

## AFD RETIREE NEWS

September 1, 2016

# 3-2016

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PUBLISHED BY  
THE AFD RETIREE'S  
ASSOCIATION



EDITOR  
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### IN MEMORY, CAPTAIN MELVIN VIGIL (1946 - 2016)

Retired Fire Captain Melvin O. Vigil served over 22 years With the Albuquerque Fire Department from March, 1970 To December, 1992. Served over eight years as Instructor at The Albuquerque Fire Academy until his retirement, in 1992.





**JUNE MEETING** - The 190<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith N.E. President Sam Trujillo called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez. A moment of silence was observed in honor of our deceased members. Sam gave special recognition to our recently departed members, Isaac Montoya, and Melvin Vigil. Roll Call - President Sam Trujillo, Vice President Bill Raupfer, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer Kerry Horton, and Historian Herman Bishop.

As this was the last meeting conducted by President Sam Trujillo, special recognition was given by members John Serino, Eddie Abieta, and Ralph Sedillo. President Diego Arencon of the Firefighter's Union, local 244, made a special presentation on behalf of the members of the Firefighter's Union, honoring Sam's 16 years service and leadership of the AFD Retiree's Association.

President Sam Trujillo recognized recent retirees, Carlos Duran, Donald Garcia, Ramon Velarde and Donnie Sanchez. Sam thanked everyone for their support and assistance during his 16 years serving as President of our association. He recognized our oldest retiree Florenio Sanchez who recently reached his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. On June 9, 2016 we will celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AFD Retiree's Association.

Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report for May, 2016. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abieta, and was seconded by Mike Murphy. The motion carried. Kerry Horton gave the Treasurer's report. He continues working with our tax attorney to bring our tax exempt status up to date. As Kerry accepts the President's position in July, he and Sam Trujillo will jointly serve as Treasurer until the election next year. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Ray Flores, and was seconded by Toby Pino. The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He reported on the warm reception members of the Retiree's Association received at funeral services for Melvin Vigil by the Vigil family and members of the Mora, NM community recently. Lots of positive comments were given to members of our Honor Guard and the ringing of the "Four Five's," bell ceremony.

Eddie Abieta conducted a picnic committee meeting on Saturday June 11, 2016 at the Firefighter's Union Hall to plan final steps for our annual picnic. We are ready for the picnic on Saturday August 27, 2016 @ 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM in Bernalillo, NM, Rotary Park.

Best wishes are extended to our members on the sick roster, Alvin Martin, Dave Torres, and Joe Marquez. Wednesday's Raffle was won by Tommy Tucker, Manuel Aragon and Toby Pino. The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Mark Chavez and the June meeting adjourned @ 8:35 PM

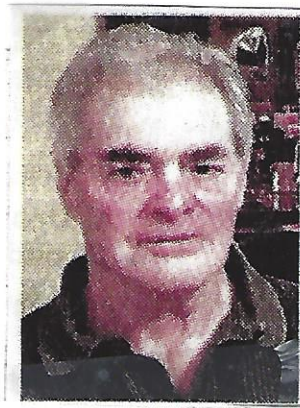


Fred Casias, Kerry Horton  
Herman Bishop, Historian AFD Retiree's Association swore in Fred Casias, Secretary And Kerry Horton, President, for two year terms at the June 8, 2016 monthly meeting

Diego Arencon Sam Trujillo  
Diego Arencon, President AFD F.F. Union, Local 244, Presents Sam Trujillo out going President AFD Retiree's Association a ceremonial gavel recognizing Sam's 16 years Faithful and dedicated service to the retirees.



**Melvin Vigil Dies** - We regret to report the death of our brother and fellow retired fire Captain Melvin O. Vigil, age 69, who passed away on Tuesday May 31, 2016. He had suffered a long term illness and lost his battle with cancer after a recent kidney removal. He joined AFD in March, 1970 and retired in December, 1992 after serving over 22 years with the department. Prior to joining the fire department he was a U.S. Marine and was a Viet Nam veteran and was proud to have served his country.



**Melvin O. Vigil**

He was a member of the 20<sup>th</sup> AFD fire cadet class. During his fire department career he served in all ranks from rookie firefighter through driver, Lieutenant and Captain. As a Lieutenant he was appointed to serve as an instructor at the fire academy for several years and was promoted to Captain where he continued serving on the academy staff for over eight years.

Melvin was well known throughout the fire department especially for guiding so many fire cadets through their basic training. He was well respected by his supervisors and fellow fire fighters alike. He was a firefighter's firefighter, a mentor to all and an excellent role model to the new firefighters. He grew up in Cleveland, N.M. and after his fire department retirement he moved back to his beloved home town with his family.

After his retirement from AFD he worked several years as a fire safety consultant throughout the Southwest, including Intel, and Taylor Communications. He served as a firefighter with the Cleveland, N.M. Volunteer F.D. served as a school board member on the Mora School Board, and was post commander of the Mora VFW, Post 1131.

He was an active member of the AFD Retiree's Association and maintained close relationships with his retired firefighter friends buddies. He especially enjoyed attending the annual picnics.



Sam Trujillo                      Eddie Abeita                      Ralph Sedillo  
Eddie Abeita and Ralph Sedillo present Sam Trujillo a proclamation and a gift certificate from members, thanking him for serving 16 Years as our President .

Sam Trujillo                      John Serino  
John Serino presents Sam Trujillo a letter of thanks for Serving as President of the AFD Retiree's Assoc. for 16 years.





**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION**

**"Striking the Four Fives"**

The fire service custom of rendering final honors with a series of bell strikes has its origin in fire departments of old, years ago, before the advent of radios, pagers, or cell phones.

Fire alarms and daily announcements were dispatched from the Department's Central Headquarters to outlying firehouses by a system of bell commands. Each alarm or announcement had its own number and series of bell strikes. The custom of rendering final honors to our departed comrades is known in the fire service as....

**"Striking The Four Fives"**

When a firefighter responded on his last alarm, Headquarters would transmit five bell strikes repeated four times followed by the announcement that a brother Firefighter had passed away.

In keeping with this tradition **Fire Chief David Downey** has issued the order to strike the four fives:

**"Strike The Four Fives"**

The signal of Four Fives has been transmitted. It is with deep Regret,  
the **Albuquerque Fire Department** announces  
The Death Of Our Brother Firefighter,  
**Melvin O. Vigil**

His assignment now completed, has returned to Quarters  
**This 6th day of June, Two Thousand and Sixteen**



**MIKE MCKINSTRY**  
**FIRE SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD**

On May 27, 2016 retired firefighter Mike McKinstry was presented the "Fire Service Recognition," award at the Fire Cadet's Graduation ceremonies. Mike joined AFD on September 25, 1989 and retired on October 1, 2005 after serving 20 years with the department. This award was in recognition for his 20 years active duty fire service with AFD. Since his retirement he has been an active member of the local "Random Acts Of Kindness," an organization that helps firefighters and members of our community who suffer from illness, financial distress and other life's hardships. He was nominated for the award by Sam Trujillo, President of the AFD Retiree's Association. On behalf of the AFD retiree's we offer our most sincere congratulations to Mike for receiving this prestigious Award.



**MIKE MCKINSTRY**

**July Meeting** - The July monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held on Wednesday July 13, 2016 at the firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, at 4100 Edith N.E. President Kerry Horton called the 191<sup>st</sup> meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call - Kerry Horton, President, Bill Raupfer, Vice President, Fred Casias, Secretary, Sam Trujillo, Treasurer, Herman Bishop, Historian. Kerry welcomed recent retiree Ahren Griego who attended his first meeting. "Congratulations Ahren on your retirement!"

John Serino presented Sam Trujillo a special firefighter's axe on behalf of our members for his 16 years service as President of our retiree's association. Members gave Sam a big hand and thanked him for his many years of faithful and dedicated service to our association. Dan Mayfield was our guest speaker and is running for the PERA retirement board. He is pro firefighters and is asking for our vote. We should receive ballots in August.

President Kerry Horton thanked the retirees who assisted AFD by staffing the 4<sup>th</sup> of July hot line call center during the holiday. Kerry outlined recommended changes and updates to our By-Laws. We will vote at the August 10, 2016 meeting to incorporate the necessary changes. Kerry and Sam are working with F.F. Union President and his staff to coordinate our efforts during the 2017 New Mexico State Legislature.

The Treasurer's office was vacant due to Kerry Horton's election to President. Louis Trujillo made a motion to elect Sam Trujillo to Treasurer by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Tommy Tucker. The motion carried. Historian Herman Bishop swore Sam in as Treasurer at the July meeting. Fred Casias gave the Secretary's report for the June, 2016 meeting. A motion was made to accept the report by Noel Baca and was seconded by Mike Murphy. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. Sam has reviewed the Treasurer's activities for the past few month's and found the finances in order. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Erazmo Garza and was seconded by Toby Pino. The motion carried.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. Luis Armijo the grandson of retired F.F. Hank C DeBaca (1922-1955), met with Herman and was presented several photos of his grandfather and copies of Hank C DeBaca's employment record. In appreciation Mr. Armijo presented a generous donation to the Retiree's Association. Herman read two thank you letters from the Isaac Montoya family and the Melvin Vigil family for honors paid to their fathers at their funerals by members of the retired firefighter's association.

Eddie Abeita, chairman of the picnic committee invited members to attend a picnic planning meeting on Saturday August 13, 9:00 A.M. at the F.F. Union Hall, 4100 Edith N.E. He stated that no political activity or signs will be permitted at our annual picnic. Best wishes go to our members on the sick roster: Art Loera, Eddie Brito, Eugene BaldonadoFlorinio Sanchez, and Jerry Barboa.

The closing prayer was led by Juan Sandoval. The July meeting adjourned @ 9:05 P.M.



**THE AHREN GRIEGO STORY**  
( By Eddie Abeita)



**Ahren Griego**

Ahrens 23 year career with Albuquerque Fire Department started July 06, 1992 he retired May 30, 2015. There were approximately 23 fire cadets in Ahrens cadet class. Twenty (20) fellow classmates have retired 3 are still employed with AFD. Ahrens's cadet class was the second fire cadet class who trained at the newer academy located on Sunset Gardens SW, after the closing of the old academy (aka Tower) located on Kit Carson SW.

I was placed as an alternate for the fire academy cadet class that was getting ready to start Ahren said. While driving back from Carlsbad NM I got the call, the Captain said you have been selected for the fire academy cadet class, will you accept this position? I said "yes sir" I sure do; this was the best phone call I have received. In training house duties were taught, some cadets did not have the knowhow in proper cleaning said Ahren. We were taught things such as, the proper way of cleaning restrooms including refill paper products and cleaning toilets. We were lectured about how maintaining your facilities would add longevity to the facility and help minimizing cost to the taxpayers.

Looking back, things taught during training had a reason however at the time you would wonder why we doing this? Later on it would click in; like one day on the drill field we were given a stern talk about being in proper uniform. Some cadets were not use to having all buttons buttoned especially their back pockets.....*We were told, could you imagine; a plane coming into the airport to land passing directly over us and passenger(s) looking out the window and saw cadets on the drill field with pockets unbuttoned, huh! They may think; "We have to rely on them future firefighters and they cannot even button their pants or maybe tie their shoes"! From that point on and a trip up the tower, it became automatic to check your uniform and check other cadets to insure the uniform was worn properly. So this stern talk or metaphor (I guess) had a big impact on wearing your personal protective equipment; bunkers and self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) properly.*

Brown bagging lunch while in training had a nice benefit we sat together by the drill tower and talked. As weeks went by we learned more about one another and each other's families this built ***our camaraderie***

In the summer months it was hot so wet fire hose evolutions cooled us down and it felt good. Toward the end of training we did a drill called wild line. The drill was to secure an out of control whipping hose line. You were to straddle the hose furthest part away from the imaginary nozzle, move hand over hand motion crawling up to the imaginary nozzle. Your body weight was to help control the hose line then shutting down the imaginary open nozzle. Even cadets that were big in size the hose line had them hydroplaning all over the drill field. Although we did not tell the instructors.....that was a fun drill. The smoke room was what will always be the "experience"! We were lectured and told over and over the importance of donning your SCBA before entering a smoke filled building. I remember us singing the National Anthem in the smoke filled room and boogers coming out of one cadet. From that point on we remembered it as gospel; never enter a smoke field building without your SCBA.

My first field assignment was at the old fire station 8 on Menaul said Ahren The crew consisted of Lt Tom Delao, Driver Tom Velasquez FF Ralph Sedillo, Gabe Sanchez and Al Lovato. The station had just received a new Pierce pumper that was great.



**Ahren Griego Story continued**

**By Eddie Abeita**

I later transferred to Engine Eleven where we had good cooks. Art Martinez was what you would call a meat and potato type cook, always mouth watering meals. Steve Mock would fill in with tuna fish sandwiches at times, what he did with different ingredients were unbelievable. I never knew a can of tuna fish could taste so wonderful.

When Ahren was promoted to driver he was assigned to Engine Ten on Rio Grande Blvd NW. Ahren said I was told it was a slow station however that changed, we were dispatched to a 3rd alarm fire on Coors Blvd NW, a strip mall was on fire with a pet store being the focal point. I remember this fire from our arrival we caught a hydrant on Coors Blvd and laid a lot of 5 inch hose. I remember calling for water, but the hydrant was dry.....oh no oh no I thought! Another fire hydrant was located but we had to get help to drag and stretch the hose to the other hydrant. While pumping I used everything I was taught about water supply; I supplied a ladder and some hand lines and continued to watch my static and residual pressures to keep in range of available water. I was also assigned as tillerman at ladder 4, great position, on emergency calls you don't have to worry about the address just follow the tractor.

I was promoted into the Fire Marshalls Office (FMO) said Ahren it was during the FMO's transitioning from National Fire Protection Associations (NFPA) Codes to the International Fire Code (IFC). So it made the FMO more challenging and interesting. One thing that I liked was to read case studies; there was a lot of background on fire causes. What amazed me was most loss of life was due to negligence of people not following some basic fire codes. In the case studies it seemed "means of egress" was always a big factor, so whenever on inspections this seemed to always be on my mind. One particular inspection at a high school we found an exit locked with a chain. This to me was a criminal offense my action was, no question no waiting I said; remove the chain now!

When promoted to Captain I was assigned to Engine Seven said Ahren, the department was in the process of promoting the need to have fire stations remodeled. Engine seven was much in need for remodeling this older structure (now has been replaced). One thing we firefighters know is food helps the cause so we fed the people who could help us, the mayor and councilors. The outcome, the fire station seven was remodeled.

While being a member of Local 244 I served as Vice President of the union. I guess this is why it was exciting to attend my first retirees meeting in July. It was great and I will continue to do so and plan on participating with the other retiree's functions as I understand my old academy classmate Marvin Gouch does attend.... One cadet that turned out to be a close friend all through my career was Stephan Montoya, whose dad was firefighter Zeke Hernandez who passed away a few years back. Retired firefighter Ramón Romero is my father who I am proud of. There are 5 Romero brothers who retired from AFD; Zack, Joe, Sip, Andy and Ramón. To follow my dad and uncles footsteps made me proud of the Romero's Legacy in AFD.

Now being retired my wife Meredith and me are able to spend more time with our family. We have 3 children the oldest is Ahren Matthew who is completing his Masters degree in Special Education and is a varsity wrestling coach at Volcano Vista High School. Our second oldest son Joshua Lucas is attending CNM, an assistant wrestling coach at Rio Rancho High School and volunteer life guard. Our daughter Gabriela will be a freshmen and attending Volcano Vista High School. One thing we always enjoy is being around family which is large, and barbeques are always a favorite gathering.



**"THE CHIEF'S BOUT WITH THE GOUT"**

**(By Herman R. Bishop)**

**May 20, 2001**

It was about 1964 that I was assigned as Driver to District Chief 3 at the old station thirteen located at Indian School Road and Louisiana N.E. The District Chief was S.B. Skidmore a John Wayne type fellow, big and strong probably 6 feet two inches tall and weighed maybe 220 pounds. At that time he was in his early fifties. He had moved to Albuquerque from Shamrock, Texas as a young man on a football scholarship to the University of New Mexico, in the late nineteen thirties. There was an arrangement between the University and the Fire Department that the football players would play football while attending the University and live at a local fire station and serve as part-time firemen while attending school. After his school days were finished "Skid" as we called him made the Fire Department his career. He was an interesting fellow and always had a big story to tell about something.

"Skid" also suffered from the gout which usually attacked him in his feet and toes. When he would get real bad gout attacks the Doctor would prescribe medicine to cleanse his system. The bouts would last about a week until the medicine cleared up the problem. The pills usually cleared up the gout, unfortunately, they gave "Skid" a bad case of diarrhea, which lasted about a week. He described these painful gout attacks as similar to putting your finger in a vice and tightening it until it hurts, then giving the vice about ten more turns. When we were working during his gout attacks he spent a lot of time in the toilet. When a fire call came in I would signal the other crews to go ahead of the Chief's Car until "Skid" could recover and make the fire call.

One particular night a fire call came in around 3:00 A.M. to a house fire on Jefferson Street N.E. When we approached smoke was coming from the front door of the house and Engine 8 crew made an immediate attack and extinguished the fire. As usual "Skid" went in to investigate and I sat in the Chief's Car listening to radio traffic. After a few minutes I saw "Skid" coming to the Chief's car in a fast trot. "Bishop, quick, get me to a vacant lot or some isolated area, I'm about to mess my britches. "Man, Oh Man, I'm in severe pain!" I took him to a near by vacant lot and no one was around. In the darkness I heard "Skid" call out, "Bishop, I need toilet paper of some kind, bring me something quick." I had some old cleaning rags in the car so I took those to him. When he got in the car and started back to the fire station "Skid" started twisting and moving about and complained that his rear-end was on fire. He asked what kind of rags I had given him. I then realized that the rags were the ones I had used to clean the car battery when I had come on shift. They were heavily saturated with battery acid. Old "Skid" was furious. He said, "not only do I have to suffer with the gout now you have to ruin my rear end with a heavy dose of battery acid. By this time I was laughing so hard I could hardly concentrate on driving back to the fire station.



## "A PUBLIC RELATIONS FIASCO"

(By Herman R. Bishop)

May 25, 2001

In 1966 I had recently been promoted to Lieutenant and was working out of station nine (Salem and Menaul N.E.) Naturally I wanted to do a good job and as the saying goes, "A new broom sweeps clean." Throughout the City that year we had experienced an unusual amount of fire rekindles. We received several training sessions about the importance of preventing re-kindles and to be really thorough and diligent during salvage and overhaul operations after fires.

Early one afternoon we received a call to a residence on Mary Ellen Street N.E. When we approached the scene heavy smoke was coming from the house. We had a good working fire in progress. We caught the fire hydrant on the corner and laid a 2 1/2 supply line. Things were going well and we made a quick attack on the fire and brought it under control within a few minutes. The fire was really hot and smokey. It had started in a large couch in the living room and had spread into the attic. The insulation in the attic was still smouldering and we had to send someone up there with a small line to extinguish the rest of the fire and to remove the burning insulation. I sent Ignacio Perez into the attic cautioning him to stay on the rafters and to be careful not to stand on the ceiling sheetrock and especially not to fall through the ceiling. Because Ignacio originally was from Durango, Mexico we called him "Senor Perez." Meanwhile I had the other two pipemen Kenneth Alvis and Chris Lovato take the still smouldering couch out to the front yard for salvage and overhaul. Remembering the re-ignite classes and wanting to make a good impression as a new Lieutenant I was determined not to have any re-kindles at any fires I was responsible for.

After giving members of my crew instructions about overhauling the smouldering couch and sending "Senor Perez" into the attic I went through the house to ensure that all the fire was extinguished and that things were under control and in good order. I came back into the living room at which time I met District Chief Carl Macaluso who had just arrived on the scene, assessed the situation and was fuming mad. He said "Bishop what are those two firemen doing with that couch in the front yard creating a public relations fiasco?" Following my instructions they had taken their axes and totally dismantled the couch. By this time it was nothing but a pile rubbish, only good for a bonfire. One thing for sure there was no danger of a re-ignite.

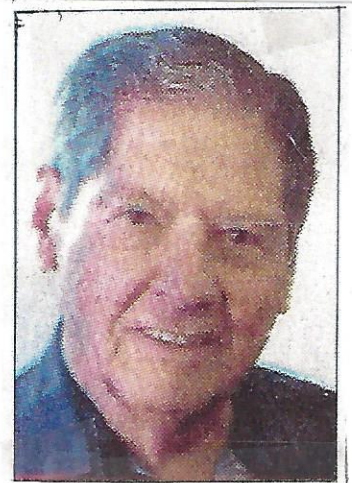
If this situation was not bad enough, and even worse, Chief Macaluso had encountered "Senor Perez" in the kitchen who had fallen through the ceiling and was standing on the refrigerator in his firemen boots pulling and throwing the burning insulation on to the kitchen floor and wetting it down with the booster line. Now he was flooding the house unnecessarily with water to further add insult to injury in an already bad situation.

After a strong admonishment and lecture Chief Macaluso said, "well Bishop you have the fire out, but you and your crew are an embarrassment to the entire Fire Department". "I'm leaving before the reporters come or worse yet, I hope the Fire Chief himself (Chief Simon Seligman) doesn't show up to see this mess, Goodbye!"

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**JOE MARQUEZ DIES** - We regret to report the death of our brother and Retired firefighter Captain Joe Marquez who passed away on Saturday August 6, 2016 after a long term illness. He was hired on February 25, 1957 by the late Fire Chief Art Westerfeld and attended firefighter's training at the old Fire Academy at 1510 Kit Carson SW. Ray Kuhn was the training Chief at that time. After spending 27 years of faithful and dedicated service with the department he Retired on June 2, 1984. He served at all stations throughout the City and served In the ranks of driver, Lieutenant, and Captain. He was a well rounded firefighter And was respected by his coworkers and Assistant Chiefs alike. He was knowledgeable And proficient in his job and was always willing to teach the young firefighters coming In all aspects of being a firefighter. He had a pleasant personality and was quick to Smile and was willing to lend his fellow firefighters a helping hand. Joe's two sons Rick And Patrick also served as firefighters with the Albuquerque Fire Department. Joe Was also proud to have served in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman in Korea. He was a faithful and active member of the AFD Retiree's Association until his failing Health would no longer allow him to attend the monthly meetings. Viewing is Wednesday July 10 , 9:00 AM. at the Holy Rosary Catholic church 5414 Fortuna NW. The rosary is at 10:15 A.M. The funeral mass will be held at the same location, 11:00 AM. Burial will follow at Mt Calvary Cemetery, 1900 Edith N.E.



**JOE MARQUEZ**

**August Monthly Meeting** - The AFD Retiree's Monthly Meeting was held on August 10, 2016, at the firefighter's union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:08 PM and led members in the pledge of allegiance. Deacon Santos Abeyta lead the opening prayer A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. We remembered retired fire captain Joe Marquez who passed away on August 9, 2016. **Roll Call** - President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Bill Raupfer, Secretary, Fred Casias, absent, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, and Historian Herman Bishop. Kerry Horton recognized retired firefighters Greg Vallejos, Richard Olguin, and Rick Moya who attended his first retiree meeting. The recommended changes and updates to the By-Laws were reviewed and presented to the members. Kerry Horton made a motion to adopt the changes. L.C. Trujillo seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The minutes of the July meeting was read by Herman Bishop due the absence of our Secretary Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abeita and was seconded by Ramon Maldonado. The motion carried. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. He reported that after review of our financial records during the first month after assuming the office all financial records are in order and up to date. A motion to accept the report was made by Joe Martinez and was seconded by Toby Pino.

Historian Herman Bishop thanked Luis Armijo for a 1920's photo of the AFD baseball team of that era which included his grandfather Hank C DeBaca. Lieutenant C DeBaca served 33 years with the department from 1922 to 1955 until his retirement. Herman shared a joke with members submitted by Bill Raupfer, "Cop Stops A Biker For Speeding." President Kerry Horton commended the Honor Guard for their fine performance honoring our recently deceased brother Captain Joe Marquez. Kerry Horton nominated Sam Trujillo for a special award, "President Emeritus," for serving as our President for the past 16 years. L.C. Trujillo made a motion to accept and was seconded by Joe Martinez. The motion carried. Congratulations Sam, this award is well deserved.

Eddie Abeita reported that our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2016 at Rotary Park in downtown Bernalillo, NM. All retiree's and their families are invited. The event is from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tonight's raffle was won by Jeff Elks, Topy Pino, and Joe Martinez.

Best wishes go to our members on the sick roster, Eddie Brito, Eugene Baldonado, and Victor Escarcida. Sincere condolences go to Danny Romero who recently lost his dear wife. The night's raffle was won by Jeff Elks, Toby Pino, and Joe Martinez. The City will commemorate 911 on Sunday September 11, 2016 at Civic Plaza downtown. David Cruze, French Mortuary will sponsor a bike run in memory of 911 on September 10, 2016.

**The closing prayer was led by Deacon Santos Abeyta. The August monthly meeting adjourned @ 8:45 PM**



### THE FIREMAN

*I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. There is an adage which says that, "Nothing can be destroyed except by fire." We strive to preserve from destruction the wealth of the world, which is the product of the industry of men, necessary for the comfort of both the rich and the poor. We are defenders from fires of the art which has beautified the world, the product of the genius of men and the means of refinement of mankind. But, above all, our proudest endeavor is to save lives of men — the work of God Himself. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even at the supreme sacrifice. Such considerations may not strike the average mind, but they are sufficient to fill to the limit our ambition in life and to make us serve the general purpose of human society.*

*Chief Edward F. Croker  
New York City Fire Department*

*Circa 1910*



**PRESIDENT EMERITUS** - At the annual retiree's picnic, President Kerry Horton bestowed the title, "President Emeritus," on Sam Trujillo, recognizing him as father of the AFD Retiree's Association and gave him credit for his many years of service at the top of his profession. To his credit, as a leader Sam served with dignity, honor, and loyalty, to our membership.



Albuquerque Fire Department  
Retiree Association

Kerry Horton, President  
5605 Sweetwater Dr. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120  
505-934-2969



Sam Trujillo

July 25, 2016

Bill Raupfer, Vice President

Fred Casias, Secretary

Herman Bishop, Historian

Dear Sirs

*I would like to nominate retiree, and former AFDRA President, Sam Trujillo, for the 2016 "Man of the Year."*

*As we all know, Sam's selfless, and dedicated service to the Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree Association has been unparalleled. He has served as the associations President, from its inception in the year 2000, until this past June. His tenure and leadership has seen this association grow from an idea discussed over a cup of coffee, to the well-organized association that we have today.*

*For all of his hard work, the true meaning of this award should read "Man of the Years." Even as Sam stepped down from the office of the Presidency, he eagerly accepted the role as Treasurer. Never one to rest, we have all benefited from Sam's tireless service to advance the interests, rights, and welfare of all retiree's.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kerry Horton, President*



HENRY C. DE BACA

Henry C. DeBaca was born on June 6, 1894 and joined AFD on April 1, 1922 at age 28. He served 33 years with the department until his retirement on May 31, 1955. He held the rank of Lieutenant and served the department and his community with honor and distinction during his career. Fire Department records show that he lived to the age of 76 after his retirement and passed away on October 1, 1970.

Source: Albuquerque Fire Department Employment Record



ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT BASE BALL TEAM, (Circa, late 1920's)

This photo was provided by Luis Armijo. His grandfather was Lieutenant Hank C DeBaca Who Served with AFD from 1922-1955 and retired after serving 33 years on the department. People known in photo - Second Row, Hank C DeBaca far right, Simon Seligman, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left. Front Row - Unknown, Milton Grande, Pat Kane, Chief Westerfeld, unknown, unknown. Bat Boy. Unknown. Names of the other players are unknown.



Louis C. Trujillo  
(February 1, 2001)

I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on October 10, 1958 and was in the "Trainees" class of twelve people, Ray Kuhn was our Training Officer. There was no class room or a Fire Academy as we know it today, the only structure was the Drill Tower. There was also a test pit for testing the fire pumpers, and two fire pits, used for pit fire training. The test pit was elevated and the Trainees would sit on the slope or the curbing while Captain Kuhn would present the classroom instructions. This was his classroom and his chalk board was mounted on a tripod. The only visual aides that I recall was the pumper (called the Quad- pumper, because it was once a pumper and besides having a pump, a hose bed, and a water tank, it also carried a full compliment of ground ladders). All the other visual aides were the firefighting equipment, ie: fire hose, nozzles, ladders, etc.

The Trainees would report to fire station one (8th and Silver SW) at 8:00 A. M. till 6:00 P.M. The work shift at that time was two weeks days, and then two weeks nights, 10- hours day shifts and 12- hours night shifts, with a twenty four hour shift on Sunday when going from day to night shift. While we were in training (4-weeks), we remained on the day shift. Normally our day started with house and apparatus cleaning. Between 9:00 A. M. to 10 A. M. we would climb on the "Quad Pumper" and Captain Kuhn would take us to the Drill Tower for our training and at noon back to the station. While we were at the station we would be called to the hose tower to wash and hang hose which had been used at the drill tower or at a fire.

I served in Fire Suppression, the Fire Academy, and Fire Administration during Fire Chief Arthur Martinez's tenure.

During my tenure I served under Chief Art Westerfeld, Chief Simon Seligman, Chief Ray Kuhn, Chief Arthur Martinez, and Chief Leonard Ortega.

I reached the following ranks:

10-10-58 to 3-20-62	Firefighter 1st class
3-21-62 to 1-18-65	Driver
1-18-65 to 8-25-69	Lieutenant
8-25-69 to 10-25-73	Captain
10-25-73 to 11-9-73	District Chief
11-9-73 to 12-18-80	Assistant Chief
12-18-80 .....	Retired and went to St Petersburg Florida as their Fire Chief.

My most memorable fire was the Payless Drug Store fire at Second Street and Central Avenue S. W. during January 1963.

My favorite job was when I was the Assistant Chief in charge of the Fire Academy. Along with other Chief officers it gave me an opportunity to take our Department into another level of professionalism.

After returning from Florida, I got involved in the Insurance Business, starting a second career. While with Rockwood Insurance Company I was a Loss Control Representative, a Field Marketing Representative covering five States and an Executive Vice-President of their General Agency (Dunrite General Agency). During this time I became a Licensed Insurance Agent for New Mexico.

On July 11, 1988 Rockwood Insurance Company left the State and I went with New Mexico Surplus Incorporated Agency as their Marketing Representative. Next I got an offer to become the Safety Consultant Coordinator for Safety Consulting of New Mexico.

In 1990 I was asked to help start a Self-Insurance Fund for the food industry. (Workers Compensation Insurance). On July, 1998 I retired as the Administrator of the Food Industry Self Insurance Fund of New Mexico.

I am no longer working for anyone. I occupy my time helping my wife Bea baby-sitting our Grandkids, going on trips in our Motor Home, fishing, and golfing. The job I miss most is the Fire Service !



**BILL RAUPFER**  
**(MARCH 14, 2001)**

The following account is a short summary of my Fire Department career. When I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in March 1969, Ray Kuhn was the Fire Chief. My class consisted of eleven cadets. One flunked out and ten graduated. Out of that ten seven went on to retire. They are Al Armenta, Joe Tapia, Allen Rhodes, Danny Perea, George Torres, Andy Romero and myself.

Our training officers were two newly promoted men, Assistant Chief Esequiel "Skippy" Padilla, and Captain Alfonso "Al" Lujan.

In 1969 we went through six weeks of training mostly hose lays and with a small class it seemed never ending. Lay hose, pick up hose, lay hose, pick up hose, lay hose, pick up hose and so on.

Our training officers set aside one day for rappelling. Chief Padilla was going to show us how to rappell down a building, "freefall". With the assistance of Captain Lujan, who we later found out was not familiar with the duties during this maneuver, the Chief went up to the 7th floor of the drill tower and proceeded to wrap the life line three times around the hook on his safety belt. Now, with his weight of maybe 100 lbs, this was clearly too many times. As you can guess, he went about six feet and stopped, no hands, and swung back into the open window of the 6th floor. He stuck his head out the window and shouted down to us all on the ground. "Now I will show you how to get all the way down."

As I recall, Captain Lujan was as impressed as we were. After some adjustments to the lifeline, Chief Padilla again appeared in the window facing out and said "Ready" to which Captain Lujan replied, "Yes". Again, Captain Lujan was unfamiliar with this training procedure, but we cadets were totally unaware of that fact.

So, out jumps Chief Padilla and immediately began to wave his hands and yell something about the rope. "Rope, Rope, Rope!" As Chief Padilla was passing the 4th floor Captain Lujan reached over and grabbed the life line that Chief Padilla was coming down and took up just enough slack to bring the Chief to a gentlestop on the ground, feet first.

Well, let me tell you, all eleven of us cadets were so impressed that we could see ourselves in this same situation at a fire. With flames licking at our heels and children in hand we could leap from the window and pray that the Captain would have all his training by then.

Now I look back on my career and remember all of the good times and a few rough times. Yes, I miss the department. There will never will be another job to compare with it. But I am older now, and I can finally sit back, relax, and say, "You gotta be crazy to run into a burning building."



ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
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**KERRY HORTON**

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**President's Message**

By Kerry Horton

Hello Everyone, as this is my first President's report, I guess the pressure is on, you know, first impressions and all. Well, I would like to start by just saying how much I think we will all miss Sam in the role as our President. After 16 years of dedicated service, seeing this association grow from its inception, to the well-oiled machine that we have today, it just seemed that Sam was always going to be in this seat. The truth is that Sam only moved two seats over, as he is now serving as our Treasurer. Just goes to show you that an organization will always reward dedicated, hard work with more work, oh well, what can you do. Sam, we thank you for all of your past, and future hard work that you give to this association.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all retirees to attend one of our meetings, maybe not all of you at the same meeting, we would not have room, but you know what I mean. The main purpose of the meetings is to see old friends, share a few laughs, and catch up on some important news items that may concern your pension, healthcare benefits, and other items that we feel are important to our members. Most time is spent making conversation, with a little time spent listening to five guys sitting up front talking about serious stuff. Remember, we take our E-Board positions seriously, just not ourselves. So, the next time that you see that meeting reminder talking about free coffee, and handicap parking, remind yourself that that invitation is for you, even if you don't want coffee, or need handicap parking.

The best thing about taking over the presidency has been the opportunity to talk to many of the guys that I haven't seen or heard from since I left the job. I've talked to some of you on the phone, and many thru e-mails, so remember to always keep us updated when you have changed your phone number, or e-mail address.

This corner of the newsletter is called the President's Message, so I guess the message that I want to end with is, if any of you have any questions regarding your pensions, retiree health benefits, city death benefit, or anything else, feel free to ask anyone on the E-Board. We may not have an immediate answer, but we will work with you to get the answers that you need. Thank you all for your time, and remember, my goal is to see all of you at a meeting or two, over the next couple of years.