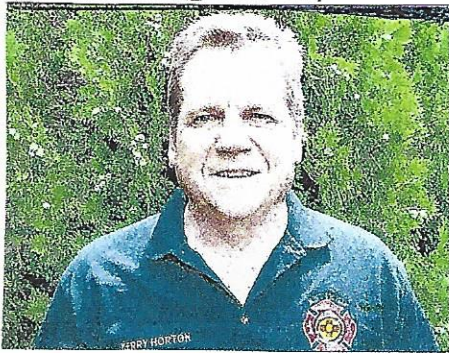
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FLAG POLE TAG DEDICATION CEREMONY

ON MONDAY MAY 20, 2019 A FLAG POLE TAG DEDICATION WILL BE HELD AT COSMOS HAIR & NAIL CONCEPTS, 2721 SAN MATEO N.E. @ 10:00 A.M. TO HONOR OUR AFD RETIREE'S DECEASED MEMBERS. ALL AFD RETIREE'S, THEIR FAMILIES, AND FAMILIES OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. FOR QUESTIONS CALL MORRIS GUTIERREZ @ 881-7833 OR KERRY HORTON @ 934-2969. "PLEASE COME !"

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
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KERRY HORTON

President's Message
By Kerry Horton

Hello everyone, I truly hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. It was great visiting with all of you that made it to our Christmas Dinner. We have some pretty exciting things happening that I want to tell you about concerning this newsletter, and the museum at the AFR Training Academy.

First, as you have noticed, we are now printing in color. The Albuquerque Fire Rescue Administration has graciously offered to print this newsletter for us, and do it in color. Fire Chief Paul Dow and Deputy Chief Adam Eakes acted like it was no big deal, but for us, it is a big deal and we are very appreciative.

Secondly, we are working with AFR administration and remodeling the Fire Rescue Museum, to a certain extent. We are not busting down walls or anything, but we are adding and improving on the exhibits. AFR CIP guys completed another glass enclosed cabinet that now houses a group of early rescue de-fib units, including a radio phone that allowed paramedics to communicate with the hospitals in the early days of AFR's Paramedic program. The Cadet Class photo project has been redone with new frames and now includes every class from 1919 to 1999. This covers everyone that we have records on for the first 100 years of our paid department history.

Pablo has been busy helping with new AFD Retiree Honor Boards, and a new Chiefs Retiree Honor Board. Plus, he has acquired new nozzles for the hand cart and Last Alarm truck. Mike Fox and Joe Martinez have completed the plans for three six-foot glass cabinets that will allow use to show off more of our history in a secure professional manner.

So, the next time that you are on the west side of town, drop in at the training academy and check out the museum. It is there to celebrate your legacy in the Albuquerque Fire Department.

***** ANNUAL AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION FUND RAISER *****

ON MARCH 1, 2019 WE KICKED OFF OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER FOR THE AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION. AS YOU KNOW WE OPERATE TOTALLY ON DONATIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS. YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. SEND DONATIONS TO: AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, C/O SAM TRUJILLO, 5318 LA COLONIA N.W. SAM'S TELEPHONE: 899-1500.