

AFD RETIREE NEWS

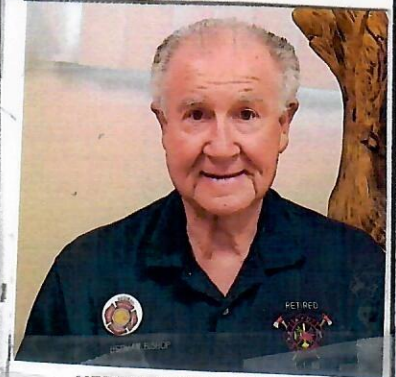
September 1, 2019

3-2019

President, Kerry Horton	5605 Sweetwater Rd. N.W. Albuquerque	87120 934-2969
Vice President, Mike Murphy	433 Merlida S.W.	87121 264-1153
Secretary, Fred Casias	P.O. Box 608 Bernalillo, N.M.	87004 269-0370
Treasurer, Mike Fox	805 Ranchitos Rd. NW Los Ranchos de Albuquerque	87114 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

ADVISORY BOARD

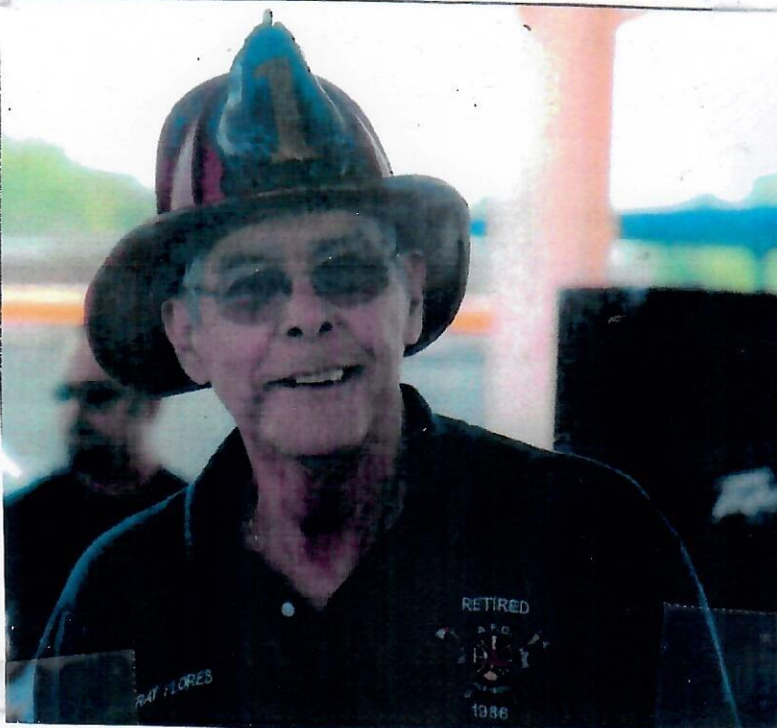
Eddie Abeita	869-3082	Morris Guterrez	881-7833	John Serino	266-1252
Santos Abeyta	620-0670	Vince Holcomb	897-2667	Fred Teupell	259-6521
Noel Baca	836-2480	Joe Martinez	792-1867	Louis C. Trujillo	717-1022
Eugene Baldonado	344-6866	Bill Raupfer	281-8478		
Ray Flores	898-8948	Tommy Romero	855-9389		
Pablo Garcia Jr.	363-2233	Jose Salaz	898-8373		



HERMAN BISHOP, EDITOR

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RAMUNDO "RAY" FLORES – Our fellow retired firefighter Ray Flores Who served AFD for 24 years passed away on Tuesday July 2, 2019. During his career with AFD he served on the Honor Guard, and was Also the official Fire Department Trumpeter. After retiring he was a Founding member of the AFD Retiree's Association and served as an Advisory Board Member for 19 years. He was also the trumpeter for the Retiree's Association. Additionally he was well known throughout the Albuquerque community for serving as trumpeter for a local Mariachi group, "Los Reyes de Albuquerque."



June, 2019 Monthly Meeting – On June 12, 2019 the monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held @ the Firefighter's Union Hall, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Morris Gutierrez and a moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President Mike Murphy, Treasurer Sam Trujillo and Historian Herman Bishop. Secretary Fred Casias was absent. Kerry recognized our guests, Marie Vigil, Cynthia Raupfer and Greg Armenta's daughter. Kerry recognized retirees' Bob Hartley, Mike Martinez and Ron Sanchez.

The guest speaker was retired APD Police Lieutenant Robert Chavez who is running for the County Commission in District # 2. He is the brother of retired firefighter Leonard Chavez. He is an avid supporter of public safety and feels a close bond with his firefighter friends. He asked for those firefighters who live in district # 2 for their support. Herman Bishop read the May minutes due to the absence of Secretary Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Mike Fox and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion passed. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept was made by Ed Abeita and was seconded by Robert Sanchez. The motion passed. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. He has received lots of positive feedback on the newsletter now that it is published in color. He commended Eddie Abeita, Frank Maestas, and Kerry Horton for their assistance in completing the March newsletter. Fred Casias said that John Standefer, retired State Fire Marshal has completed restoration of an AFD 1923 American La France fire truck and plans to have it on display at our annual picnic on August 17, 2019, @ Rotary Park, downtown Bernalillo, NM.

President Kerry Horton conducted the election for our officer positions. Elected for two terms were: Mike Murphy, Vice President, Mike Fox, Treasurer, and Herman Bishop, Historian. Kerry congratulated Mike, Herman, and Mike. They will be officially sworn in at the July, 2019 meeting. Kerry also congratulated Justin Cheney who was recently sworn in as President of the Albuquerque Firefighter's Union President, Local # 255. He replaces former President Diego Arencon who was recently appointed to Governor Michele Grisham Lujan's Staff. Kerry is actively involved in the Governor's task force to seek future solvency of our New Mexico retiree's Association (PERA). Several meetings are scheduled between now and early fall. Kerry will keep us informed on the progress of this committee.

Bill Raupfer reports that this year's 911 Commemoration ceremonies at Civic Plaza are still pending. He will give details soon as he gets the information. The Blue Mass is scheduled on September 24, 2019 in Paradise Hills at the St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. Retirees and their families are invited to attend. Eddie Abeita advised that the picnic planning committee will meet at the Firefighter's Union Hall on June 25, 2019 @ 10:00 AM. All who would like to assist in the picnic are invited to attend. Retiree Robbie Sanchez reported that the Motorcycle Poker Run from Albuquerque to Jemenez Springs (30 Motorcycles) to support retiree Jeff Elks and his family as they battle his cancer was highly successful. Jeff and his family gave their sincere thanks for all the love, support and prayers from fellow firefighters.

Fellow retirees on the sick roster: Noel Baca, H.H. Chavez and Jeff Elks. Our prayers and best wishes for a prompt recovery are given to our brother firefighters. Sam Trujillo made a motion to give President Kerry Horton a \$100 gift card to assist with his expenses as he travels to Santa Fe as a member of the PERA task force. A second to the motion was made by Ray Flores. The motion passed. The raffle was won by: Jesse Gonzales, Cindy Raupfer, Ahren Griego, and Toby Pino. Kerry reported that the AFD Firefighter's Union, Local 244, has acquired a 1960's Crown Fire Pumper Truck which they are resorting to be used in parades and special community events.

The closing prayer was led by Morris Gutierrez. The June meeting adjourned @ 8:40 PM



Protocol Hinged More on Body Recovery at the Canals End Prior to Drainage to the Ocean.

Calls were made to Los Angeles County Fire for help, with communication going back and forth a fire truck did respond to the location. The firefighters did a visual check at the scene however it was understood that LA County fire did not have a "Swift Water Rescue Program" in place as we in AFD had. *The protocol hinged more on body recovery at the canals end prior to drainage to the ocean.*

Nancy Riggs needed to know why no rescue program was in place? This was echoed to local responders and unsuccessful answers from the county government. Answers were given to her which she could accept but did not fulfill her heart.

Nancy asked; could I have any type of information so I can present to our county fire and commission pertaining to Albuquerque's Swift Water Rescue program? As a courtesy I contacted Deputy Chief Robert Otero and told him about the request for information. Chief Otero said, provide her with any information that could help in her endeavor.

Upon further discussion I told her how there were partnerships within the metro and surrounding areas such as Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control (AMAFC) who was in charge of the channels and arroyos. One area identified was a need to educate people especially children about the dangers from playing in the arroyos. In the partnership were the development of safety educational materials. A video called the Bewitched Ditch featuring a local myth was real popular. Posters were also developed and placed in various places to remind children about the dangers of the arroyos

Nancy Riggs was given material and had a burst of energy on her way back to California to show how ditch rescue should be looked at. Within days received a call from Nancy Riggs it had a positive tune so to speak sharing the material and ideas with her small group of supporters. She deeply wanted to address the county commission and fire department about her findings, however the downside was from county commission; "sounds great we can get you on the agenda to address the council in about 10 weeks.

Nancy said this can't wait need to get this rolling, she said what do you think Captain? I had a flash from the past many times over and over. At that time almost 20 years of service watching and listening to firefighters knowing which buttons to push when attention was needed, I said do you have any contacts within the media? She said I am a freelance writer sure do. I said have them put the commission on the spot about them down playing your important information as a start. They will bug the commission until they get some type of response. This would also spark public support where the public would demand answers. After the media and KTLA news team started with inquires It got her on the agenda the following week.

Protocol Hinged More on Body Recovery at the Canals End Prior to Drainage to the Ocean.

Swift Water Rescue

by Eddie Abeita

The following is based on freelance writer Nancy Riggs who had a traumatic experience and witnessed the drowning death of her fiancé Earl and another young child. Albuquerque Fire Department and AMFAC had a major role in helping Nancy Riggs in getting attention about the need of a water rescue program in Los Angeles County CA.

This story starts with Nancy Riggs traveling through New Mexico on her way back to California. Nancy heard in northern states about how Fire Departments in New Mexico had to deal with water rescues in canals and arroyos. Her first stop in New Mexico was with Santa Fe Fire Department, Chief Peter Duran.

Chief Duran called me and said "I have a visitor in my office a lady by the name of Nancy Riggs". She has a sincere interest to learn about arroyo water rescue and involvement by fire departments, Chief Duran said, I am telling her to stop by your office (Fire Academy) and talk with you. I am sure you can provide information of what she is asking for. After Nancy Riggs left Santa Fe, Chief Duran called again and expressed; Eddie this lady is on a crusade looking for answers and wants to make things right for a lot of people, please see if you can help her, "thanks".

When Nancy Riggs arrived at the fire academy Lieutenant Brian Le Vie and myself talked with her as she described LA County flash flooding that came through channels without warnings causing many drownings.

She started with June 1980 a young boy Adam Bishop was riding his bicycle in and out of the drainage/canals one afternoon when a wall of water swept the young boy away. At that particular time Los Angeles County did not have a special rescue team to deal with these problems.

Twelve years later her and fiancée Earl who was a beach life guard, him and Nancy were walking on the drainage ditches. Two boys were riding their bikes in and out of the cement canals with no cares in the world just having fun. A wall of water came suddenly, rushing down the canal with a super force and a lot debris. The kids had no time to get out of the way from the water only to be engulfed in the tidal wave. Earl's reaction was to rescue the two, county responders had been in the area and immediately threw ropes out to try and catch them. One of the victims was pushed to the side of the canal allowing him to climb out of the canal. Earl and the other biker were gone swept down the canal by the raging water.

***Protocol Hinged More on Body Recovery at the Canals End
Prior to Drainage to the Ocean.***

Nancy Rigg's group also assisted Los Angeles County School Board in developing arroyo educational materials. KTLA received a lot of footage from our local Albuquerque television stations, AFD in water rescues. This was also used in their development of arroyo safety video called "No Way Out". All information was distributed to the affected parties including LA County Fire for training purposes. LA County Board of Education made request for help from AMFAC to mirror Albuquerque's ditch safety program. LA County spokesperson felt the AMAFC safety program worked well, so why try to reinvent the wheel. The board of education used many ideas taken from Albuquerque Fire Department and AMAFC.

As you read the articles from Nancy Riggs you get a more detailed look at her experience and what she wanted to accomplish. We (AFD) were acknowledged and thanked from LA County Board of Education, for the contribution, however not a lot of local press coverage for AFD.

***Don't be a victim
of the
FLOOD CHANNEL!***



**Flood control channels are NOT playgrounds.
Stay away. There's no way out!**

A safety reminder from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Office of Education,
and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.



AFD RETIREE ANNUAL PICNIC, AUGUST 17, 2019
Photo By: Cynthia Borrego

August 10, 2019



Mike Fox

Oh what a lucky man.

By Mike Fox

First I want to thank Kerry Horton, Mike Murphy, Sam Trujillo, Fred Casias and Herman Bishop for their unending support of this organization.

(There are also too many others to mention that are continuously going the extra mile.)

It is now my pleasure to serve as the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association treasurer. I take this responsibility very seriously and thank you for your trust in me. That being said, it is just one of the reasons that I feel I am the luckiest man alive. Not only am I surrounded by wonderful fellow retirees, but I have an amazing family and group of close personal friends. The best part is that I am married to my lifelong soulmate. We are about to celebrate our 35th wedding anniversary. She is my greatest blessing. We have two terrific kids and four incredible grandchildren.

I feel that every day is special and live my life accordingly. As we grow older we realize how special each moment is. I was lucky enough to realize at a very young age that you only get to go around this life one time, so I try to enjoy every moment and live life to its fullest. I also realized at a very young age that it's up to me to make myself happy, no one else has that responsibility. Once you realize that, you are in a position to spread your happiness and help others in finding their own. Sure there are times in life that are very trying and difficult, but we must deal with those times the best way we can and move forward to continue our happy life.

We all try to make our path through life as smooth and happy as possible. That path sometimes intersects with a rocky road and we must work hard to find our way back to our path of happiness. Many times that requires assistance from others and that's why it is so important to be surrounded by such good friends. It may take a while to get all the stones off your feet from the rocky road, but with effort they will shed.

My career as a firefighter and paramedic added to this lucky life I have by allowing me the opportunity to help people in their worst time of need. There is no better feeling in life than to hold someone's hand and see the tear in their eye as they say thank you. Or to salvage that piece of personal property that was thought to be lost forever. Or to get help from a comrade through a difficult time. Or to provide help to a comrade through a difficult time. Or to answer a knock at the station door and have it be someone that the last time you saw them you just got their pulse back. Or to help a veteran to bed because he called 911 at two in the morning because he "couldn't get the key in the door." Or to pull someone from the ditch when you know you are her last hope. Or to get that intubation that no one else had luck with. Or even to find that hole in the budget that has been keeping your staff from being able to provide the troops with the best tools. With these opportunities sometimes we are faced with serious tragedies and I got past those by realizing we did everything we could to make it better even if

we failed. Those times are the ones that we have to realize it was a blessing to be given the opportunity to even try.

Some of the best times for me were bringing new life into the world, and being there for the families of those who were saying goodbye to loved ones. I know that may sound strange that it was "a good time" for me to be involved in both the beginning and the end of a life, but trust me when I say it was no fun dealing with the end, but in retrospect it was "a good time" for me only because I feel it is important for everyone to be provided compassion and understanding in end of life situations, and I was proud to one of the ones who were there providing that.

A career with the Albuquerque Fire Department is a professional career. To be a "professional" is not just a career choice but a way of life. It means to apply the same actions and attitudes in everyday life as you did in your career. Compassion, empathy, sympathy, honor, and honesty are just a few examples of how to accomplish this. Live each day with the same principles as you applied on the job and you can achieve your goals.

One last thought:

The difference between knowledge and wisdom:

It requires knowledge to know that a tomato is a fruit, it requires wisdom to know that you don't put it in a fruit salad.

Have a wonderful day and I sincerely hope to see you at the next retirees meeting. (Second Wednesday of each month)



This Gary Varvel cartoon drawn after 9/11 is among many of his works that made his readers shed a tear. His caricatures and their captions stopped short of ridicule, aiming to make the reader laugh, rather than smirk.

**SOURCE:
GARY VARVEL
AND CREATORS
SYNDICATE**

August 8, 2019 - 911 – "WE SHALL NEVER FORGET"

By: Artist, Gary Varvel

July, 2019 Monthly Meeting – On July 10, 2019 the AFD Retiree's Association monthly meeting was conducted at the firefighter's Union Hall , Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order @ 7:05 PM and deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. Roll Call: President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo and Historian, Herman Bishop. Kerry recognized retiree's who have not attended recently: Eddie Varela, Pat McCarthy, Chris Sanchez and Lynn Ruele. President Kerry Horton gave a report on the PERA study committee held in Santa Fe on July 11, 2019. He feels the meetings are producing positive results and that solutions for solvency will be reached and passed on to the Governor for consideration. See Kerry's full report, Page 11 of this newsletter.

As a result of our officer elections held at the June 12, 2019 monthly meeting President Kerry Horton swore the officers in at the July 10, 2019 monthly meeting for two year terms. The officers are: Vice President, Mike Murphy, Treasurer, Mike Fox and Historian, Herman R. Bishop. Congratulations and best wishes were given by members.

The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was given by Ed Abeita and a second was made by Morris Gutierrez. The motion was approved. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. A motion to approve was made by Louis Trujillo and a second was made by LeRoy Barboa. The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. We received a nice letter and donation from Richard Winter's sister Pat Escalante Who lives in San Dimas, California. She advised that her husband Richard Escalante a retired Battalion Chief of the Covina, California fire department passed away of cancer in December, 2018. Pat and Richard were avid supporters of the AFD Retiree's Association. Our sincere condolences go to their family. Frank Maestas, former AFD Paramedic notified us that he will be donating several door prizes for our annual picnic this year. He plans To attend the picnic as well.

Eddie Abeita reported that the picnic planning committee met and that picnic arrangements are complete, volunteer assignments are made and there will be plenty of good food and fellow ship. We are expecting A large attendance (150 people). Retiree's and their families are invited. There is no charge for the picnic, however, donations are gladly accepted. Bill Raupfer, Chairman of the Honor Guard is requesting volunteers. If you would like to sign up, contact Bill.

The July monthly raffle was won by John Barnum and Cindy Raupfer. Mike Fox has made a chess table, valued at \$350.00 and will be raffled off at the picnic. Tickets are \$5.00 each. If you have items you would like to donate for the raffle please contact Eddie Abeita. He will accept most items of value. The closing prayer was led by Morris Guterrez and the meeting was adjourned @ 8:40 PM.

OFFICER ELECTION

At the June 12, 2019 monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association the election was held for officer positions. Elected for two year terms was Mike Murphy, Vice President, Mike Fox, Treasurer, and Herman Bishop, Historian. President Kerry Horton swore the Officers in at the July 10, 2019 meeting. Members present congratulated them and Gave all three their best wishes.



MICHEAL MURPHY
VICE PRESIDENT



MIKE FOX
TREASURER



HERMAN BISHOP
HISTORIAN

Reflections of The Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree Association

(by : Sam Trujillo AFD Retiree – President Emeritus)

I take great pride in knowing that **our Retired Fire Fighter Association** has accomplished so much in these past 19 years Our association was the result of a few of us old timers that believed in the Brotherhood that we all share I reflect back on the early days back in 2000 and 2001 when we were struggling to get off the ground We would meet at Herman Bishop's, Ralph Sedillo's and my home and try to establish guidelines that would help us in forming our current association We started by forming both short term and long term goals that were achievable We formed By-Laws and even established our Non Taxable status We struggled with the forming of a Master List of AFD Retirees to contact and add to our membership Each time we met, our members would bring both names and contact information on fellow retirees It was not easy but with the help and encouragement for a small group of retired Fire Fighters we prevailed Looking back on our early annual summer picnics and our Christmas Parties, I reflect on how far we have progressed I take pride in knowing that our involvement of over 140 AFD Retiree Fire Fighter Funerals that we have helped our Fire Family in dealing with the loss of a Fellow Brother Fire Fighter Our Honor Guard, Last Alarm Truck, Resolution of Condolence and Four Fives Ceremony have provided our Fire Family with both honor and pride Our involvement with our community in the Annual Blue Mass and 911 Memorial ceremonies has allowed our association to shine within our community I reflect back on our 19 years of quarterly Newsletters that Herman Bishop has created, edited and mailed and remember the early days when 6 / 8 of us retirees would staple, fold, seal and add postage at one of our Fire Stations This was in the early days when our donations were slow in coming in As I step down in the administration part of our association I stand ready to help out in all future endeavors that we undertake We have come a long way and I'm sure that we will continue in moving forward I encourage AFD Retirees that have never attended our meetings or have ever donated money to our association to please lend support We do have a lot to be proud of Thank you for your trust and support in allowing myself and my brother AFD Retirees in establishing The Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree Association



Sam Trujillo

PERA Task Force Summary

By Kerry Horton

August 10, 2019

The Governor's Task Force on PERA solvency is coming to a close. We have one more meeting on August 22nd to discuss all the comments that were heard at the public forum on August 8th. Judging by the emotions of the ones that spoke, this is a very polarizing issue, but we all knew that. The need to make changes to our fund has been argued to the end, and by now, you either understand that measures need to be made to insure solvency in the future, or you don't. This has become the line in the sand.

It is important to remember that this Task Force cannot make policy, nor can we change your PERA benefits. Our task was simply to explore methods to improve fund solvency, and get the fund as close to 100% funded by the year 2043 as we could. These ideas will be handed over to Governor Lujan Grisham to be discussed, and then possibly turned into legislation during the 2020 legislative session. What that legislation will look like, none of us can guess.

Here is a summary of the ideas that came from the Task Force meetings.

- Fulfill the requirements of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's January Executive Order, including placing PERA on a path to pay off its \$6 billion unfunded liability by the year 2043.
- Provide sustainable "profit sharing" cost of living adjustments for current and future PERA retirees, based on investment returns and fund ratio.
- Guarantee a minimum COLA of 0.5% and a maximum COLA of 3%, based on investment returns/funded ratio. Once PERA achieves full funding of 100%, the maximum COLA increases to 5%.
- Begin to address disparity in funding levels among PERA Divisions by exempting State Police and Adult Correctional Officers from proposed contribution increases.
- Protect lower income employees and retirees by exempting employees making less than \$25,000 from proposed contribution increases, and providing a 2.5% COLA to retirees with pensions of less than \$25,000 and 25 years of service, including disability retirees.
- Replace prior PERA proposals to freeze COLAs for 3 years with a 2% simple COLA, pausing only the compounding factor, to be paid annually for fiscal years 2021, 22, and 23. Simple COLAs will be paid for by a one-time appropriation of \$76 million. PERA will administer a 13th check to retirees annually for those three years. The result will be an immediate \$700 million reduction in PERA's unfunded liability.
- Provide incentives for employees to continue working by removing the cap on earning service credit.
- Eliminate the current 7 year wait to receive a COLA upon retirement and restore it to the 2-year calendar wait period.

Now let me try to put some of this into prospective, starting with the three-year simple COLA.

By paying for the simple COLA for three years with a one-time appropriation, we see an immediate \$700 million reduction in PERA's unfunded liability. This also goes to improve the investment returns/funding ratio. COLAs for those 3 years will be in the form of a 2% "13th check." If your gross pension is \$30,000 a year, then

you would receive one additional check for \$600 for each of those 3 years, if your pension is \$50,000, then you will receive one additional check for \$1,000 for each year.

Now a little about the "Profit Share" model that would start in fiscal year 2024. Remember, we are proposing that we eliminate the 7 year wait period, and go back to the 2 year wait period for new retirees. The minimum COLA for each year is 0.5% for any year the investment returns fall below 6%, and increases upon better investment returns up to a 3% COLA. When the fund reaches 100% funding, our COLAs can max out at 5%. If we had this new profit share plan in place over the past 6 years, you would have averaged COLAs of 1.5% for each year. To avoid spikes and dips in your yearly COLAs, they will be determined by a 4-year average of investment returns/funded ratio. The benefit of this system is that our COLAs will be funded every single year, and the unfunded liability will be eliminated.-

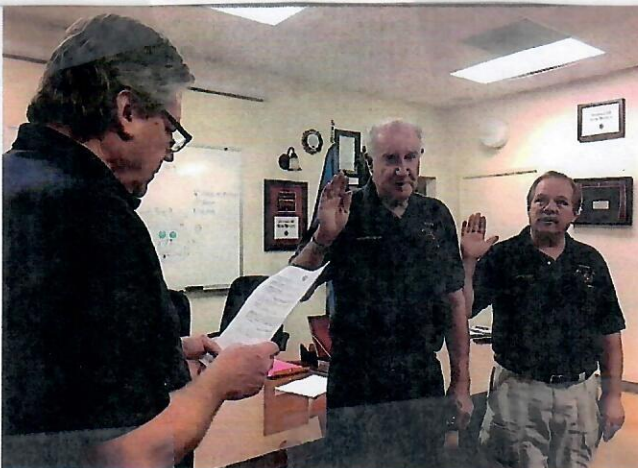
For those still on the job, an increase in contributions has been proposed as follows: employers and employees each contributing an additional 2%, spread out over a 4-year period, equaling 0.5% increase each year over that 4-year period.

When the actuaries were done with these changes to PERA in place, the results were extremely promising. The actuaries ran 500 different scenarios and averaged out the investment returns and funding ratios. The 75th percentile, 8.67% investment returns, and best case scenario, would get us to 100% fully funded by 2032, and an average COLA of 2.29%. The 50th percentile, 7.25% returns and most likely scenario, gets us to 99.7% funded by 2043, with an average COLA of 1.64%. The 25th percentile, 6.02% returns, meaning everything goes to hell for the next 25 years, puts us at 63.8% funded in 2043, with an average COLA of 1.17%.

Now let's compare that to the actuarial numbers if we do nothing to PERA over the next 25 years. The 75th percentile gets us to 100% funded by 2033, the 50th percentile puts us at 76.1% funded in 2043, and the 25th percentile has us at 34.4% funded in 2043.

As you can see, this proposal has a very positive affect on our pension fund, we just have to decide if the sacrifices now are worth preserving the fund for generations to come. We enjoyed 3% COLAs for years, and now we are at 2%, unless you retired after 2013, then your average COLAs over a 30-year retirement will be 1.5%. This proposal has the immediate advantage of eliminating the unfunded liability, and has the potential of giving us higher COLAs without any negative effect on the fund.

I do not know what the Governor will do with these ideas, or what legislative changes to PERA will be made by the end of the 2020 legislative session. I just hope the work that the Task Force has done over the summer will open some eyes to the problems that PERA faces, and get the discussion going. The solution to every problem starts with recognizing that there is a problem.



July 2020 Meeting President Kerry Horton Swears In Herman Bishop Historian & Mike Fox Treasurer



August, 2019, Monthly Meeting- On August 14, 2019 the 228 th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the Firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, @ 4100 Edith N.E. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Morris Guterrez conducted the opening prayer and a moment of silence was observed for our deceased members.

Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Treasurer, Mike Fox and Historian, Herman Bishop. Secretary Fred Casias was absent.

Herman Bishop read the Secretary's report from July, 2019. A motion to accept was made by Bill Raupfer and was seconded by Ralph Sedillo. The motion passed. Mike Fox gave the treasurer's report for July. Ralph Sedillo reported that the Rio Grande Credit Union made a generous donation in support of our annual picnic. We will be flying a banner honoring the Credit Union. Please support our Credit Union. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Noel Baca and was seconded by Eugene Baldonado. The motion passed.

Herman gave the Historian's report. He thanked Sam Trujillo, Kerry Horton, Mike Fox and Eddie Abeita for the fine articles they submitted for the September 1st newsletter. Frank Maestas was our guest at the August 14th meeting. Herman and our members thanked him for the numerous door prizes he donated for our annual picnic. Mike Fox thanked Andy Eversgard and his wife for donating a chess set for the chess table Mike built for the picnic raffle. Sam Trujillo made a motion to award an "Honorary Membership," to Cindy Raupfer, Bill Raupfer's daughter. The motion was seconded by Mike Murphy. The motion passed. Cindy has been an avid supporter of the AFD Retiree's association and regularly attends our monthly meetings association functions and picnics. She has been a great help to her dad Bill during his recent health issues. The award will be presented to Cindy at the picnic.

Bill Raupfer invited AFD Retiree members and their families to attend the annual commemoration ceremonies for 911 at Civic Plaza, on Wednesday September 11, 2019 at 12:00 P.M. The Retired Firefighter's Honor Guard will participate in the ceremonies and will perform the "Four Fives," bell ringing ceremony.

On September 24, 2019, at 12:00 P.M. the annual "Blue Mass," will be held at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, 5712 Paradise Blvd. NW. Bill Raupfer invited AFD Retiree's and their families to attend. The Retiree's "Honor Guard," will participate in the mass and will perform the "Four Fives," bell ringing ceremony. Bill is looking for more of our retirees to join him on the honor guard. Please call Bill, @ 269-7210 if you would like to be part of the team. There is no pay, however, the benefits are great !

Best wishes go to our fellow retirees on the sick roster: Bob Hartley, Eugene Ouzts, Jeff Elks, And Hilario Chavez. Wednesday's raffle was won by Cindy Raupfer, Rudy Sanchez, and Bill Raupfer. If you would like to donate items for the monthly raffle bring them to our monthly meetings. Morris Gutierrez led the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned @ 8:38 P.M.

"MEMORIES OF MY FIRE DEPARTMENT CAREER" By; Ray Flores, AFD Retired (10-1-2001)

It was on March 19, 1962 that I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department. Our cadet classes were not numbered and we had our training at the old drill tower located at 1510 Kit Carson S.W. It was not called the fire academy in those days. It was referred to as the "Drill Tower."

The training officers were Assistant Chief Ray Kuhn and Captain Moe Dauber. My fellow trainees were Don Fuqua, Ed Brito, John Milligan, Marx Deer, Bobby Baca, Mariano R. Luna, Nick Zamora, and Ralph Bustamante.

Only seven of us made the Fire Department a career. Mariano R. Luna, Don Fuqua, Ed Brito, John Milligan, Marx Deer, Bobby Baca, and myself. After serving many years in the firefighting division on pumpers and ladder trucks I had the opportunity to become a paramedic. I spent the last few years of my career as a paramedic. The job of paramedic was my favorite job in the department because it was always satisfying helping people in dire need.

I served under the following Fire Chiefs, Simon Seligman, Ray Kuhn, Arthur Martinez and Leonard Ortega. Also I had the opportunity to serve under the following District Chiefs. Louie Jurado, John C. "Slim", Davidson, Rudy Buckner, Joe Maldonado and Joe P. Kindrick.

One of the most memorable fires was when I was assigned to Station # 9 (Salem & Menaul N.E.) on the old floating crew. We only had two shifts and on the regular crews days off the floating crews filled in for them. Usually a floating crew served as fill-ins at three fire stations. Our crew worked at Stations #9, # 12, and # 5. We worked 60 hours a week at that time. Lieutenant Robert Playle was our officer, "Chooky" Fruscino Aragon was our driver. At that time we ran five men crews with three pipemen who rode the back of the pumper tailboard. There was myself, Everisto Marquez, and Lynn Johnson.

This particular fire occurred in the early morning close to Christmas and it was freezing outside. We responded to an alarm that came in as a car fire. Only one pumper responded and that was us, Engine # 9. When we arrived at the location on Los Arboles N.E. we found a car burning inside the garage. We also found that part of the house was also involved. We laid a line and proceeded to attack the fire. By the time the District Chief "Slim" J.C. Davidson arrived we had extinguished the fire. He was surprised that we had knocked the fire down with a one pumper response. For structure fires it was common to dispatch two pumpers. A second engine was not dispatched because it was only reported as a "car fire", requiring only a one engine response.

Although we had quite a serious fire on our hands we were able to bring it under control in a relatively short time with just our crew. Because of our training and excellent team work we handled this particular fire easily. It was terribly cold that night and I remember rolling up the 2 1/2 inch hose and taking the sections to the hose tower at Station # 13 (Indian School & Louisiana N.E.) We didn't have five inch hose in those days. The thing I remember most was that the rolls of hose were partially frozen and each roll was about four feet high. We all went home with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that day after our shift ended.

This next story is not a "War Story" but is on more of a humorous note. It was a funny incident that happened while I was on duty at Station # 16. I call this "Eeek- a mouse." We were performing our weekly "clean up and wax day." Ray Carillo was the station

Captain, Felix Tapia was the Rescue Officer, and crew members were Roy Winchester, Jake Perea, and Jim Swann. Before starting our clean up we went to the store and picked up supplies for our chow that day at noon. We made raspberry jello for dessert and put it in the refrigerator to gell. We were all going strong in our cleaning operations. When we got to the kitchen somebody yelled that there was a mouse running across the kitchen floor. Well, all our strong heros waited to see who was going after the mouse. Meanwhile, the mouse went under the refrigerator. Captain Carillo yelled, "there he is, kill him!" Then everybody decided to move the refrigerator to get the mouse. In doing so they jerked the fridge back and forth to scare the mouse from hiding. Finally the little critter ran out and Jake smacked it with a broom, scored, and then took the culprit out to the trash. When things finally settled down all of us suddenly thought in unison, "the jello!" You can imagine the mess we found when we opened the door! Needless to say, we didn't have dessert that day.

After spending twenty four years in the fire service I took my retirement on April 1, 1986. I enjoyed my career as a firefighter/paramedic and there was a lot of job satisfaction during those years. Currently I am enjoying my retirement and usually I find things to keep busy such as yard work, house maintenance, hobbies and my music.

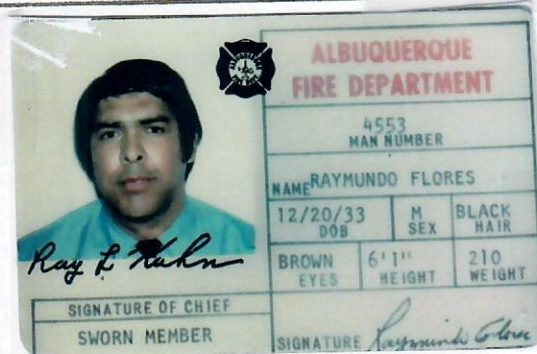
I am considered self employed because I work as a part-time, some times full- time musician playing the trumpet for a mariachi group called "Los Reyes," de Albuquerque. I also serve as trumpeter for our retiree's association and other Fire Department functions as requested.

As for the Fire Department I do not miss it that much. I do miss the closeness and unity of the people I worked with over the years. Since we formed the fire department retiree's association it has once more given me a chance to enjoy some of my retired brothers at the meetings.

The other functions such as our picnics, Christmas Party, and other social events conducted by the association are enjoyable as well. I serve as an advisory board member of our retiree's association and keep active by serving on various committees and functions throughout the year.

One final comment I have is that it was real rewarding to write this Bio along with my fellow retirees. I would like to thank one of our own retirees Herman Bishop who is collecting this information and compiling it into book form. Hopefully this information will be passed on to future firefighters and to our children and grandchildren. It serves as a good record of what the fire department was like during the era we spent in the fire service.

Ramundo "Ray" Flores Dies – We regret to report the death of our brother firefighter retiree Ramundo "Ray" Flores, age 85, who died on Tuesday July 2, 2019. He joined AFD in March, 1962, and after serving 24 years of faithful and dedicated service to the department he retired in March, 1986. He was a military veteran and served in the United States Marines. When he joined Ray Kuhn was the chief of training at the old drill tower at 1510 Kit Carson SW. When the paramedic division was formed in the late 1970's Ray was one of the first firefighters to graduate from UNM Regional medical school. He was a member of "Los Reyes de Albuquerque" a local Mariachi Band and was recognized as an excellent trumpeter. He also served As the official trumpeter for the AFD Honor guard and later in retirement he served as the official trumpeter for the AFD Retiree's Association when it was formed during June, 2000. He served 19 years as a member of the Retiree's Association Advisory board. Our most sincere Condolences are extended to his wife Merry and to the entire Flores Family.



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RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION
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PRESIDENT, KERRY HORTON

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KERRY HORTON**

Hello everyone, I hope you have had a great summer. By the time you read this, our picnic will have passed, the kids, and grandkids are back in school, and the big box stores will be displaying Halloween decorations. Time does fly by. It has been a busy summer, with the PERA Task Force meetings, and our E-Board elections, it seems that there was always something that had to be attended to. I would like to welcome Mike Fox to the E-Board as our new Treasurer, raffle coordinator, purchaser, coffee maker, and whatever else the newbie needs to do. This rookie hazing just never gets old.

On a serious note, you all have received a PERA ballot in the mail for the position of Retiree Board Member. If you have not already returned your ballot, it must be at the designated PO Box no later than 12 pm on September 13th. You know we do not endorse any political candidate, as per our bylaws, but I would like to briefly discuss the candidates. The incumbent is Loretta Naranjo Lopez. Loretta has been on the PERA board for 12 years and her record speaks for itself. She is being challenged by three candidates, Robert Shilling, Jeffrey Riggs, and Jacqueline Geoffrion.

Robert Shilling is a retired New Mexico State Police Officer, and served two years as Chief of the New Mexico State Police. As Chief of the NM State Police he brings good leadership abilities with him, having been in charge of 600 plus commissioned personnel and 120 civilian personnel, and managed a \$100 million budget.

Jeffrey Riggs has been a PERA member for 34 years, including 17 years with the New Mexico Division of Finance and Administration. Jeffrey has also served 5 years as Deputy Director on the Educational Retirement Board, and has experience in public pension planning.

Jacqueline Geoffrion has been a member of PERA for 27 years and is retired from the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. Jacqueline brings IT and financial accounting experience to the table.

As I said, the AFDRA does not endorse political candidates, but I am happy to discuss any candidate with you if you choose. Please, return your ballots, and remember, the incumbent is not always the best choice.