

AFD RETIREE NEWS

September 1, 2018

3-2018

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PUBLISHED BY
THE AFD RETIREE'S
ASSOCIATION



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Photo By: Fred Casias

1923 American La France Pumper

John Standefer retired New Mexico State Fire Marshal sits in the Driver's seat of his 1923 American La France 750 GPM Pumper which he and his two friends, Don McConnell and John Walden recently restored. This truck was originally purchased by the Albuquerque Fire Department in the early 1920's and was Engine # 1. Unfortunately it was scrapped after a Serious wreck in 1927. The fire chief's car and pumper # 1, collided with a City Street Car while responding to a false alarm. Chief Fred Russell and his driver Simon Seligman were seriously injured. Both men survived. Later the pumper was rebuilt from salvaged parts and served several years with AFD. In 1954 AFD donated the pumper to the Jemez Springs monastery. Later the monastery transferred the truck to the Village of Jemez Springs when a municipal volunteer fire department was formed. Finally the old pumper was retired and sat outside Jemez Springs, Station # 1 for many years slowly deteriorating. John Standefer's father Carl Standefer, former NM State Fire Marshal, purchased it. After Carl's death John inherited the truck. Several years passed by until John retired and then spent the past few years restoring the antique fire truck. (See Story Page 9)



JUNE 2018 MONTHLY MEETING - On June 13, 2018 the 214th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's union hall, local 244, 4100 Edith NE. President Kerry Horton called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was led by Jose Salaz. A moment of silence was held in honor of our deceased members. **Roll Call:** President, Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, and Historian Herman Bishop. Secretary Fred Casias was out of town on business.

Our guest speaker was Dan Mayfield, board member PERA (Public Employee's Retirement Association). He gave a financial up date on the PERA retirement fund. President Kerry Horton reported the executive staff of the firefighter's union, local 244, purchased a modern, state of the art public address system for the AFD Retiree's Association. A big thanks to Diego Arencon and our union brothers of local 244 for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Kerry said that members of the retiree's association will address the fire cadets on June 20, 2018 @ 3:00 PM and give a talk on the history of AFD.

Kerry Horton, President conducted elections for our officers, President, and Secretary, both positions are for two year terms. For President Louis Trujillo made a motion to elect Kerry Horton for President by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Jose Salaz. The motion carried. For Treasurer Louis Trujillo made a motion to elect Fred Casias by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion carried. Both officers will be sworn in at the July meeting.

Herman Bishop filled in for Fred Casias and read the minutes from the May, 2018 monthly meeting. A motion to accept was made by Jeff Elks and was seconded by Tobias Pino. The motion passed. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept was made by Jeff Elks and was seconded by Tobias Pino. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report and thanked our Colorado friend Frank Maestas for the beautiful St. Florian Medallions he sent to members of our executive board and members of our advisory board. Frank got them at the Blue Mass held in Colorado Springs during May, 2018 and felt they would be great gifts for the officers of our retiree's association. A big thanks goes to Frank for his thoughtfulness and for presenting these beautiful gifts to us.

President Kerry Horton recognized Morris Gutierrez and Mike Fox for the fine job and hard work they did to erect the memorial flagpole in honor of our deceased members. On Sunday June 3, 2018 The memorial ceremony was conducted at Cosmos Hair and Nail Concepts, 2721 San Mateo NE. The attendance was great. Over 300 active duty firefighters, retired firefighters and their families attended.

John Serino recommended that President Horton appoint Morris Gutierrez and Mike Fox to our Advisory Board for their recent actions above and beyond the call of duty in making the memorial flag pole a reality. This action was unanimously supported by the membership. Kerry made it official now Morris and Mike are members of our Advisory Board.

Eddie Abieta reported that all systems are go for our annual picnic which will be held on Saturday August 18, 2018, 11:00 AM, in downtown Bernalillo, NM, Rotary Park. Retiree's and their families are invited.

Bill Raupfer announced that he will assume leadership of our Honor Guard and Funeral detail now that he has recovered from his recent long term illness. **Raffle winners :** Tobias Pino, Noel Baca, Jeff Elks.

On The Sick Roster, Condolences - Best wishes go to Gilbert Roybal, Frank Maestas, Marcela Sandoval (John Serino's wife) after recent hospital stays. Our condolences to Herman Bishop who recently lost his brother Vernon in North Carolina.

Closing Prayer - Morris Gutierrez, Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 PM

MY EXPERIENCE WORKING AS AN AFD FIREFIGHTER

(By Ron Beckman, AFD Deputy Chief, Retired)

March 20, 2018

I developed an interest in emergency services early in my life. My adoptive father was an instructor and taught the very first EMTs and Paramedics throughout all of New Mexico under a program at UNM in the 1970s, including AFD's first Paramedic personnel. Some old timers might remember the likes of Clark Speakman, Bob Cook, and Jerry Beckman. At the age of 13, I accompanied my dad for an EMT course one summer in Window Rock, AZ and I passed the tests for the EMT-Basic certification.

In 1979 I was hired under Federal Affirmative Action for the 52nd cadet class as the City was trying to hire minorities and white folks were in that group, as was our first female firefighter, Joanna Sieben. The Academy then was right next to the Zoo on Kit Carson Street SW. Starting wage was something like \$2.52/hr. I remember that a huge furniture warehouse on Cochiti Street by the fairgrounds was on fire right after we were issued our turnouts and all of the 15 students and Instructors, Bernie Rutan, Salomon Jojola, Eddie Abeita, and Pete Mirabal raced off/responded on the open-cab Mack pumper (nineteen people) to the 3rd alarm fire. The truck could only reach about 20 MPH going uphill on Lead Avenue on the way. What a sight that must have been to other motorists with all of us clamoring onto any space possible on that old apparatus, seven people standing on the tail board alone and not one seatbelt in the truck, with red lights and siren blazing. So glad that the safety dynamics have changed, which saves firefighters' lives. The department had just issued new MSA SCBAs and none of the older experienced firefighters fighting that fire were using them and they all had irritated bloodshot red eyes and horrific streams of snot hanging out of their noses and mouths down to their chests. At the time you were teased as a "wuss" for wearing a BA by the older guys. In fact, back then personnel responded and fought fires wearing their station attire cotton trousers. I am glad those paradigms changed.

In 1981 I was a new Paramedic and we responded on R-3 to an apartment fire near Gibson SE where a 5-month old Asian baby was overcome sleeping in a hammock fashioned from a bed sheet hanging under a sewing machine cabinet discovered during the secondary search by the E-3 crew. I was handed the infant inside and it took me a couple of steps to gather my thoughts and composure going out the door. Once outside I took a breath and started to give CPR while hurrying back to the street where all of the trucks were staged. An Albuquerque Journal photographer was in front of me and snapped a shot. The photo was on the front page of the paper and went out world-wide through the Associated Press, which is how it worked in the old days of journalism. The baby survived for five days but died. The mother had just washed the clothes with a flammable liquid, something reportedly she had learned from American G.I.s in Vietnam, and thoughtlessly placed the laundry basket in front of the wall furnace. Once at the Rescue Squad we found out that the regular Driver was occupied elsewhere on the fire ground, and Larry Espalin hopped into the driver's seat and off to the E.R. we sped. In the photo you can see Manny Otero, Richard Wise and Lt. Frank Chavez from E-3 and E-11 working in the

background. As a result of the AP news wire picture the photo went out in other newspapers around the world including the military Stars and Stripes and I received around a hundred letters and requests for AFD patches and plenty of ribbing from the guys for the publicity. I was proud that I received a commendation from the American Red Cross for using CPR to save a life. This incident changed my whole career as a firefighter and I always remembered from then on how the use of the media as a tool could assist us in our duties of saving lives and communicating fire safety to the public.

While having a beer one evening up here where I now live in Pagosa Springs recently, a bar chair fell over with a loud boom and reminded me of another incident at the Benevolent Protected Order of Elks Lodge or maybe it was a VFW Post on South Broadway. This area of town was always dangerous and charged with tension with the inter-dynamics of black and Latino residents. At the Lodge one Saturday night was a huge wedding with 200-300 people and a man was shot in the chest with a large caliber handgun inside. Even in the parking lot when we arrived we were being yelled at by excited party-goers to hurry up while we gathered up our equipment and went inside. The man was lying on the floor in the middle of the dance hall and the crowd pressed down on us all around and wanted a miracle that could not come. In the chaos someone accidentally knocked over a large wooden table and the boom and echo sounded like another gunshot. The diligent police officers on their feet around us drew their handguns, the ambulance personnel stopped CPR and (Nikki DeMeullermister, I think) shielded the patient with their own bodies as the party crowd all hit the floor simultaneously in less than a second. Except us. I remember we all continued treating the patient on our knees but were looking around to ascertain what was going on like prairie dogs popping up but we were in a sea of terrified people lying on the floor, which I will never forget.

Everyone has tons of war stories. One other incident was when on R-13 we were on our way back to the station and we saw a large column of smoke about 1/2 mile ahead of us at San Mateo and Menaul. We raced over to the strip mall and found that a pet shop was fully involved and we were first on scene and could hear the sirens of the other units starting to leave the station house for the dispatch. A man outside the neighboring unit stated that a man was still inside. We immediately put on our PPE and two of the three of us went around the back to cut off the utilities, do a 360 and take up command. I got to the front door when the first hose line was in position by one of the first Pumper crew guys. I could hear the man inside screaming. Against protocol, I went inside by myself on hands and knees to try to get to the rear of the store for the primary search. I remember in the blackness trying to figure out the layout of the store with all of the rows of merchandise aisles and stacks of bagged pet food, which was confusing. The crews breached the rear doors when I was half-way to the back and it was like a bright spotlight was turned on and I could clearly see with the contrast, which relieved my anxiety. It seemed like an hour but was probably only two minutes. Naturally, one thing I kept worrying about was hearing the sound of the low-air bell on my BA. The man had been cleaning parts with gasoline in the work room and the gas water heater pilot light ignited

fumes and caught everything on fire and flashed over. The man and his personal dog were burnt beyond recognition. I will never forget being alone in there and the tremendous ear-piercing noise of hearing dozens of dogs, cats and birds all shrieking at the top of their lungs being choked by that acrid smoke trying to escape while locked in cages. While tragic, we got some laughs afterwards because we found out that some of the tough old timer leathernecks on the crew were afraid of snakes. While taking all of the surviving animals outside for fresh air during salvage operations we could chase those guys around and around all the way back to the trucks.

As a new probie and a tall, dumb, white guy I had an introduction into a wonderful culture and ways of life of a people that I was up until then unfamiliar with but would embrace and love. I was mesmerized by how some of the older guys would sprinkle red chile pepper flakes even on their corn flake cereal in the morning. We would cook for 30-40 people at Station 1 in the old days, with around five paper grocery bags filled with sopapillas alone for each meal. I was challenged almost daily to keep up with the guys in the chow hall cooking and eating chile. Hot enough to make you sweat with every bite, but I hung in there and to this day love New Mexican food - the hotter the better.

I remember the routines of stripping and waxing the floors to a gloss shine in all of the facilities that we worked and the constant pranks and the day-long laughter. So much so, that at the end of the shift our bellies hurt from laughing. What a huge contrast to the suffering and tragedies that we would witness and actually live through as "part of the job" when people had the very worst day of their life and we would be there as caring professionals for them. There were loving monikers or affectionate nicknames that still make me smile and have special stories behind them like; skippy, donuts, toasty, piggy, jo-jo, purple, tom cat, cabezon, dicky-pops, fluffy, bullwinkle, picadilly, chato, casper, barbie, sadie, and mad-dog.

Every AFD person I worked with was a hero, a professional, and a great in their own right. People like Jeff Elks, Omar Diningrat, Roxanne Pierce, Mike Fox, Phil Dixon, Toby Pino, Nidel Martinez, Bill Busick, Pete Clinch, Ernie Santistevan, Ken Tiller, Doc Harris, Harry Seeman, Henry Chavez, Eddie Varela, Tom Placencia, Ali Surodjawan, and Mike Miyaki – all legends to me. I loved going to work each and every day and would not trade the experience for anything in the world. Along the way there were fantastic mentors - Abakusumo, Jones, Bessom, Hernandez, Waddles, Beck, Nee, Bustamante, Bishop, Huling, Saddoris, Halton. Firefighters extraordinaire with recognizable family names like Padilla, Garcia, Romero, Murphy, Collado, McPeek, Sanchez, Montoya, Gonzales, McIntyre, Teupell and Ortega. I apologize for not having the room here to mention every great man or woman with whom I had the pride to serve side-by-side with.

I was happy and very proud to be a part of a tremendous team making positive changes to necessary safety programs in our profession. I had a hand in a lot of Special OPS stuff in their infancy like haz-mat program and equipment enhancements, initiating Tele-staff, USAR Task

Force readiness, wild land firefighting improvements in training and sensible equipment, training people on the old AFD hover craft on the Rio Grande river, working in the FMO, starting up a juvenile fire setter program, recruiting, helping out with the CAD and MPDS, purchasing and certifying drivers on new rescues, helping to build AFD's first mobile command post, the EMS bike program, getting Cushman mini transport units for the balloon fiesta, working on Code RAFT (swift water rescue), looking at modifications to safer Code 3 responses by units en route, obtaining multiple grants, getting our 800 MHz radio system, being on the LEPC, and initiating the change from an ISO classification 4 to a 3 (which ISO said could never be less than a Class 3), and the rewarding experience of being the first CERT trainer for the OEM.

I am often asked whether or not I have nightmares of working as a firefighter. I have forgotten either by some internal protective mechanism or perhaps the ebb of time and lapses in my mind, but nothing about all of the pain and suffering. Ironically, what I have had nightmares about concerning the fire service was the constant dealings as a Chief Officer with the operating budget and the repetition of senseless revisions and the grueling appearances in front of City Council and trying to squeeze pennies in order to provide crucial life-saving front line and prevention services to our community and a realistic and competitive living-wage to our career personnel.

Wherever I find work nowadays, my supervisors always comment on an extensive job skill set. This is something that I can sincerely thank the job for just by being a firefighter. Remaining physically fit is a huge benefit for job readiness and the life as a retiree beyond. For 6 years I worked driving a semi tractor-trailer with the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge. Retired Deputy Chief Jay Staeden was my supervisor for half of that stint. I remember new AFD personnel asked me and I will proffer it here in case any of them ever have an opportunity to read this, "Chief, what should I do to move up the ranks for my career?". My response was always the same - read everything you can about the fire service and your community. Books, fire service magazines, even simply the newspapers. Keeping track of the latest trends is paramount in our changing world. I was proud that AFD was a progressive department and it is evident that it still is. Even though sometimes it is discouraging and feels like change moves at a snail's pace it is important to remember that changes take time, careful planning and a lot of money, but hang in there. Do what is right. Get as much of a big picture by working in every support division you can and become a Paramedic if that is right for you. Consider going to the National Fire Academy. You will be a more rounded firefighter on the fire ground. I have no regrets, however, if I had the opportunity to do it again perhaps I would not have been so harsh when dealing with disciplinary problems in the department. I am proud of having worked hand-in-hand every day with the IAFF Locals #1455 (intermediate number) and #244 (original and current number) to keep as many firefighters' jobs as intact as we could, often through unconventional tactics which most people outside the loop don't realize. I would often comment that we need to hire the most aggressive, talented, hard-charging and courageous people we can, and that type of individual often times doesn't fit every day into our societal

norms and times of misunderstandings and friction occur but do not have to be a game-ender for a job.

I now live up in the high country in beautiful SW Colorado for the past 9 years on 17 wooded acres with my wife, Bernice, and our three dogs, one cat and two horses, where I can fish, ride, ski and hunt. I retired from AFD in June, 2000 after 22 years of service. I have volunteered for horseback SAR missions here and worked at the Chimney Rock National Monument as a day manager and tour guide for my third season, now. From 2001 to 2005 I served NM's largest non-profit called ARCA as a Property, Transportation and Safety Manager. ARCA provides housing, job-placement training and other programs for developmentally and physically disabled people in dozens of group homes in Albuquerque. This was extremely rewarding to me and gave me the opportunity to meet Bernice, who also worked there for ten years. I also did a three-year stint working as a seatbelt advocate and child safety seat provider for five counties once I moved up here. I just scored a new position with our County government as an entry-level 911 Dispatcher and I feel that I can still give something more back to my community. Thanks all for the lifetime of memories. Stay safe and fit and God Bless firefighters everywhere.

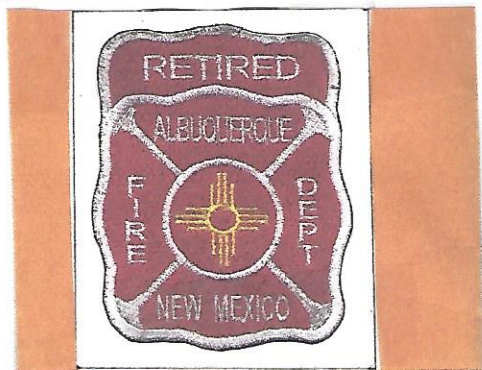


1981 - Ron Beckman, Albuquerque Firefighter/Paramedic rescues 5 month baby from an apartment fire on Gibson S.E. This photo was on the front page of the Albuquerque Journal and went out world-wide through the Associated Press. The fire was caused by mis-use of a flammable liquid. Unfortunately The baby died five days later..

RONALD BECKMAN

Ronald Beckman joined the Albuquerque Fire Department on January 29,1979 and was in the 52nd fire cadet class. He spent 22 years with the department and retired on June 19,2000. He served in the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Driver, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief and Retired at the rank of Deputy Chief. He worked in the following divisions, firefighting Rescue/Paramedics, Fire Marshal's Office, and fire Administration. After his retirement He and his wife Bernice moved to beautiful SW Colorado, in Pagosa Springs. He has horses and loves to ride, fish, ski, and hunt. He has worked for SAR missions, worked for ARCA and Chimney Rock National Monument. He just started a new job as a 911 Dispatcher with his local county government.

Deputy Chief of Planning & Logistics
Adam Eakes



Adam Eakes began his firefighting career as a volunteer for the Village of Los Ranchos fire department in 1998. He was hired by the Los Alamos County Fire Department and entered their academy in January of 1999. Adam joined the Albuquerque Fire Department in 2001 as part of the 63rd lateral cadet class. He promoted to the rank of Driver and then obtained his paramedic license in 2005. In 2012 Adam promoted out of the Rescue Division to the rank of Captain where he took over the Records Management Division. During his tenure there he oversaw the deployment of AFR's current electronic reporting system. In January of 2016 Adam returned to the field as the Captain of Squad 1 on A Battalion. Adam was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief in 2018 and assigned to the newly created position of Fleet Battalion Chief. In July of 2018 Adam was selected as the new Deputy Chief of Planning and Logistics.

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July 2018 Monthly Meeting – On July 11, 2018 the 215th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's union hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton at 7:08 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Tom Romero led the opening prayer. A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members. Roll Call – Kerry Horton, President, Mike Murphy Vice President, Fred Casias, Secretary, Sam Trujillo, Treasurer and Herman Bishop, Historian.

Guests were Bill Raupfer's daughter Rachel, and granddaughter, Lynn. There were no guest speakers. President Kerry Horton thanked IAFF President, Diego Arencon, Local 244, for the P.A. Loudspeaker Address System donated by the firefighter's union to the retirees. A retirement party for Deputy Chief Gil Santistevan will be held on Thursday July 20, 2018, retirees are invited to attend. Congratulations to Chief Santistevan. Ralph Sedillo advised Kerry Horton he will be stepping down from the advisory board after serving over 18 years. A big thanks to Ralph for his service to the retiree's association.

The Secretary's report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Mike Fox and was seconded by John Serino. The motion carried. Sam Trujillo gave the Treasurer's report. We are in the process of purchasing an electronic bugle for funerals and ceremonial purposes. We are going to the electronic bugle as we no longer have an official bugler. A motion to accept was made by Bill Raupfer and was seconded by Noel Baca. The motion carried. Herman Bishop gave the Historian's report. Frank Maestas, honorary member from Colorado will be donating several door prizes for this year's annual picnic.

Retired State Fire Marshal, John Standefer along with two friends has restored a 1923 American La France pumper that formerly belonged to AFD in the 1920's. Years later the truck served in the Jemez Springs F.D. At a future meeting John will bring the antique truck to one of our monthly meetings for the retirees to see. Recently Herman found an old photo of AFD's baseball team, (Circa, 1950's). Pablo Garcia Jr. is the bat boy, about 9 years old and his father Paul Garcia Sr. and Pablo's uncle Armando Garcia are both in the picture.

Best wishes go to our retirees on the sick roster, Eugene Baldonado, Manuel Aragon, Larry Espalin, Gilbert Roybal, Wilfred Dominguez, and Phil Candelaria. Sincere condolences are given retiree Diego Garcia who recently lost his wife Esther. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Morris Gutierrez presented the members of the executive board with copies of the proclamations issued to members the AFD Retiree's Association honoring our deceased firefighters on the memorial flag pole at ceremonies on June 10, 2018.

The July raffle was won by: Tobias Pino, Mike Murphy and Bernie Martinez. The closing prayer was led by Chaplain Pat McKinney.

The July Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

SUBJECT: Restoration of the Albuquerque Fire Department 1923 American La France pumper

The Albuquerque Fire Department donated the 1923 pumper to the Jemez Spring monastery in 1954. The monastery transferred the truck to the Village of Jemez Springs when a municipal volunteer fire department was created. When the fire department took delivery of newer apparatus the village sold the truck to Thomas Abousleman, the town's first fire chief.

In 1975, Carl Joe Standefer, former chief of the Eunice Fire Department, had begun working for the State Fire Marshal's Office as a fire instructor. In 1976, he learned of the truck during training exercises and convinced Chief Abousleman to sell it to him. He stored it in Santa Fe for a few years and then entrusted its safe keeping to his son, John Standefer, who was then a sales representative for Clark Fire Apparatus and a Deputy Fire Chief of Bernalillo County Fire District 5.

It remained in storage in Albuquerque until the Standefers entered into an agreement with Don McConnell, former chief of the Tome-Adelino Fire Department and owner of Monarch Fire Equipment, to transfer the truck to Belen in the early 1990s and begin the initial restoration work. Progress was slow as business, employment and family obligations took precedence.

The restoration progress changed after retirements and John Walden learned of the truck. With his enthusiasm, encouragement and knowledge of classic car restoration the work began in earnest. Today the truck is nearing its final restoration glory.

DON McCONNELL:

Don is a lifetime resident of New Mexico and was the owner of an excavation and trenching company. He joined the Tome-Adelino Fire Department in Valencia County in 1967. He attended the annual Fire Marshal Training School in 1968, and was promptly elected as the Fire Chief and became a regular instructor at the annual school for years afterwards.

He served as the department's chief until 1985, and was very active with all of the Valencia County fire service. Don is also a lifetime member of the New Mexico State Firefighter's Association, having served on the Board and as President. He also served as a Valencia County Commissioner from 1976 to 1978.

Don and his wife Annette founded and operated Monarch Fire Equipment from 1985 until 2014.

JOHN STANDEFER:

John is a lifetime resident of New Mexico and followed his father, uncle, great uncle and cousins into the fire service in 1969, joining the Eunice Fire Department at age 16 as a junior volunteer firefighter. He received his initial training at the annual Fire Marshal Training School and was the Fire Department Training Officer when he moved to Albuquerque in 1975.

From 1975 to 1980, he was employed by Clark Fire Apparatus as a sales representative and fire truck specification designer. In continued that work in 1980, when he founded Stanco Inc. and added ambulances and the Hurst Jaws of Life to the mix of sales and training.

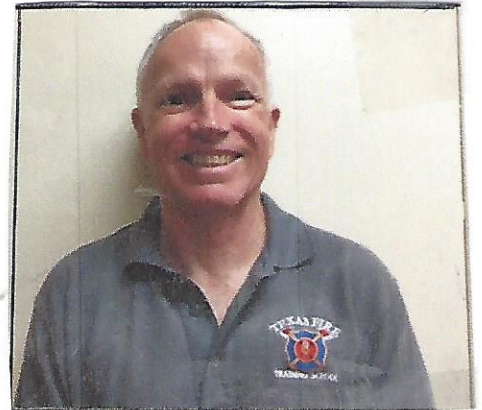
In 1975, he joined Bernalillo County Fire District 5 as the Training Officer and was appointed to a Deputy Chief position before his departure in 1989. At that time he was hired as the Lead Instructor

for the newly operational New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro. He eventually was promoted to Director of the Academy and in 2002 he was appointed as the New Mexico State Fire Marshal. He served in that position until his retirement in 2017.

John is the founding President of the Lea County Fire Chiefs and Officers Association. He is also a lifetime member of the New Mexico State Firefighter's Association, having served on the Board and twice as President. He represented New Mexico at the creation of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and served on it's Bard of Governors.

Editor's Note:

John Standefer New Mexico State Fire Marshal, retired, spent almost One half a century in the fire service having joined the Eunice, NM fire Department at the age of 16 as a junior volunteer firefighter. He retired in 2017 after serving as the NM State Fire Marshal for 15 years. Early on in John's tenure as State Fire Marshal, he worked with the Public Regulation Commission and State Legislators to elevate the Office to a Division within the NMPRC. During the NM Fire and EMS EXPO in 2016 Fire Marshal Standefer was officially awarded the NM Fire Service's Carl Joe Standefer Meritorious Award – Named after John's father, a previous NM State Fire Marshal – for a career dedicated to public safety and an unwavering drive to better New Mexico's fire departments.



Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' association

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AFDRA E-Board members,

I am nominating retiree Morris Gutierrez for the "2018 Man of the Year." In the past year, Morris has exemplified the spirit of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees' Association by honoring our past members with the development of the AFDRA Memorial Flagpole.

The Memorial Flagpole is a unique and wonderful way to remember and honor those retirees that have come before us. Families can be proud that their loved ones will forever be memorialized, and never forgotten.

Morris's vision, hard work, and determination to construct the flagpole, develop a system to display the name-tags, and plan the enormously successful dedication, has earned him the title of AFDRA's Man of the Year.

*Sincerely,
Kerry Horton*

Memorial Firefighters Flag Pole Dedication. *“what really starts this new venture”*

Morris Gutierrez Story

By Eddie Abeita

In Morris’s words it started with brother Zeke Hernandez who had a chronic illness that required a long hospital stay. With the long hospital stay his home lacked basic maintenance which was slowly turning into needed repairs. It was lucky that Mark Chavez of Random Acts of Kindness came to the rescue. Mark got the wheels in motion and several retired and active firefighters volunteered to help repair and spruce up Zeke’s house. While work was being conducted in the front part of the house a standing flag pole was in the way of work being performed, so it was removed and placed in the backyard on the ground to be *raised* at a later date. The work was another successful gift by the Random Acts of Kindness. Sadly, approximately two weeks later Zeke expired Morris said.



Master of Ceremonies
Morris Gutierrez

“What really starts this new venture”; weeks after Zeke’s services his wife Mary contacted me and asked me if I wanted Zeke’s flag pole? I immediately said yes, but then later it hit me, what would I do with it? I did not want to place it on the ground behind my garage or placed in someone else back yard for the next 10 years. My **first thought** was to honor our deceased brother Zeke by placing the pole in the ground and dedicating it to him. However, that was my first thought but now, it had turned into a **vision** and with help from retiree friends I converse with off and on, Mike Fox and Pablo Garcia I knew **a plan** would be imminent. The plan now was to *“honor all deceased firefighters”* wonderful plan said Morris!

To insure the plan would not go on and on over time and fizzle out, I decided to place the flag pole on my business property immediately at COSMOS HAIR CONCEPTS 2721 San Mateo Blvd NE. I also felt this would be a centralized location and I would not have to request permission for placement at other location(s) such as a city fire station. I have a friend Chris Ornelias (non-firefighter) who is a welder by trade he did the cutting and welding to get the pole in place where it is currently erected in its *permanent* location. As I said the plan now was to *“honor all deceased firefighters”*. We decided to have the names of our deceased firefighters placed on the pole. We did a little experimenting at first to insure the name tags would look good and be correctly secured to the pole. We had some *red tags made in the shape of Fire Hydrants and Maltese Crosses with deceased firefighter names on them*. To keep the tags snug to the pole Mike Fox invented an MTP foot press (aka *“Mikes Tortilla Press”*) specifically designed to put a small curve on the tag so it hugs the pole for a clean fit. The MTP may be considered for a patent or presented on Shark Tank. Pablo secured the tag(s) by riveting them to the pole for a secure attachment. At this point we were excited and ready to party!

Memorial Firefighters Flag Pole Dedication

By Eddie Abeita

The Dedication, June 3, 2018

Planning for the dedication was exciting however you have to keep the focus that the dedication is done with a lot of respect to our fallen comrades and their families. The dedication was planned for June 3 on a Sunday not to interfere with other surrounding business so guest could have parking available. We needed help from retirees, active firefighters, family and friends who pitched in and they came through. Chairs were provided by the retiree association. I also had to purchase tents for shade and the plan was looking good said Morris.

You need to keep an event lively so food is always a good start, food vendors were invited and they brought their Taco and Bar B Q food trucks to the event. A popular event at the retirees meetings are their raffles so we had one, Leroy Barboa and Eddie Abeita did the ticket selling and the raffle, ticket sales were great and all money was donated to the firefighter's retirees association. We have wonderful fire supporters who donated the prizes. They were; Akasa Berzins who donated 12 firefighter plaques, Vince Dominguez donated four \$25.00 gift cards, Keith Mallory donated a restaurant dinner card. Cosmo's employees donated a beauty basket. Of course, our retiree's Mark Chavez donated a hand carved bear and Skip Navarrette donated a Firefighter's Ax "Thanks to All".

Morris said I had the honor of being the MC and what a great honor it was. Brian Colon gave an opening prayer and after what more touching, was having one of our own, Donnie Sanchez sing the National Anthem. Guest and speakers were Alan Armijo representing the mayor's office Councilor Diane Gibson, AFD Fire Chief Paul Dow. Union President Diego Aren'con and Retirees President Kerry Horton The AFD Honor Guard post colors and the Retirees Association rang the Four 5's with Louie Trujillo citing the commands. The Shriners Bag Pipes also performed. AFD fire apparatus were also present with the aerial (ladder) extended and flew the U.S. Flag above the crowd, which made a wonderful background and clearly sent the message this is a firefighter event and of course the AFD Funeral Truck which was so appropriate to have at this dedication. The Knights of Columbus were also present and our retirees Chaplin Mark Chavez.

Morris said I have been asked when the next series of placing more tags on the pole would take place? That is hard to say because we have been blessed by not losings a retiree since the dedication however I would say when we have approximately five deaths we will have another ceremony.

What has been so rewarding is; family, friends, community members that have stopped to visit the pole. I have seen them stare at the pole or search for a particular name, most have sat on benches we provided, maybe to *reflect or pray, that is what I refer to as Tears of Joy!*



Roberta Abeita with her brother Paul Gonzales' tag

Interviews With Retiree's about Monthly Meetings and their Message to Younger Retirees.

By Eddie Abeita

Retiree Noel Baca

I love to attend our monthly meetings one thing, at my age I may get the meeting day mixed up with other appointments, when I am ready to head out to the meeting, to make sure I've called Sammy and he said it's next week or tomorrow, I say yeah, I thought so. One thing I don't forget is when it's time to go play cards (ha-ha). I communicate with Manuel Aragon when I can and I pass on what went on at our retiree meeting(s) he likes that.

When I go to the casinos I see the same retiree firefighters their and we talk about our meetings they seem interested and I keep inviting them to our meetings but there is always an excuse why they can't or did not attend.

Attendance by younger retirees are very few but it makes me happy when I do see a new face especially a younger retiree. When an older retiree shows up for our meetings it's an old body and old face but sure wonderful to see the old brother(s). I remember our old union meetings sometimes it was hard to get a quorum to start the meeting but if the meeting was to discuss the UNION contract the place was jammed packed and always the main question asked, "how much do I get"?

I think one reason the younger retiree(s) may not show up for meetings is, they are still busy with other activities maybe with kids or have taken on another job 5 days a week so depending on their responsibilities it may be hard for them to attend. I remember how busy you can get with kids; our kids are big and gone from the house and have their own family, so I understand the younger retirees don't have time and us old guys have a lot of time on our hands.

Retiree Greg Armenta

I love to attend retiree meetings when I can, sometimes I have family to take care of so I am unable to go. I think of the meetings as seeing my family I love our brothers so much. It's nice to hear what's happening in the meetings Sammy always keeps us informed about PERA (Public Employees Retirement Association) and COLA (Cost-Of- Living-Adjustment) this directly affects all retirees.

Retiree HH Chavez

I like attending our retiree meetings when I can or I should when available. One thing I would tell the younger retirees is we are getting old and this is more than just another group or club. Because at our meeting's we discuss any changes that may be made in our PENSION and this means; younger retirees need to think "hey that includes me and my pension". At one meeting a retiree shook my hand and said, it's sure good to see you HH. Well I had to ask what is your name? He said "come on HH don't you remember what you use to do to me a long time ago, I just smiled. However, at our meetings some common topics are about aches, pains, bone replacement and memory. We need the younger ones to start coming to our meetings!

“At Our Meetings Sammy Always Keeps Us Informed About PERA and COLA this Directly Affects all Retirees”.

**Interviews With Retiree’s about Monthly Meetings
and their Message to Younger Retirees.**

By Eddie Abeita

Retiree Toby Pino

I look forward to the retiree’s meetings the second Wednesday of the month. We retirees spent so much time together in the fire station way back. So, when we see each other it’s great to reminisce about old times and just talk. I told Eddie when I started attending regular, it was like new friends again because some retirees I never worked with because we were on different platoons or different districts although we knew each other by name or face but did not converse a whole lot back then. It may be a little late in time (life) but it’s good to talk to them. One thing I would tell the younger retirees is we are getting older *so step up to the plate* come to the meetings the association future is in your hands. Also, at the meetings we have cold drinks and doughnuts thanks to Eddie Abeita and Fred Teupell.

Retiree Louie Trujillo

I enjoy seeing my brother Retirees at the monthly meetings, it’s a good way of keeping up with other Brother Retirees and it helps to keep our Association alive! In attending our old Union meetings. I would say are pretty much the same reasons as I do for our Retiree's Association in attending

I pass this on to our younger retirees about our retiree meetings; It is the attendance of our new Retiree that will keep our Brotherhood alive and strong it is the only way to maintain what we had as a unique "team" during our active service!

Retiree Ray Flores

I think our retiree meetings are great in fact I kind of wish we had more, because we talk with each other and tell old stories. Even if the stories are the same and been told over and over they are always enjoyable. Sometime the same story is told but with another person’s name used.

We all worked so hard to get and keep the association going the younger retirees need to understand we are getting older and it’s up to them to keep it going. We have our annual picnic and the new retirees in attendance receive a firefighter’s ax or ring and that’s great, after talking with some I guess we expect them to come to the meetings. We may see 1 or 2 but after some picnics we don’t see them again. Just like some of our old brother retirees they don’t come to the meetings. It reminds me of our union meetings small crowds and then large ones maybe because of the bar or union contract being negotiated. Either way we make do with what we have.

August, 2018 Monthly Meeting - On August 8, 2018 at 7:07 PM, the 216th monthly meeting of the AFD Retiree's Association was held at the firefighter's Union Hall, Local 244, 4100 Edith NE. The meeting was called to order by President Kerry Horton. After the Pledge of Allegiance the opening prayer was led by Chaplain Pat McKinney. A moment of silence was held for our deceased members. Roll Call – President Kerry Horton, Vice President, Mike Murphy, Secretary, Fred Casias, Treasurer, Sam Trujillo, Historian, Herman R. Bishop. Kerry recognized retiree Eddie Brito and Jim Dahl who have not attended our monthly meetings recently.

Our guest speaker for the evening was retired State Fire Marshal John Standefer. He addressed our members and said he retired as the New Mexico State Fire Marshal two years ago. He has spent the past two years restoring an antique 1923 American La France fire pumper which was owned by AFD during the 1920's. He stated that he had a good working relationship with AFD staff during his tenure with the fire marshal's office. He is active in the New Mexico State Fire Academy enjoys working with AFD personnel, especially retired fire Captain Fred Casias, guest instructor at the fire academy. Soon as he puts the finishing touches on the restored pumper he hopes to bring it to a future monthly meeting for our members to view.

President Kerry Horton attended the recent retirement party for Deputy Chief Gil Santistevan at fire administration. Gil gave Kerry numerous photos of AFD personnel and apparatus taken over the past few years. On behalf of our retired members he wished Chief Sanstistevan well on his retirement and hopes he becomes active with our retiree association. Prior to Gil's retirement he arranged funding to purchase new picture frames for the cadet class photos displayed in the fire museum at the fire academy. A big thanks to Gil for his assistance. Kerry thanked Local 244 firefighter's Union President Diego Arencon for donating a new podium/PA system for members of our retiree's association.

The Secretary's Report was given by Fred Casias. A motion to accept was made by Bill Raupfer and was seconded by Ray Flores. The motion was approved. The Treasurer's report was given by Sam Trujillo. Financially all systems are go for our annual picnic on Saturday, August 18th. There is no charge for the picnic, however, donations will be accepted. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mike Fox and was seconded by Adrain Glass. The motion passed. Sam Trujillo has requested retiree volunteers to assist in the annual Muscular Dystrophy drive this September 1st to 6th. Please contact Sam if you wish to assist, 899-1500.

The Historian's report was given by Herman Bishop. He said the final draft of the September 1st newsletter is near completion. We have some interesting stories this issue such as the Ron Beckman story, The restoration of a 1923 American La France pumper formerly owned by AFD and recently restored by retired State Fire Marshal John Standefer. Eddie Abeita has submitted stories "Firefighter's Memorial Flag Pole Dedication," and Retiree Interviews regarding Monthly Meetings." We have received 12 really great door prizes for our annual picnic donated by our Colorado friend Frank Maestas. A big thanks goes to Frank. His generosity is most appreciated.

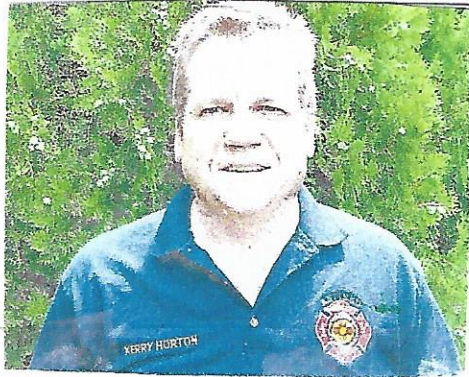
Committee Reports: Eddie Abeita, chairman of the picnic committee reports that our annual picnic is all set and we are ready to go. He has appointed committee members to plan, set up tables and chairs, food servers, grill chefs, clean up crews and we are looking forward to a large attendance. Bill Raupfer Chairman of our Honor Guard is looking for new members. John Serino is stepping down from the Honor Guard. A big thanks goes to John for his many years service on the Honor Guard and Funeral Detail.

Sam Trujillo reported that we recently purchased an electronic trumpet to be played at firefighter funerals and at special retiree functions because we no longer have an official trumpeter. He asked Joe Martinez to demonstrate the trumpet. It was quite impressive and the sound and tone quality is excellent.

Guests: Teresa Barboa, Merry Flores, Roberta Abeita. Raffle winners: E.V. Marquez, Mike Murphy, Joe Martinez, Toby Pino and Bernie Martinez. A big thanks to Eddie Abeita and Mike Fox for conducting the raffle each month. Mike Fox will have many items for sale at our annual picnic, T-Shirts, Caps, badges, knives, etc.
Closing prayer: By: Chaplain Pat McKinney. The meeting adjourned @ 8: 45 PM

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KERRY HORTON

President's Message

By Kerry Horton

Hello everybody. As you read this, summer is gone, kids and grandkids are back in school, and the summer picnic is behind us. We've had a great turnout at the meetings this summer, thank you. The only thing that I would like to see is a few younger faces. Nothing wrong with the faces that I see every month, I would just like to add a few newer ones to the crowd.

At the last meeting, I did a very informal survey. I retired six years ago, and I asked if anyone at the meeting had retired after I did. Only two guys raised their hands. Now I understand that a lot of you went on to work in a second career, you still have young ones at home, and life gets busy. But we are only talking about one Wednesday night a month, and it doesn't even have to be every month. Just drop on by once in a while, let us know how you've been, and what you've been up to.

I think that every new face that showed up this summer was glad that they did. We always have a good time, and sometimes we share information with you that is actually truthful and important to retirees. Sometimes. So, stay healthy and happy, and hopefully we'll see you at a monthly meeting in the near future.

Kerry