

AFD RETIREE NEWS

March 1, 2021

1-2021

President, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W. Albuquerque	87120 934-2969
Vice President, Mike Murphy	130 Black Hat Ave. SW	87031 264-1153
Secretary, Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, N.M.	87004 269-0370
Treasurer, Mike Fox	3508 32 nd Circle S.E. Rio Rancho, N.M.	87124 385-7292
Historian, Herman R. Bishop	12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. Albuquerque	87111 294-7165
Sam Trujillo (President Emeritus)	5318 La Colonia Dr. NW Albuquerque	87120 899-1500

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Photo By: Dave Windle

Engine 15, Mobile Home Fire, 1974

***** ANNUAL FUND DRIVE *****

AT THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS DONATED \$20 EACH TO THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE. THEY CHALLENGED OUR MEMBERS TO JOIN THE CHALLENGE BY ALSO DONATING \$20.00 EACH. HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

\$\$\$ MAKE CHECKS TO: AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION \$\$\$

C/O Mike Fox 3508 32 nd Circle S.E.
Rio Rancho New Mexico 87124



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



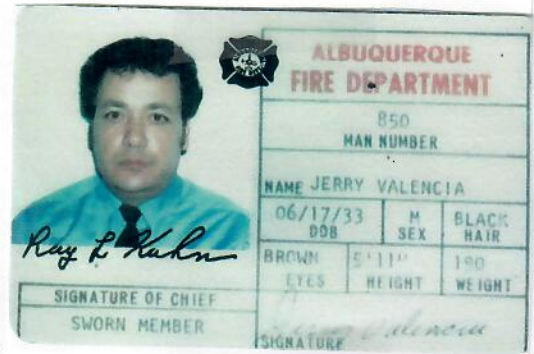
EDITOR, HERMAN R. BISHOP

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Death Jerry Valencia – We are sorry to announce the death of retired firefighter Jerry Valencia, age 87, who passed away on November 11, 2020 after suffering a serious illness. He was a 26 year veteran of the fire department having joined AFD on May 16, 1955. He retired on July 1, 1981. He was promoted to driver during May, 1958. As a driver he spent most of his career at the old station five at Dallas and Chico NE, He was a pleasant personable man and enjoyed working with the new firefighters. In 1955 there were only 11 stations, 225 firefighters, and firefighter pay was only \$250 per month. He worked with Lieutenants Reno Stableton, Robert Gomez, Bob Plale, and firefighters, Pablo Romero, Israel Morales, Paul Adent, Mark Byrne, E.V. Marquez, Leonard Ortega, Paul Mares, Tom Candelaria, Ken Alvis, and Amado Pargas. He had two sons who served with AFD, Paul Valencia and Tim Valencia. He was a member of the AFD Retiree’s Association. Our condolences to the Valencia family.



Death Clark Gray - Regretfully we announce the death of Fire Commander Clark W. Gray, age 66 years who passed away on November 11, 2020, after a long term illness. He was born in Colorado Springs. On January 7, 1985 he joined AFD and after spending 21 years with the department he retired on June 30, 2006. He was a likeable person and was well known by fellow firefighters and supervisors alike. He rose through the ranks quickly and was promoted to driver in September, 1988. He served as a Lieutenant, Captain, and Fire Commander. He served on the rescue, and alarm room. He served as the quality assurance officer with the paramedic program. Clark was a member of the 39 th fire cadet class. He was a member of the AFD Retired Firefighter’s Assoc. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the Gray family.



Clark W. Gray

Minutes December, 2020- The 242 nd monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree’s Association was held electronically on December 9, 2020 due to a ban on public meetings by the Governor. Participants were: President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy ,Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Mike Fox, Historian, Herman Bishop, and President Emeritus, Sam Trujillo. A moment of silence was held in memory of our recently deceased brothers, Clark Gray and Jerry Valencia. Let us keep their families in our thoughts and prayers during the Holiday Season. Fred Casias, Secretary, and Mike Fox Treasurer, submitted the minutes from the November 11, 2020 monthly meeting. The reports were approved by the Executive Board.

President’s Report -The AFDRA Executive Board wishes all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and Happy Hanukkah. We send the monthly meeting via e-mail as we reach over 400 members. Some have suggested we send it by Zoom or live stream. So few members are on Zoom we would only reach 10 members. We plan to resume monthly meetings soon as possible. The AFDRA is still very active, and we are fulfilling our mission statement. The only thing that is not occurring is the camaraderie and closeness that we came accustomed to over the years. When it is safe to do so we will get back to our normal ways. Our brother Gabe Sanchez has been hospitalized with the Covid-19 Virus. It has been difficult for him, please give him your prayers. He cannot have visitors, however he would like to receive get well cards. Louis Trujillo is assisting the Knights of Columbus with the coats for kids drive. Call Louie @ (505) 603-7732 to donate coats or send a check.

Morris Guterrez has published his book, “Firefighter Nicknames Puzzles,” for \$20.00. Herman’s book, “Legends and Lore of the Fire Service Available for \$12. Call Morris @ (505) 881-7833 to get either book or go by Morris’ Shop, “COSMOS HAIR SALON,” @2721 San Mateo NE or call Kerry Horton @ 934-2969.

Historian’s Report by Herman Bishop – In March, 2021 we will began the 21 st year of publishing our quarterly newsletter. Over the years we have received lots of positive feedback. Currently, we are mailing newsletters to over 650 retirees, and a number of our firefighter friends. Over 30 families of our deceased members are on our mailing list. The December newsletter was a few days late due to production problems by our mailing service as they had to reduce their staff due to the Covid-19 virus. The print cartridge supplies were delayed because they were out of stock because the factory had to cease production because of staff shortage due to the Covid-19 Virus. Thanks to our members who have called to say that they enjoyed the December newsletter and “Thanks for the Firefighter’s News.”

This concludes the Officer reports and the December 2020 meeting is adjourned. Stay safe, stay healthy and have a Merry Holiday Season.

LETTER OF THANKS

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NOTE: THIS FICTITIOUS STORY HAS BEEN AROUND THE FIRE SERVICE FOR OVER 45 YEARS OR MORE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF. THE FIRE HOUSE HUMOR AND THE ABILITY TO LAUGH AT OURSELVES MAKES MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE SERVICE A FUN AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.

Dear Fire Chief:

I am taking this opportunity to thank you for putting out the fire in my house although you will note from my current address that I do not live in that house any longer. You fellows certainly don't fool around but I guess that's all part of putting the fire out. I can see now that a fire in the cellar is fairly easy to put out, you just fill it up with water. Too bad my fire wasn't in the cellar. Knowing very little about fires, I was surprised that a fire starting in my ironing board could cause so much damage!

I was quite worried until the fire engines arrived. Then there was a lot of confusion and running around. It's a good thing it was daytime or there might have been more accidents. I hope the man who fell off the fire engine as it came around the corner is all right. Then there was the man with the air tank that fell off and he was dragging it around by that hose and he seemed to be having a lot of trouble.

They really got the hose off the engine fast and pilled it up in the middle of the road and started looking for the ends. One man pulled out one end, put a nozzle on it and ran into the house while another man found the other end and he put a nozzle on it and ran into the other side of the house. These men were shouting for water. I felt so sorry for the man who was left at the engine. He was wringing his hands and didn't seem to know what to do, so he got into the engine and drove it down the street out of sight.

After a while I thought it best to get some of my belongings because the fire was getting worse. I was putting together some of my more valuable possessions when two men with tanks on their backs and masks rescued me, your men were so thoughtful. They were in a very excitable state talking incoherently thru the mask, one pointed to a door; I tried to warn them that it was a closet, but it was too late. They opened the door and dashed in. I was able to get the bigger man out without too much trouble, but the smaller man's tank was caught in the wall. I immediately went to the window to attract attention. I knew there were a lot of men outside running around and yelling. Just then a man with Lieut. on his helmet and another man with Capt. on his helmet who were running around the house at top speed collided head-on. Some other men helped them up and it's a good thing they moved because that's where the big metal ladder landed when it fell over.

In the excitement someone closed the door to the closet where the smaller man was, and it wasn't until an alarm device on his tank started sounding that they remembered him. You people certainly think of everything. Imagine an alarm device carried on you that will sound loudly when you get caught in a closet. They got the poor man out but he almost suffocated when they attempted to revive him with that resuscitator machine. Then everyone started arguing how to use it, fortunately he had enough strength left to keep pushing it away or he might have smothered.

I went upstairs, it was very hot and smoky up there, but when I opened the windows it wasn't bad! Outside some men were struggling with a ladder caught in a tree. Someone had moved it or it fell. A man was stranded on the roof where all the fire was coming out now. Then I heard a lot of noise coming from the stairs, hacking, coughing, and swearing. The language was awful. A man was telling the others, "get up there." Through the smoke I could see a man lying on the top step. He shouted, "hey Lou, there's a lady up there." Then someone yelled back, "give her the line, maybe

she can get a shot at it." Because of the difficulty I had with that hose line I would suggest that you have your bigger men hold these hoses and the smaller men run around with tools.

If you will remember, after the fire was out there was a rash of accidents. A man with a white hat came upstairs and berated the man with Lieut. on his hat for not throwing the debris out the window. A short time later there was a shout to stop. The man with the white hat got hit by a sofa. The officer's driver was injured and almost drowned when he fell into a hole into the cellar. A chair had been placed over the hole but the Chief told the fellow to remove it, because someone might trip over it.

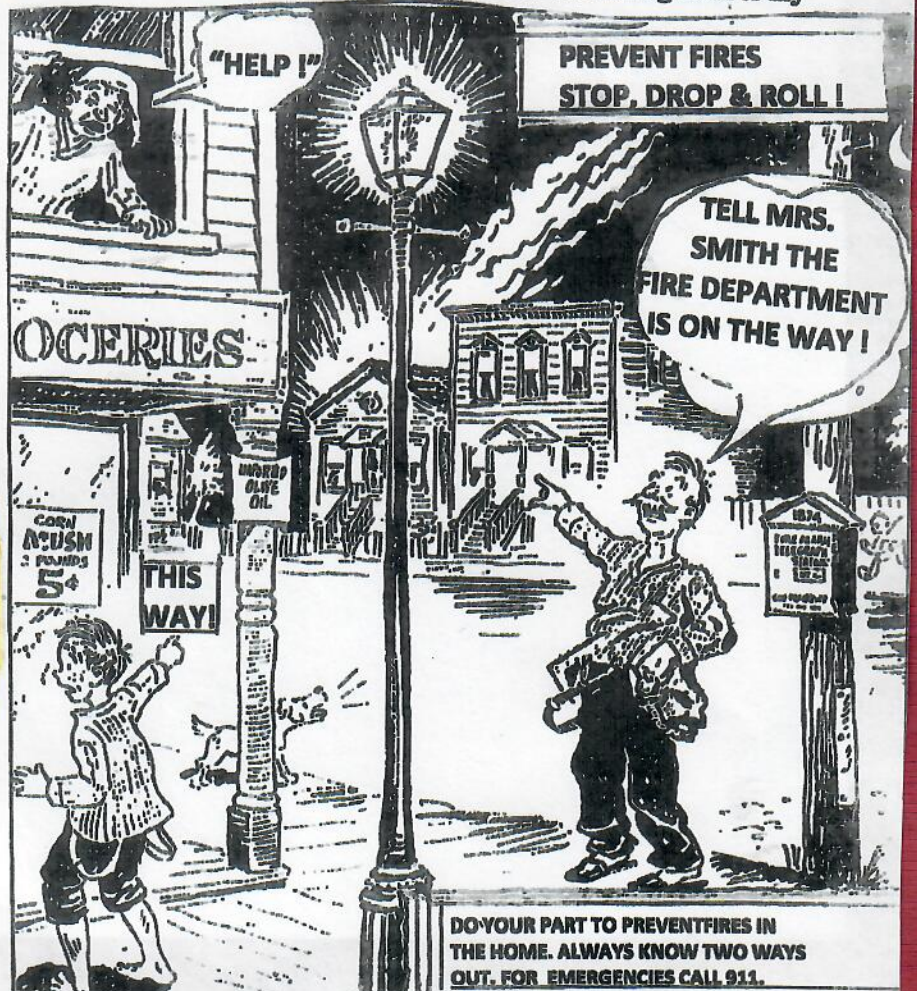
A Lieut. was making a close examination of a wall when someone struck it from the opposite side with a heavy tool. The Lieut. seemed alright but his helmet was wedged on his head. They couldn't get it off. Afterwards he also appeared somewhat shorter.

The man with the white hat told me how lucky I was and pointed out to my neighbors and myself the importance of immediately calling the fire department in case of fire. Most big fires are the result of delayed alarms. Imagine what would have happened if I had waited.

In closing I would like to say we haven't had as much commotion and excitement around here since a little boy called in a false alarm. At that call the big ladder truck rolled down the hill and ran into the car with the siren and bell on the front. Thank you for your efforts and I will try not to leave the iron on the ironing board again. I sure would hate to see you and the firemen coming back to my house again.

Gratefully Yours,

Mrs. J.F. Smith,
203 Main Street North



THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

By Eddie Abeita

Please No Spare Equipment

NOTE; The two following stories refer to station 17, this was a new venue with all district status boards being located there. The boards had all apparatus listed with their assigned personnel.

Back in the early "90's" Deputy Chief Robert Otero contacted me and said, Eddie we need you to act as our liaison with the secret service. I said OK what's going on in a joking manner? Deputy Chief Otero said no this is on the up and up. We need you to attend a planning meeting in preparation for a visit by the president of the United States, I said all right, great.

Deputy Otero said, the president was going to address a national convention being held in Albuquerque and the mayor's office directed certain city departments to attend and provide fully, the cities assistance.

The meeting was conducted by the Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation who already had details in place. The overall plan seemed to be a boilerplate plan but the intricate details were not discussed openly. The main focus was for city departments to provide resources as requested by government agents.

I understood the main source of information by the secret service came from a previous scouting team that had been in the city a week before. Included were reports of the whereabouts of certain individuals that may have questionable motives against any government entity.

There was coordination between local and surrounding law enforcement entities that would provide traffic and crowd control. Albuquerque Police had more involvement with the actual protection of the president including sharpshooters. The rule was not to sight in their firearms until just hours before the morning of the president's arrival, to ensure the firearms scopes would not be compromised by being bounced around in the back of their vehicles.

City Traffic and Road Departments were also directed on where certain intersections needed barricades and certain traffic lights needed in caution light mode. The actual motorcade route was drawn on a dry erasable board and erased after discussion. Also needed were more secured barriers around certain areas of Civic Plaza where the president would make his speech.

Kirtland Air Force Base Military Police were providing security to Air Force One, Kirtland Air Force Fire also provided fire and safety protection to Air Force One. Albuquerque Aviation Police were to provide security in and around the Sunport.

When it came down to Albuquerque Fire the agent orchestrating the planning meeting told me, we need a frontline Paramedic Unit in the motorcade. Your paramedic units carry everything that is required, *please no spare equipment!*

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT cont.

By Eddie Abeita

The agent said, the president's surgeon always travels with him and will be in the motorcade. Your paramedic unit will be placed in position # 7 in the motorcade.

If a situation occurs the paramedics will provide their gurney and immediately transport to UNM's emergency room. UNM will be on standby from the time Airforce One lands until it is up in the air again. If the surgeon needs anything, he will ask for it, all treatment will be provided by the president's surgeon. The agent said, APD will provide escort directly north to Lomas and east to UNM hospital, secret service will be in total control. Fire and police who will be in the motorcade need to be in the staging area 60 minutes prior to arrival and cannot be available for any other emergency calls.

In the event of inclement weather, the speech will be moved into the convention center across from Civic Plaza. We need Albuquerque Fire and Police to conduct two building inspection sweeps at the convention center. One, the day before the president's arrival in which the building will then be secured and the second sweep, the morning prior to Air Force One arrival and the building will still be kept secured.

The next step was to brief Deputy Chief Otero on what Fire's role was. Deputy Chief Otero said the Fire Chief said for you (Eddie), to make all necessary departmental arraignments as needed. Keep us with continuous updates, any questions or concerns contact us immediately.

Next thing was to contact the Fire Marshalls Office (FMO) to request inspections per request. The FMO Commander said sure Lieutenant Cornillo Padilla will be the person to take the lead, I told him use as many inspectors that it takes if needed call in Plans Checking and Arson.

Cornie took his team of inspectors for the first of two inspections and met with APD and secret service where the agent provided inspection directions. Cornie contacted me after the first inspection and said it was a professional inspection by all in which upon completion the secret service agent gave an all clear and secure. Cornie said after this event is over, I am going back and issue some correction notices, they are minor things, but need to be addressed.

Getting the paramedic crew ready was next, they were going to be out of service at the start of shift until Air Force One was back in the air. AFD Chief Mechanic provided information on the rescue fleet's condition. Next, with help with the captain's at station seventeen (Danny, Fred & Dave) a selection was made on which unit would be the best choice. The captain's kept me informed on the personnel assigned. This had to do with security of who would be in the motorcade. Rescue 16 selected with the crew of Lieutenant Romero and Driver Lynn Reule.

The president's visit went off without any problems. Some interesting things were learned.

Being this event liaison was easy *because; the resources I had within our Albuquerque Fire Department, from top to bottom was, all our personnel knew their job and carried things out in a professional manner!*

A BLOCK PARTY

By Eddie Abeita

I had a call from Deputy Chief Otero who said Eddie I have a wonderful assignment for you. Oh yeah, I said what is this wonderful assignment? The mayor's office called the chief and said a city councilor requested fire to attend a neighborhood association block party.

So, you coordinate and select the companies and let me know who they are and I will contact their field chief. This will be next Saturday from 11:00AM to 3:00PM, but they don't have to stay the entire time if they want an hour would work, it's up to them.

It seemed easy up front but with short notification the battalion that would attend just went on their days off. With the deputy chief providing the location for the event units were easily identified. A few things to consider such as any previous scheduled training or other activities where the station may have a previous scheduled commitment.

The captain at station 17 said we can help in verifying with a battalion chief the availability of that station on Saturday. The captain also said we will contact the officers who are on their day off, to give them a heads up about the block party when they return to duty. The captain said we have their home phone numbers, one less step for you, Eddie. Later Captain Fred Casias called me and said hey Eddie, need to get your feathers spinning, you will like this. One of the officers who was assigned to the block party wanted to know if another unit could attend in their place? I asked him why? The officer said because they scrub their floors on Saturday and it would put them behind schedule. Fred said hey do the floors before you go, or on Sunday.

Fred said I know they have a big brunch on Sundays, so I think it's something else is going on that weekend. Fred said I told him I needed to get an OK from you but you would need it in writing. Fred said, it was getting funny ever minute listing to this conversation, right in the middle of the call he dropped his request real fast, I started laughing it was an easy bluff.

On Sunday I received a call from one of the officers who attended the block party. He said Eddie thank you for selecting our station to attend. Everything was great, the neighborhood gave us a warm welcome and provided a lot of good food and drink.

They encouraged us to take some food back to the station and offered support to any program we may be associated with. The mayor and city councilor(s) were in attendance and thanked us for being there. Eddie next time a block party happens send us we don't care where it's at. I asked, if the personnel liked the block party? Oh yeah, we did not know what to expect but it was all enjoyable. By the way the officer said, I heard that one Lieutenant was trying to get out of going, right now the troops are dogging him so he's back to earth and said he had felt we were busy enough and thought we were being picked on, but he is cool, thanks again.

The following week Fred called to tell me an administration chief would take over scheduling of all events where AFD was involved. I said good for them they need to keep track of all the request from city hall. Fred said I think they want to get some of that publicity we got!

Lysol Experiences

by Eddie Abeita

LYSOL kills 99.99% of viruses & bacteria so printed on the can, I take a small can of Lysol when we travel to spray down certain things in our hotel room. An undercover story was conducted by 60 Minutes many years ago about cleanliness in hotel rooms. One thing that really struck me was, TV remote controls being dirty. If you think about it, people wake up from a good nights rest, reach for the remote and turn on the TV. But before that, may have touched or scratched their body parts. The first time I disinfected our hotel remote control, the remote did not work because, I saturated it with spray, all you need is to spray the surface once, I learned.

At a national fire conference years ago (90's) a presentation was made by a fire department about sanitizing their fire apparatus. The speaker said we have tried so many disinfectant sprays over the years we found LYSOL has worked the best in sanitizing our rescues and other equipment. At a kill rate of 99%, it's easy to order and readily available the fire officer said.

With COVID virus around Lysol became invisible on the store shelves. So, you learn if you see one grab it. Once at Walmart, a stock person was putting the last 3 cans of Lysol on the shelf. A lady yelled I will take them all, the stock person said there is a limit one per person and handed me one and one to the lady. The lady grabbed the 3rd can and gave it to her son about 5 years old who did not understand what was going on. She told the little boy be quite and hold it, here is money to pay for it. The little boy smiled and started walking toward the checkout by himself.

It seems funny but it turned into an obsession to find more Lysol. The next step finds a supplier, so internet here we come, click on to AMAZON, yep, the key to all your needs. Typed in Lysol, click on the Lysol page **wow** one whole page of Lysol pictures and combination packages, just pick one supplier from the group. How exciting, one particular supplier had a group of 3 pictured for \$19.97 cool, click and ship. With card on file, it's so easy with a smart mouse at my fingertips just click and delivery in about 2 weeks, all done. Well now the confirmation from the shipper with a final charge for the Lysol about \$60.00, hey I thought it was \$19.97 total? Recheck the page yep picture of 3 cans @ \$19.97 each. I wonder if this was price gouging?

In the meantime, might run out so need to keep eyes and ears open for Lysol. My brother said let's go to Lowe's they have it. A trip to Lowes found a big table with a display of smaller Lysol cans. There was also a sign, 1 per customer so I grabbed one and my brother said get two they will let you have both, so I grabbed two. At the register the young lady said sir, only one per customer, OK I said and gave one back, I felt a little embarrassed. My brother checked out at a different register and did purchase two cans of Lysol. I asked how he bought two? He said, I told the lady I needed two and would have to take one to the car and turn around and walk back into the store again to purchase the 2nd one. With a bad knee I said it's hard for me to walk far, so she let me purchase two, *[old Indian trick]*, so here you can have my 2nd can he said.

One thing I keep forgetting is hardware stores like Home Depot and Lowes carry different types of cleaning items, also toilet paper and paper towels, not just toilet bowls, nuts and screws.

Death Ronald K. Knicks - We regret to announce the death of retired firefighter Lieutenant Ronald K. Nicks, age 62, who passed away on December 18, 2020. He joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on September 14, 1987 and was a member of the 44 th fire cadet class. He served on the rescue squads and was promoted to driver in March 1993. He successfully climbed the fire department promotional ladder and was promoted to Lieutenant in February, 1996. Ron was a model firefighter and was well liked and respected by his fellow firefighters. He retired on November 1, 2007 after serving over 20 years faithful and dedicated service to his community and to the department. He was a member of the AFD Retiree's Association. Our sincere condolences and sympathies are extended to The entire Nicks family.



Ronald K. Nicks

Death Edward Garcia - It is with sorrow that we report the death of Edward Garcia Age 63, who passed away on December 21, 2020 after loosing his battle with Covid 19. He joined AFD on August 21, 1978 as assistant mechanic to Marvin Wafer Sr. the head mechanic. He was an expert on fire apparatus and pump maintenance and could repair any apparatus breakdown. He was a very reliable and competent employee. He was of an easy going and pleasant nature and was friends to all the firefighters. On March 29, 1986 he was promoted to head mechanic and served 25 years with AFD prior to his retirement in December, 2003. He was a member of the AFD Retiree's Association. Our most sincere condolences are extended to the Garcia family. Our Thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Ed will be greatly missed.



EDWARD GARCIA

Minutes, January Meeting - On January 13, 2021 the 245 th meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was conducted electronically due to the restrictions on public meetings. Participants were: K. Horton, President, M. Murphy, V.P. Fred Casias, Secretary, M. Fox, Treasurer, H. Bishop, Historian, and S. Trujillo, President Emeritus. F. Casias and M. Fox, Submitted the minutes from the December meeting. The reports were approved. A moment of silence was held in memory of our brothers we lost in December, Ron Knicks, Ed Garcia, and Gabe Sanchez. We will keep their families in our thoughts and prayers.

President's Report - With the holidays and the cold weather, there has not been much AFDR business conducted over the last month, with the exception of a historical photo project for new station nine. Herman and myself have gathered some historical photos of Engine 9 that the department is allowing us to decorate the conference room there. Department liason Sean Baxman said this project is growing to include putting together photos for other stations as well. If you have not stopped by the new station 9 you should make a point to do so. It is located on the south side of Menaul Blvd. directly across the street from the old station.

Brother Paul Gonzales has been diagnosed with stage 4 squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue. This will require surgery, tentatively on January 27th and cancer treatments will follow. The Gonzales family asks for your thoughts and prayers, but asked not to be contacted at this time. This is the Paul Gonzales who retired from the alarm room in 2011.

Historian's Report By Herman R. Bishop- During the year 2020 we lost 17 of our retired brothers. Most died of cancer, heart attack, natural causes, and three died from the Covid- 19 Virus. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. We are looking forward to the new year 2021 and hope the complications from the Covid-19 virus will ease up. We are working on the March, 2021 newsletters and already have some interesting articles lined up for the entire new year. Please contact Herman if you would like to submit an article.

This concludes the January 13, 2021 monthly meeting. We are adjourned.

THE STORY OF A BURN VICTIM

(By Herman R. Bishop)

November 27, 2020

It was in January, 1944 that Herman Bishop, age 5, almost died in a home accident. There was an explosion in the family's coal burning cookstove resulting in fire, hot ashes and scalding steam being blown on to Herman's entire body. Raised in a small coal mining town in the mountains of West Virginia the houses were heated with coal burning stoves and the kitchen cook stoves were coal fired as well. Hot water for the household was provided by heat from the cookstove. The cookstove and the hot water heater were about 15 feet apart. There was a hot water cylinder surrounding the stove fire box and the pipes connecting to the hot water heater ran under the floor. During the winter nights the fire would go out in the cook stove and the pipes under the floor would freeze during zero degrees temperature. When a fire was built the next morning in the cookstove it would heat the water creating high steam pressure. When the heated water hit the frozen ice in the pipes it could not circulate and steam pressure would build up causing the water cylinder to rupture, therefore a steam explosion occurred in the cookstove. Unfortunately Herman who was wearing long john underwear was sitting in front of the stove when the explosion occurred, blowing the door to the firebox open and spewing fire, red hot ashes, and scalding steam and hot water hit Herman head-on. The heavy underwear acted like a scalding towel, burning Herman severely. He suffered second and third degree burns over 90 % of his body.

His father was a coal miner and the mining company promoted safety heavily. Fortunately Mr. Bishop had just recently completed the miner's advanced first aid course. He knew how to treat severe burns. Using scissors he immediately cut the hot underwear off his son and took him to the bedroom and wrapped him in sheets and a heavy blanket to keep the cold air from his body. The town's family doctor lived about one mile away. Herman was rushed to the doctor's house. The doctor immediately called the town ambulance and administered a hyperdermic shot to ease the pain. Seventy five years later Herman remembers the pain was awful, almost unbearable, and still he has vivid memories of the burned skin falling of his shoulders and arms on the way to the hospital.

Upon arrival at the hospital emergency room some eleven miles away the emergency room personnel went into action. It was necessary to remove all the dead skin from his entire body. Herman said it was so painful, it was akin to skinning you alive. The treatment was to apply an ultra-violent medicine over the entire body. When the application was complete Herman said "I looked like the purple people eater." He was then taken to a room and placed under a heat lamp 24 hours a day, entirely naked. "It was so embarrassing to have visitors." Herman said. Here I was a 5 year old boy, laying entirely naked and everyone came to see me. After three weeks the healing process was going good and my recovery looked promising. However, there was another medical experience that was necessary. The nurses had to remove all the dead skin that had resulted in the healing process. It was so painful and again it was like skinning you alive. A few days after this treatment, I was well enough to be released and go home. During three weeks of incapacitation and no physical activity all my muscle coordination, activity, and muscle functions had deteriorated. I could not walk and I spent the next few weeks re-gaining my muscle strength and motor activity, learning to walk again, and getting back to normal. Fortunately I was a healthy, strong, and physically active young man prior to the accident. My full recovery took almost a year to get back to good health. I was severely scarred particularly on my right shoulder, arm, and right leg. The heavy scars are still quite visible even today. Physically I was able to perform most normal activities. I could run with the best, play sports, football, basketball, baseball, and swim. Although I was strong I was not physically well coordinated and never excelled in sports. Both my brothers were excellent football and basket ball players in high school. Although I participated in sports, I was never able to make the first teams.

Overall during my life I seem to overcome the ill effects of a serious accident and have been blessed with good health all my life. I spent three years in the United States Army and met all the physical requirements of boot camp and Army life. After the Army I joined the fire department and met all the physical requirements of a firefighter. After spending 32 years in the fire service I retired. Other than the painful memories of a serious burn victim I feel fortunate to have had a good life, a wonderful wife and a fine loving family.

The Nick Name List -Non Active
Retired & Deceased

Name	Nick Name	Name	Nick Name
1 Edward Abeita	Indio	39 Keith Benavidez	Richard Simmons
2 Santos Abeyta	Deaconator	40 Carmel Benavidez	Bones & Notches
3 Landjur Abukusumo	Chico	41 James Benavidez	Larry Barker
4 Manuel Aguilar	El Negro	42 David Benjamin	Benji Groovy
5 David Alarid	Buffalo	43 Bruno Bernasconi	Trex/Ant Eater
6 Charles Alderete	Canvas Back	44 Johnnie Berry	Buffalo Head
7 Todd Alderman	Tard	45 Clifford Bessom	Alfalfa
8 Theodore Allred	Smurf	46 Todd Bethke	Toddster
9 Royce Allyn	Red	47 Herman Bishop	Wedo
10 Kenneth Alvis	The Painter	48 John Blake	Blank Blake
11 Javier Arampan	Shrek	49 Gabriel Blea	Ginger Bread Man
12 Julian Apodaca	Hookie #1	50 Marc Boisvert	Frenchie
13 Eric Aragon	Yosemite Sam	51 Michael Bricault	Brick
14 Frusino Aragon	Chucky	52 Eddie Brito	Prim
15 Joe Aragon	Naked City	53 Edward Brito	Smokey the Bear
16 Phillip Aragon	Freaky	54 A.R. Buckner	Conejo
17 Ross Aranda	Classy Rossi	55 Bill Busick	Hank Snow
18 Melisendro Archuleta	Mel	56 Henry Bustamante	Micky Mouse
19 Carlos Arguelles	No Neck	57 Jeff Butler	Horse Whisperer
20 Gregory Armenta	Caballo	58 Kenneth Bur	Burrrrman
21 Ernest Armijo	Little Ernie	59 Ronnie Bustos	Chicken Hawk
22 Orlando Armijo	Hookie #2	60 Jimmy Byrd	Dr Byrd
23 Tony Armijo	Orca	61 Marcus Byrne	Tiroteo
24 Tony Armijo	Calawatcha	62 Dereck Cde Baca	D. Wreck
25 William Armijo	Rainbow	63 Ezequiel Candelaria	Candy
26 Bernie Baca	Bernie "B"	64 Jimmie Candelaria	Prince Valiant
27 James Baca	Chewy Baca	65 Joe Candelaria	Little Joe
28 Noel Baca	Penguin	66 Phillip A. Candelaria	Neopolitan Man
29 Simon Baca	Sammy Davis	67 Phillip M Candelaria	Cable Guy
30 Eugene Baldonado	Baldy	68 Ray Candelaria	Tattoo
31 Jerry Barboa	Barrbie Doll	69 Thomas Candelaria	Colchon
32 Leroy Barboa	Michellen man	70 Pat Cano	Bald Eagle/ Cano
33 Pete Barela	Chichara	71 Raymond Carrillo	Stinky
34 Richard Barela	Rat Boy	72 Gregory Casaus	Zozobra
35 John Barnum	P.T. Barnum & Circus	73 Paul Casaus	Feringe
36 Joe Barrerras	Corn Flakes	74 Fred Casias	Uncle Fester/Mertz
37 Donne Beck	No Butt	75 Epifanio Castillo	Epi
38 Ron Beckman	Opie	76 Joe Castillo	Chinaman

**Retired Firefighter Morris Guterrez has published a book,
"AFD Firefighter Nicknames, Puzzles and Recipes"**

This Book is for Sale, \$20.00. Contact Morris @ 881-78-33, 281-4877 for a Copy

Fireman's Ball Committee, March 17, 1931

Art Westerfeld	Pat Kane,
Cesario Selva	Reno Stebleton
Joe Torres	William Prokosch
Jack Nabastedt	Tom Morgan
Lawrence Walsh	Ed Lucero
Harry Savage	Harry Fletchall
Leo Evett	Ed Snapp,
William Morrow	Milt Grande
Lou Fredricks	Lewis Edwards
William Dobell	Pete Guterrez
William M. Bueche	Joe Silva
Henry Baca	Ed Horne
Fred Brown	Roscoe Votaw
Carpio Martinez	Simon Seligman
Pete Granucci	Elmer Crist

30 F.F. On Committee

March 17, 1931

COMMITTEES FOR FIREMEN'S BALL ARE ANNOUNCED

Committees for the annual firemen's ball, March 17, were announced Thursday by Chief W. A. Westerfeld. They are:

Armory—Pat Kane, chairman; Cesario Selva, Reno Stebleton, Joe Torres and William Prokosch; music—Jack Nabastedt, chairman; Tom Morgan, Lawrence Walsh and Ed Lucero; refreshments—Harry Savage, chairman; Harry Fletchall, Leo Evett, Ed Snapp and William Morrow; check-room—Milt Grande, chairman; Lou Fredericks, Lewis Edwards, William DoBell, and Pete Gutierrez; lighting—William Bueche, chairman; Joe Silva, Henry Baca, Ed Horne, Fred Brown and Roscoe Votaw; advertising—Carpio Martinez, chairman; Simon Seligman, Pete Granucci and Elmer Crist.



Fifth Fireman's Ball Committee, March 17th

Art Westerfeld	Pat Kane
Cesario Selva	Fred Brown
Ed Snapp	Tommy Morgan
Ed Horne	Lawrence Walsh
J. Leo Evett	Simon Seligman
Joe Bowdich Jr.	Roscoe Votaw
Pete Guterrez	John Dangelzer
Milton Grande	Reno Stableton
John Dinelli	Ed Lucero
Lewis H. Edwards	William M. Bueche
Joe Silva	Carpio Martinez
William Dobell	Pete Granucci
Harry Savage	Henry Baca
Harry Fletchall	Elmer Crist

George Tafoya
29 F.F. On Committee

March 17, 1934

Name Committees For Firemen Ball St. Patrick's Day

Fire Chief Art Westerfeld Wednesday announced committees for the fifth annual ball at the armory March 17.

To date the firemen have sold more than 500 tickets and hope to sell 1,000.

Committees are: Armory, Pat Kane, chairman; C. Selva, Fred Brown, E. D. Snapp; music, Tommy Morgan, chairman; Ed Horne, Lawrence Walsh, J. L. Evett; refreshments, Simon Seligman; Joe Bowdich, Jr.; Roscoe Votaw, Pete Gutierrez, John Dangelzer; check room, Milton Grande, chairman; Reno Stebleton, John Dinelli, Ed Lucero and L. H. Edwards; lighting, W. M. Bueche, chairman; Joe Silva, Carpio Martinez, William Dobell, Pete Granucci; advertisement, Harry Savage, chairman; Henry Baca, Harry Fletchall, Elmer Crist, George Tafoya.

FIREMAN'S BALL

In 1931 Fire Chief Westerfeld Announced the Names of the Committee Chairs for the Annual Firemen's Ball Held on St. Patrick's Day There were only two Stations, And a total of 30 Firemen.

- # 1 - Lowland Station, 2nd St. & Tijeras SW
- # 2 - Highland Station, 301 High Street SE

Julia Greeley

By Former AFD Paramedic LT.. Frank Maestas

Servant of GOD to Denver Firefighters

Last year I wrote an article for the newsletter on Julie Greely. This is a recap and update on her. Julie Greely was born in Hannibal Missouri between 1833 and 1848. She never knew her parents or ages of her partents. She was born into salvery and as a little girl, she watched her mother being beat with a whip by a cruel slave master. In the process of the beating of her mother, she was hit in her right eye which destroyed her eye.

She was made a free woman during the civil war by the legislature under President Lincoln. As she grew into a young girl. She went to work as a cook and a nanny to wealthy parents. One such family was William Gilpin in Missouri. During this time, President Lincoln appointed Mr Gilpim as the first territorial Governor of Colorado. When he and his family moved to Colorado in 1880, She went with then. Mrs Gilipin .had Julie Baptized and became a Catholic in 1900.

She worked for the Gilipin's as a cook and nanny. She earned between \$8 and \$10 a week .When not at work, she lived in a boarding house. She also worked as a missionary in Nerw Nexico, And Woming. She often beg for food and clothing from the people in Denver.

At night she would pull her little red wagon through the alleys of Denver to deliver food and clothes, sometimes bought with money left over from her meager earnings, to the poor of Denver. She would do this so as to not embarrass the poor people.

Every month she would walk to visit every fire house In Denver to take food and Cartholic literature to the firefighters. She treated the firefighter the same regardless if they were Catholics or not. They all loved her and always looked foreword to her visits.. The poor and the firefighters soon learned of her work and began calling her their Angel of Charity.

One time, she learned that a poor Black man had passed away and was going to be buried in a paupers cemetery. She would have none of that and offered her own burial plot, to his family, in a regular cemetery.

Julie Greely died in 1918 and having no money, was buried in a paupers cemetery her funeral, so many people filed by her casket that the church was left open for over a day at Most Sacred of Jesue Catholi Church. In 1901 , she joined the Seculas Franciscans.

In January of 2014 , the Catholic Archdiocese of Denver opened an investigation into her work as a worker for the poor and love for the firefighters. Her body was exhumed and moved to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver on June of 2017. It was at this time that Doctors examined her bone and found that almost every bone in her hand and feet had arthritis. They all wondered how she had even been able to walk a short distance, much less all she walked in the service of God. She lies near the altar of the Church. .Even to this day, many people go to pray and ask for intercession from Julie Greely. It is said that no Bishop or Priest has been buried in the Cathedral, but a poor former Black slave woman has!

Her petition for Sainthood has been hand delivered to the Vatican in Rome.

When she becomes a Saint, Denver firefighters will have their own saint . Julie Greely, Servant of GOD.

In Denver there is a Julie Greely House that is open for women who are homeless and or battered where they can go. for help and be fed!

Summary – Julia Greeley was born a slave in 1838. She became a free woman During the Civil War. During 1880 she moved to Denver, Colorado. She Ministered to the poor and the Denver, firefighters. Monthly she visited Every Denver firehouse and delivered food to the firefighters. She was a Strong advocate for the poor by providing food and clothing on a daily basis. She was known as the "Angel of Charity," and the "Model of Mercy."

Information Source,, Julie Greeley Guild, Denver. Personal Notes



Servant of God
Julia Greeley
c.1840 - 1918
Former Slave
Third Order Franciscan



Julia Greeley, "Angel Of Charity (1838-1918)

Gabriel "Gabe," Sanchez Death – It is with great sadness that we report the death of our fellow retiree, firefighter "Gabe" Sanchez, age 59, who passed away on December 23, 2020 after losing his battle with Covid 19. He joined AFD during March, 1989 and was a member of the 47 th fire cadet class. He was a Driver and he loved his job as a firefighter. He was a congenial and good natured person and was well Liked and respected by his fellow firefighters. "Gabe" was an active and valuable member of the AFD Retiree's Association for the past nine years. He was a member of the prestigious "Honor Guard," of The Retiree's Association. He served on this post with dignity and distinction as he represented his Fellow firefighters at parades, flag ceremonies, fire station openings, new apparatus celebrations , Funerals, and other fire department ceremonies and celebrations. We have lost a "Big Man." "Gabe" Will be sorely missed. We extend our most sincere condolences and sympathies to the entire Gabriel Sanchez family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.



Gabriel "Gabe" Sanchez

Ruben Collado Death - We were sorry to learn of the death of our fellow firefighter and retiree Ruben Collado, age 60, who passed away on January 23, 2021 after a battle with cancer. Ruben was Born in St. Albans, New York. He joined AFD on July 1983 and was a member of the 36 th fire cadet Class. He retired on December 31, 2006 after serving 23 years of faithful and dedicated service to the department. His Brother Richard Collado is a firefighter with AFR. He was promoted to driver in 1985, promoted to Lieutenant in 1988 and promoted to Captain in 1995. Memorial services were held at Sage Brush Community Church, 6440 Coors NW, February 2 nd. Kerry Horton read the firefighter's resolution of condolence and Tommy Romero gave The Eulogy. AFDRA Honor Guard "Stood Vigil," at the church and they "Struck The Four-Fives," with the ceremonial fire bell. The AFDRA members extend our most sincere condolences to the Collado family.



Ruben Collado

Minutes February Meeting – The 246 th monthly meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton. Due to restrictions on mass gatherings, only the executive board members attended, Kerry Horton, Fred Casias, Mike Fox, Herman Bishop, Sam Trujillo, Mike Fox and Morris Guterrez, Advisory Board member. A moment of silence was held for Ruben Collado, and other deceased members.

The N.M. State Legislature convened in January with Covid restrictions in place. Three bills were introduced which is of concern to firefighters. (See President's report P-16, Legislative Summary). President Kerry Horton will keep an eye on the progress of these bills and keep you informed how there fare.

Fred Casias, Secretary, presented the January minutes and Mike Fox, Treasurer, presented the January report. He reported the purchase of an honor guard uniform. We need more uniform donations due to new members on the guard. Mike said, " The accounting books for the AFD Retiree's Association are solid. Anyone wishing to have a detailed accounting, please call me @ 385-7292. We are working hard to stretch this money as far as possible, with our museum projects and on going expenses for honor guard uniforms etc." Both the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved by the board.

President's Report – Several members have requested we use ZOOM, or conference calls for our monthly meetings as all members can't attend due to covid restrictions. In my opinion too few members use ZOOM or I-Pads. Please call and give me your thoughts. March is our annual fund raiser and we have been limited on our fund raising because we have not met To have fund raising opportunities. We have missed people at monthly meetings, annual picnic, and Christmas party, which Has hampered our fund raising activities. Your donations pay for Honor Guard uniforms, museum display projects, frames and plaques we provide to families of our deceased members, newsletters, and other miscellaneous expenses necessary to keep our organization viable and functional. Please send donations C/O Mike Fox , Treasurer, 3508 32 nd Circle SE, Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124. I'm not sure how the County/State, color coding works, but maybe when the light turns yellow we can have our in-person meetings again.

Historian' Report – This quarter has found the E-Board busy working with Fire Chief Dow and his staff to upgrade the fire museum's displays. Herman and Kerry are working on photo displays for the new station nine, re-framing and matting Photos from the 1880's through 1950's for the museum. We are working with Chief Dow to develop a photo display of all former AFD Chiefs. Eddie and Mike are assisting in developing a mini-timeline display accompanied by photos for the administration building. Mike is working on three display cabinets for the museum. Museum donations are appreciated.

The February monthly was productive and we stand adjourned. Stay safe, stay healthy.

Thoughts of Retired Firefighter

By: Herman R. Bishop
July 24, 2020

In a time not too long ago, we were members of that noble profession, titled, "Firefighter." It seemed that we were invincible, strong, tough, well trained, experienced and having the time of our lives. Nothing could stop us, we were running fire and rescue calls day and night through all kinds of weather, hot or cold. In and out of burning buildings, dangerous situations, laying our lives on the line.

It was exciting and rewarding. We performed rescues of the unfortunate souls of our City who were in distress, saving burning buildings and minimizing property loss and destruction. We even rescued cats from trees, and puppy dogs who had become stuck in the rims of old car wheels. We gave fire Station tours to school children and were known to help elderly people across the street. Many was the time that we even took up collections for stranded travelers who had car break- downs in our fair City and were down on their luck. There were many people who were down and out, or passersby, that we gave a hot cup of coffee or shared our meals with at lunch time.

WHAT IS A FIREFIGHTER

A FIREFIGHTER IS THE NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR, A PERSON WITH A SHARP MEMORY OF A LITTLE CHILD WHO NEVER GOT OVER THE EXCITEMENT OF FIRE ENGINES, SIRENS, SMOKE AND DANGER. A FIREFIGHTER IS A PERSON LIKE YOU AND ME WITH WARTS, WORRIES AND UNFULFILLED DREAMS. YET THE FIREFIGHTER STANDS TALLER THAN MOST OF US FOR BECAUSE IT IS ALL PUT ON THE LINE WHEN THE FIRE BELL RINGS.

THE FIREFIGHTER IS AT ONCE THE MOST FORTUNATE AND THE LEAST FORTUNATE OF PEOPLE. A FIREFIGHTER SAVORS LIFE BECAUSE. TO MUCH DEATH HAS PASSED BY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DAILY DUTIES. THE FIREFIGHTER. IS A GENTLE PERSON WHO HAS SEEN TOO MUCH AWESOME POWER OF VIOLENT FORCES OUT OF CONTROL.

THE FIREFIGHTER IS RESPONSIVE TO A CHILD'S LAUGHTER BECAUSE ARMS HAVE HELD TOO MANY SMALL BODIES THAT WILL NOT LAUGH. AGAIN. A PERSON WHO APPRECIATES THE SIMPLE PLEASURES OF LIFE, THE FLUSH OF FRESH AIR PUMPING THROUGH SMOKE AND FIRE CONVULSED LUNGS-. A WARM BED FOR BONE AND MUSCLE COMPELLED BEYOND FEELING AND THE COMRADESHIP OF BRAVE SOULS.

THE DIVINE PEACE OF SELFLESS SERVICE AND A JOB WELL DONE IN THE NAME OF ALL MANKIND. A FIREFIGHTER DOESN'T WEAR BUTTONS OR WAVE FLAGS OR SHOUT TALES OF WOE WHEN MARCHING TO HONOR A FALLEN COMRADE. A FIREFIGHTER DOESN'T PREACH THE BROTHERHOOD OF MANKIND, THE FIREFIGHTER LIVES IT.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – On January 28, 2021, Trish Padilla of Patrick Padilla Tax Services, 2003 San Mateo NE was presented an "Honorary Membership by the Albuquerque Fire Dept .Retiree's Association by President, Kerry Horton. Trish was recognized for her technical expertise and assistance in developing and publishing the book by Morris Guterrez, "F.F. Nicknames, Puzzles, Games and Recipes." A big thanks goes to Patrick Padilla for the use of his office and equipment to publish the book. Trish's uncle Cornelio Padilla is a retired AFD Assistant Chief.



Trish Padilla

**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
5318 LA COLONIA N.W.
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PRESIDENT, KERRY HORTON

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KERRY HORTON**

Hello everybody, I hope that you all had a wonderful and happy holiday season. Let's continue to hope that 2021 will bring back monthly meetings, picnics, and Christmas dinners for us once again.

This year's legislative session is as weird as 2020 ended up being. Remote floor sessions and committee meetings, ZOOM conferences, and Facetime calls. I am glad that we do not have any big PERA battles to contend with this year, but there are three bills that I'm watching. House Bills 65 and 162, and Senate Bill 90.

HB 65 is sponsored by Rep. Bill Rehm, and is aimed at reversing some of the language that last year's PERA reforms instituted. HB 65 proposes to return to a regular 2% COLA for future retirees and current retirees over 65 years of age. This bill has little chance of reaching the Governor's desk, but I will monitor and keep you informed.

HB 162 is sponsored by Phelps Anderson, and proposes to change the way the PERA Board is chosen. Currently PERA Board positions are elected, and HB 162 would make them appointed positions. I do not have enough information on the positives or negatives of this bill to form an educated opinion, but it looks like it is struggling in committee.

Senate Bill 90 is sponsored by Senator George Munoz, and is aimed at correcting PERA benefit calculations for firefighters. Firefighters work 56 hours a week, but because part of those hours are mandated overtime by FLSA regulations, firefighters are not credited in PERA for all the hours that they work. SB 90 aims to change that, but the opposition is confusing the issue by claiming that this bill will allow FF's to get PERA credit for all overtime. This is not true, as it only applies to the hours covered by FLSA. The bottom line is that this bill does not affect current retirees' pensions, but it would correct a wrong for future retirees. A similar bill failed last year, so we'll see if it has better luck this year.