

# ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

newsltr

## NEWS LETTER

March 8, 2001

# 1- 2002

**President, Sam Trujillo**, 5318 La Colonia N.W. Albuquerque, N M 87120, 899-1500  
**Vice President Eddie Torres** 554 Calle Del Bosque, Bernalillo, N.M. 87004, 867-2631  
**Secretary, Louis C. Trujillo**, 2301 Malpaiz Rd. S.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87105, 873-1544  
**Treasurer, Ralph Sedillo**, 7912 Beverly Hills N.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87122, 821- 7802  
**Historian, Herman R. Bishop**, 12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. 87111, 294-7165

<b><u>Advisory Board-</u></b> Charlie Alderete	620-2400	Vince Holcomb	897-2667
Noel Baca	836-2480	Joe Martinez	891-8817
Pat Cano	873-8106	Bill Raupfer	281-8478
Robert Cisneros	877-9357	Victor Sanchez	797-1022
John Herrera	856-1741	Ray Flores	898 8948

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE** - The year 2001 went by faster than previous years! Our association has continued to move forward and mature. During the year we met every second Wednesday of the month at the AFD Fire Academy and our meetings continued to be both informative and entertaining. We were entertained by some of our members that are talented musicians and we had several guest speakers that provided our members with useful information. During the year we were able to meet two of our goals by incorporating and acquiring tax exempt status. With your help, support and participation we will continue to move forward.

The year 2001 was also a tragic year for our Nation and brother Firefighters all across our nation. The September 11th attack was tragic and made our nation aware of the hazards associated with being a Firefighter. We as Firefighters have always been aware that the next alarm could have been our last alarm. As retired Firefighters we take pride that we served our community courageously. During this tragic time, many of our members volunteered and helped out by giving blood and /or helping in fund raising activities. We helped our brother Firefighters raise approximately \$90,000 in a fill the boot drive. We also had three of our retired members respond with the F.E.M.A. Urban Search and Rescue Team to assist in the search and rescue efforts at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. following the terrorist attacks. A special "Thank You" to all our members that participated in helping during this tragic time.

During the year 2001 we lost three of our brother Firefighters. We lost Mariano Luna on 2-21-01, Jose Romero on 6-7-01, and Dionel Sandoval on 10-4-01. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of our brothers.

During the year we had a picnic and Christmas dance which were very enjoyable. I encourage each of you to attend our meetings and enjoy the social activities that are forth coming during the year. Plans are underway for our second annual picnic and we will be planning for next years Christmas Dinner- Dance. Our meetings will continue to be held at the AFD Fire Academy at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be held on March 13, 2002. Please call me at 899-1500 if additional information is needed. Respectfully submitted Sam Trujillo, President

### RETIREMENTS 2001-2002

Congratulations to the following AFD retirees. We welcome you as new members to our Association.  
- Morris Huling (6-19 1978), 23 years of service - Keith Benavedez (2-1-1982), 21 years service,  
- Kelley Lorenzen (2-1-1982), 21 years of service - 2002- Paul Valencia (2-1-1982) 20 years service.

**ATTENTION**  
(By Louis C. Trujillo)

Your association has prepared the enclosed checklist so that you can review it with your families. It has been our experience that some of our brother retirees who died had not discussed or were not aware of some of the benefits, that their families were entitled to. If you have any questions after reviewing the checklist, call:

Sam Trujillo at 899-1500  
Louis C. Trujillo at 873-1544

**CHECKLIST FOR RETIREES**

- ANY LIFE INSURANCE(S) THAT YOU HAVE, AND WHERE THOSE POLICIES ARE
- YOUR PAID UP LIFE INSURANCE WITH THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE, THIS INSURANCE SHOULD BE 1/2 OF YOUR FINAL ANNUAL SALARY. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY OF YOUR PAPER WORK, WHICH YOU GOT AT THE TIME OF YOUR RETIREMENT, CHECK WITH THE CITY'S INSURANCE & RETIREMENT SECTION OR PERSONNEL (HUMAN SERVICES ) DEPARTMENT.
- ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CREDIT UNION "BENEVOLENT PROGRAM"?
- DO YOU HAVE A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, IF SO WHERE DO YOU KEEP IT?
- DO YOU HAVE A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX, IF SO DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW ABOUT IT?
- ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE NEW MEXICO RETIREE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY? IF YOU ARE, YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY COVERED BY A \$4,000 BASIC LIFE INSURANCE AND DISMEMBERMENT POLICY! THE TELEPHONE # IS 1-(800) 233-2526
- HAVE YOU DISCUSSED YOUR PREFERENCE AS TO WHAT MORTUARY YOUR FAMILY SHOULD USE?
- AT THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH, DO YOU WANT THE AFD INVOLVED?
- HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY CHECKED INTO WHAT SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO? THEIR PHONE # IS: 1(800) 772-1213
- DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER RETIREMENT PLANS, ie; 409K, IRA, CD'S, ETC? IF YOU DO, DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW ABOUT THEM?
- IF YOU ARE A VETERAN, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO DEATH BENEFITS, IS YOUR FAMILY AWARE OF IT? THEIR PHONE # IS 1(800) 827-1000.

checklist

**AFD HISTORY (Part 2)**  
**By Herman R. Bishop, Historian**

Just prior to the turn of the century, in 1898, records show that Albuquerque's volunteer firemen used leather helmets. An early version of a fire alarm system was installed in 1897. The population of the Town of Albuquerque in 1882 was 3500 people.

At the turn of the century, in June 1900, the City of Albuquerque was three square miles, boasted a population of 6,238, and records show one fire station in the downtown area. There were three volunteer fire companies including a hook and ladder company.

The requirements for an improved fire service had generated the need for a paid fire department in this growing city. On June 6, 1900, the Fire Committee of the Albuquerque City Council recommended a small paid Fire Department. At this meeting the recommendation was approved by the City Council.

Under City Management the volunteer fire companies were re-organized and re-named the Albuquerque Fire Department. Two men, Eugene Southerland, and Tony Ortiz were hired full-time. Their salaries were \$ 65.00 and \$60.00 respectively. Twenty on-call men were authorized and were paid \$40.00 per year. The agreement allowed four on-call men to live at the fire station. A Fire Chief was included in the new organization and he was authorized payment of \$100.00 annually.

When the City took over the Fire Department there were three hose companies, one hook and ladder company. There was a four-wheel hose wagon, hand drawn by the firemen. This wagon had a large reel mounted on the back, with 1200 feet of 2 1/2 inch hose, which could be reeled out quickly, attached to a fire hydrant, and stretched to the fire scene for a rapid fire attack.

At this time the City Council approved the purchase of a pair of fire horses and a set of hanging harness. The first fire horses were named Tom and Jerry. It was customary to weigh the horses daily to ensure their health and well being. The horses were exercised twice a day, once at 7:00 AM and the second at 5:00 PM.

Today if a fire apparatus is out of service a spare unit is used as a replacement to keep the company in service. Entries in the daily logs at the turn of the century show that arrangements were made with the local livery stable owners to furnish spare horses when the fire horses required new shoes, were sick, or were out of service for some reason.

The first paid Fire Chief was Major Bernard B. Ruppe (Ruppe's Drug Store, 807 4th Street SW) Mr. Ruppe was of German descent and was born in New York in 1863. He was a graduate of the New York College of Pharmacy and graduated in 1880. He served in the Army during the Pershing punitive expedition into Mexico. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army and later was promoted to Major. He was reported to have spoken Spanish fluently.

Major Ruppe's Obituary in 1937 reported that at the time of his death he was the oldest practicing Pharmacist in New Mexico, age, 74. His first Drug Store was located in Old Town. In 1882 Ruppe's Cosmopolitan Pharmacy was located on Railroad Avenue (Central Avenue). That same year the Pharmacy was flattened by fire, sparking Mr. Ruppe's interest in firefighting. Later the Pharmacy was moved to 115 2nd. St. SW. Mr. Alarid bought the store in 1951 from the Ruppe family. In 1964 the Ruppe Drug Store was moved to 4th Street and Hazeldine SW in the Barelvas Community. (Alb. Journal, P, E-10, (5-22-1983).

Chief Ruppe was elected to five terms as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department prior to 1900. When the Fire department came under City management in June 1900 he became the first paid Fire Chief of the Albuquerque Fire Department.

Major Ruppe served as council commander of Woodmen of the World lodge and on the New Mexico State Board of Pharmacy. He also served a term in the New Mexico Territorial Legislature. (Source: Albuquerque Journal, May 22, 1983, Page E-7)

Photos from the period of 1886 to early 1900 show the "Fergusson Hook and Ladder Company." This hand-drawn fire wagon was led by the Fire Chief, sometimes by the Foreman (Captain), and was accompanied by about twenty volunteer firemen. The Chief and the Foreman are shown holding pewter speaking trumpets (Megaphones) used for barking out orders at fires. The rank insignia's used on the badges of today's Fire personnel came from the use of these early speaking trumpets in use prior to the turn of the century. (1 Trumpet for Lieutenant, 5 Trumpets for Fire Chief).

The daily log on October 1, 1900 showed the crew on duty: Chief B. Ruppe, Firemen, E Southerland, Tony Ortiz, and Ed Hale. The November 4th log showed that fireman Tierney brought one bar of stove polish.

A special meeting was held on November 14, 1900 to organize the fireman's masquerade and dance to be held on Thanksgiving eve. It was decided to ask some of the ex-volunteer firemen to serve on the reception committee. Some names of note were as follows: H.S. Knight, P.F. McCanna, M.S. Tierney, Thomas McMillian, P.J. Murphy, W.H. Erickson, F. Scotti, Dr. McBeth, C.O. Young, and P. Lillie. Later that year the firemen built a bathroom on to the fire station from December 21st to the 30th.

The Harvey House was engulfed in a terrible fire on May 7, 1901, heavy losses were reported. The City Fire Department responded and due to the extent of the fire, assistance was requested from the Railroad fire companies who made a quick response to assist their neighbors.

A new log was begun on May 16, 1901. The crew consisted of Fire Chief, B. Ruppe, Captain, E. Southerland, Lt. Cosgrove, Driver L.H. Hanlin, F. Hungate, sub (volunteer), E. Hale, sub (volunteer) The horses were exercised at 7:00 AM and at 5:00 PM for one hour each time. Other log entries showed that Albuquerque Steam Laundry returned the laundry with the following bill: 5- pillow slips, \$.10, 5 Sheets, \$.15, 4-Towels, \$.04, 1- Table Cloth \$.05, 2- Curtains, \$.20. The total bill for the laundry service came to \$.54.

Other log entries during June, July, October, and November of 1901 were: Received one ton of hay from T. Hubbell. Took Horses to Korber's Shop, (Tijeras and 1st Street) to put on new shoes. Chief Ruppe visited at 1:20 PM on October 14, "Gave Lieutenant Cosgrove very indignant orders in regards to the men leaving the fire house without letting the Chief know about it." Later in November the log showed receipt of the following: D.A. Bittner delivered 600 lbs. of oats and one sack of brand. J. Korber brought one hoof brush, M.S. Tierney brought one axe handle, A.J. Maloy brought 5- gallons of Kerosene Oil. Fire Inspections are conducted at a Wool Scouring Mill and at the A.J. Maloy Tenement House. A load of hay and 2,000 lbs. of coal is received on November 4, 1900.

Sources: Information for this article was taken from two research papers. One, written by Dave Wendle (5-30-78) and another by Marilyn Lobdell (12-1-78). Official Albuquerque Fire Department Ledgers 1897 to 1901. NEXT: (Part 3) 1902. The early paid F.D. continues.

**FIRE CHIEFS**  
**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**1882-2002**  
 (By Herman R. Bishop, Historian)

AFDCHIEF

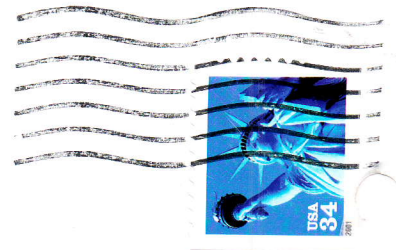
- February 24, 1882 - Chief William Sanguinette: On February 24, 1882 the Albuquerque Morning Journal newspaper reported that the Albuquerque Volunteer hook and ladder company was headed by Chief William Sanguinette.
- July 13, 1882 - William Sanguinette was re-elected to Chief (1)
- March 1886 - William Sanguinette was re-elected to Fire Marshal by the three fire companies
  - Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company
  - Scott Moore Hose Company
  - A.A. Grant Hose Company (2)
- October 1, 1900 - Charles Bernard Ruppe Fire Chief (logged in the official F.D. ledger, this date) (3)
- April 1902 - Mr. Hubbs named Chief after Chief Ruppe resigned resulting from personnel problems (4)
- March 1903 - Mr. Nash took over as Fire Chief from Mr. Hubbs. (5)
- March 20, 1904 - Mr. A.C. Burtless succeeded Mr. Nash as Fire Chief. Fire Department Records show A.C. Burtless serving as Fire Chief from March 20, 1904 to April 18, 1910 (6)
- April 18, 1910 - Jacob Klein appointed to Fire Chief. He succeeded A.C. Burtless. Chief Klein served as Fire Chief until December 16, 1915 (7)
- December 16, 1915 - A.C. Burtless appointed to Fire Chief when Jacob Klein was removed from office by the Mayor and City Council (8)
- April 17, 1916 - J.W. Burnette appointed to Fire Chief when A.C. Burtless was removed from office by the Mayor and City Council. (9)
- March 1917 - Fred M. Russell appointed to Fire Chief and replaced J.W. Burnette (10)
- April 17, 1917 - Fred M. Russell resigns in protest after the City Administration fired all the firemen when they tried to organize a Union. (11)
- April 17, 1917 - William Collister was appointed to Fire after Chief Fred Russell resigns (12)
- April 29, 1922 - William Collister was shown on the daily ledger as Fire Chief. (13)
- 1922 to 1924 - It is not clear when Chief Russell was re-appointed as Fire Chief. The 1925 annual report is signed by Chief Fred Russell. On May 24, 1927, Pumper #1 and the Chief's car collided, then hit a street car while responding to a false alarm. Chief Russell and Fireman Simon Seligman, were both seriously injured but recovered. (14)
- August 21, 1931 - Fire Chief Russell passed away after serving several years as Fire Chief. (15)
- August 28, 1931 - W.A. "Art" Westerfeld appointed to Fire Chief after the death of Chief Fred M. Russell. (16)
- February 20, 1962 - W.A. Westerfeld, Fire Chief dies after a long illness. He served 31 years as Fire Chief and 43 years as a member of the Albuquerque Fire Department.
- Note: On the day Chief Westerfeld died Astronaut John H. Glen made a three-hour space orbit and became the first American in space orbit. (17)
- February, 1962 - Simon Seligman appointed Fire Chief after the death of Chief Westerfeld. (18)
- September 9, 1968 - Ray L. Kuhn appointed Chief after Chief Seligman retires. (19)
- NOTE: Chief Seligman was the first Fire Chief to retire from the Albuquerque Fire Department (20)
- July 1974 - Arthur B. Martinez appointed to Fire Chief upon the retirement of Chief Ray Kuhn (21)
- March 10, 1980 - Leonard C. Ortega appointed to Chief after the retirement of Arthur B. Martinez. (22)
- December 17, 1985 - Gerald Grimm Appointed Chief after the retirement of Leonard C. Ortega (23)
- April 1990 - Tom Montoya former Assistant Chief of the Denver Fire Department was appointed to Chief after the retirement of Gerald Grimm. (24)
- December 1993 - Greg Chavez appointed to Fire Chief after the resignation of Chief Tom Montoya (25)
- December 1995 - Carlos Dominguez appointed Fire Chief after Chief Greg Chavez retires (26)
- December 1997 - Morris L. Huling appointed to Fire Chief after Carlos Dominguez retires (27)
- December 2001 - Robert E. Ortega becomes Chief after the retirement of Chief Morris L. Huling (28)

Sources

- (1) Albuquerque Morning Journal, July 13, 1882, P-2
- (2) Albuquerque Morning Journal, March 12, 1886
- (3) through (16) From the Albuquerque Fire Department daily ledgers. (14) Alb. Tribune, P, D-4, (9-1-1968)
- (17) Albuquerque Journal, February, 1962
- (18) Personal records, February 25, 1962
- (19) Albuquerque Tribune, September 9, 1968, P, A-2
- (20) Personal records, September 9, 1968
- (21) Albuquerque Journal, July 17, 1974, P, F-4
- (22) Albuquerque Tribune, March 10, 1980, P, A-1
- (23) Albuquerque Journal, December 17, 1985 P, A-1
- (24) Personal records, April 23, 1990
- (25) Personal records, December 21, 1993
- (26) Albuquerque Journal, December 8, 1995 P, E-1
- (27) Personal records, December 18, 1997
- (28) Albuquerque Journal, November 16, 2001, P, A-1

fire chiefs - (3-4-2002)

ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION  
5318 5843 LA COLONIA N.W.  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87120



Louis Trujillo 13  
2301 Malpaiz Rd. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105

8710547217 06



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**LAST ALARM**

O God, Supreme Lord of the universe of all mankind, who disposes of all things in accord with thy divine plan, heed our suppliant prayers to you.

You have called forth from this world the souls of our fellow fire fighters. May your justice and mercy be extended to them in judgment so they may enjoy rest and peace and happiness with you forever.

May your tender compassion be granted to us to all their loved ones who mourn their passing from this life. Bestow on us your spirit and blessings in order that we may earn the right to be rejoined with them in possessing you forever in your kingdom of heaven. **AMEN!**

**"IN LOVING MEMORY, GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"**

**MARIANO R. LUNA 2-21-01, -JOSE ROMERO 6-7-01, DIONEL SANDOVAL, 10-4-01**  
**RICHARD LUCERO 2-21-01 NERIO MONTOYA 2-22-01**

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**ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

**2nd Wednesday's, 7:00 PM, Fire Academy, 11500 Sunset Gardens SW**

**Next Meetings: March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July, 10th.**

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** UNM Children's Hospital annual fund drive (fill the boot) hosted by active members of AFD will be held on the weekend of May 31st, June 1st & 2nd. Volunteers from our Retiree's Association are invited to assist our fellow firefighters in this worthwhile cause. Please contact Sam Trujillo at 899-1500 to sign up.

# ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

newsltr

## NEWS LETTER

MAY 18, 2002

#2 - 2002

President, Sam Trujillo, 5318 La Colonia N.W. Albuquerque, N M 87120, 899-1500

Vice President Eddie Torres 554 Calle Del Bosque, Bernalillo, N.M. 87004, 867-2631

Secretary, Louis C. Trujillo, 2301 Malpaiz Rd. S.W. Albuquerque, N.M. 87105, 873-1544

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	John Herrera	856-1741	Ray Flores	898 8948

### ANNUAL PICNIC

You and your family are cordially invited to the AFD Retiree's annual picnic on Sunday June 9, 2002 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This event will be held at Sandia Lakes recreation area on Fourth Street NW (Highway 313). Directions: Go on north fourth street where second street intersects, then go about 1 1/2 miles north. When you see the big sign, "SANDIA LAKES", turn left.

Ticket Prices - Adults, \$10.00 each, Children ages 11 to 18 \$5.00 each, and Children 10 years old and under \$2.00 each.

Tickets may be purchased all day on Saturday May 25 th at Fire Station # 4 located at 3rd Street and McKnight NW from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Eddie Torres and Eugene Baldonado will be selling tickets. You may call Eddie @ 867-2631 or Eugene @ 344-6866.

You can also purchase tickets at the gate on the day of the picnic as well. If you plan to purchase tickets at the gate please call Eddie or Eugene by Wednesday June 5th and let them know the number in your party in order that we may prepare enough food.

Additional Information: Sandia Lakes charges an additional entry fee of \$2.00 per person. Entry fees for Seniors and Children are \$1.00 each at the gate.

Fishing Fees - Adults, \$9.00, Seniors and Children \$7.00

MONTHLY MEETING: Please plan on attending our next monthly meeting on June 12, 2002, 7:00 PM. at the Fire Academy, 11500 Sunset Gardens SW. We will be celebrating our second anniversary of the AFD Retiree's Association. Our monthly meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of the month.

**ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION  
5318 LA COLONIA N.W.  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87120**

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**by Sammy Trujillo, President**

**The AFD Retiree's Association has been in existence two years. During the past two years we have been blessed in having the opportunity to get together on a regular basis to socialize and remember our yesterdays.**

**We have also been able to unite and as a group be supportive of our fellow firefighters during their time of need. The bonds we have set will last a life time.**

**As we approach our second anniversary I would like to give thanks to our executive board members and members of the advisory board for all their support and hard work. Our Association has grown and moved forward because of their dedication and hard work.**

**Each of our members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings and special functions such as the upcoming picnic. We need to maintain the unity and support for each other and we can only accomplish this by maintaining the bonds that firefighters have.**

**I look forward to seeing each of you at our monthly meetings and hopefully you and your family will attend the picnic.**



# ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

newsltr

## NEWS LETTER

December 2, 2002

#3 - 2002

President, Sam Trujillo, 5318 La Colonia N.W. Albuquerque, N M 87120, 899-1500

Vice President Eddie Torres 554 Calle Del Bosque, Bernalillo, N.M. 87004, 867-2631

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Treasurer, Ralph Sedillo, 7912 Beverly Hills N.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87122, 821- 7802

Historian, Herman R. Bishop, 12501 Royal Crest Ct. N.E. 87111, 294-7165

### ADVISORY BOARD

Eugene Baldonado	344-6866	Noel Baca	836-2480
Vince Holcomb	897-2667	Joe Martinez	891-8817
Robert Cisneros	877-9357	Charlie Alderete	620-2400
John Herrera	856-1741	Tommy Romero	855-9389
Bill Raupfer	281-8748	Ray Flores	898-8948
		Santos Abeyta	877-2977

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, 2002. By: Herman R. Bishop

Dear Retirees:

It hardly seems that two years and six months has passed since we formed the AFD Retiree's Association on June 9, 2000. We truly enjoy the monthly visits with our retired Firefighter friends.

#### Some highlights of our activities during the year 2002 are as follows:

In early January our officers and executive board met with the new Fire Chief Robert Ortega. Chief Ortega was cordial and committed to continue support of the Retiree Association. At the January meeting we received our official arm bands with the AFD logo. They are worn at official functions and can be purchased from Vice President Eddie Torres for \$7.00 each.

During February Chief Ortega advised that due to budget constraints AFD could no longer pay the postage and assist us in producing our newsletter. This requires future newsletters to be funded by our Retiree's Association. It costs us approximately \$300.00 to develop and mail a newsletter. (We operate our Treasury on donations only) We mailed a newsletter in March and in May. This is our 3rd and final newsletter for the year 2002. Due to limited funds, in the future, newsletters will be mailed only on an as needed basis.

Unfortunately In February and March three of our members died. They were Richard Lucero, Nerio Montoya, and Freddie Mora. Many members attended their funerals. Our Official Proclamation honoring the deceased was presented at each funeral and sincere condolences was offered their families.

Officer elections were held in June. Sam Trujillo was re-elected President and Louis Trujillo was re-elected Secretary. They were sworn in at the July meeting by Vice President Eddie Torres. Those two positions are elected on even years. On odd years the Vice President, Treasurer and Historian are elected. Once elected all Officers serve two year terms.

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Members Frank Gonzales and Ray Kuhn attended the funeral of Roswell's Fire Chief, Louis Jones, who was killed on duty at a tragic fire in late March by a deranged gunman.

We keep records of our deceased members dating back to the turn of the century in 1900, starting with the first paid Fire Department in Albuquerque. Currently our deceased members roster stands at 138 people. At each monthly meeting we observe the last alarm and a moment of silence for them.

At our June meeting we celebrated the second anniversary of the AFD Retiree's Association. We had a nice photo display depicting the progress of AFD from June, 1900 to June, 2000. The photos were donated by Chief Morris Huling after he and his staff conducted the 100th anniversary celebration of the AFD at the Convention Center on June 9, 2000.

Our annual picnic was held on June 9, 2002 at the Sandia Lakes Recreation Area. The picnic was well attended and it was a worthwhile and fun event. Ray Flores took a great group photo of the retirees who attended. He labeled it , "THE OVER THE HILL GANG."

This year the Shriners donated a 1968 Mack, 100 foot, Aerial Ladder Truck to our Association. In June President Sam Trujillo signed an agreement with Fire Chief Robert Ortega to house this apparatus at Fire Station # 29, Edith & Bear Canyon N.E. Mechanically it is in pretty good condition. However, it does need some cleaning, polishing, painting and fixing up to put it into a presentable state. The full compliment of wood ladders (painted hunter green) will need refinishing but they are sound.

In July we received confirmation granting us status as a non-profit organization from the New Mexico Taxation & Revenue Department. We are awaiting confirmation from the Federal Internal Revenue Service to grant us a tax number and non-profit status.

As our September 11th monthly meeting fell on the anniversary of the bombing of the New York World Trade Center, we had a memorial service and invited our families to join us. We honored and paid respect to our fellow firefighters, emergency service workers, and civilians who died in that great tragedy. Also we honored those who died in the Pennsylvania plane crash and the bombing of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. on the same day. We observed the last alarm and a moment of silence to remember all our deceased AFD members as well.

A special presentation at our November meeting was made by Ray Flores to President Sam Trujillo and our members on behalf of Ray's wife Mary. She donated a beautiful United States Flag, titled, "FLAG OF THE HEROES." On this flag is inscribed the names of firefighters and emergency service personnel who gave their lives at the bombing of the New York World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The inscription reads: "NOW AND FOREVER IT WILL REPRESENT THEIR IMMORTALITY, WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THEM."

Our sincere appreciation and a special note of thanks goes to Mary Flores for her generosity and thoughtfulness in giving us this special gift. It is most appreciated.

MEETING DATES (Second Wednesday's, 7:00 PM, 11500 Sunset Gardens SW)

December 11, 2002 SPECIAL NOTE: FAMILIES ARE INVITED FOR A XMAS CELEBRATION

January 8, 2003

February 12, 2003

March 12, 2003 Please put these dates on your calendars and plan on joining us

## FIREHOUSE STORIES

Note: Since our association was formed the stories about how it was back when, always comes up at our Monthly meetings and get - togethers. Here are two such stories

### THE TRAPPED FIREFIGHTER

By Eugene Baldonado

My most memorable fire was the Coney Island Cafe fire at 500 Central Avenue S.W. It was not that it was such a large fire but the predicament that I got myself into. Chief Art Martinez was the District Chief at that fire. The alarm came in and we had Engine 1A, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, and Chief One responding. When we got there we found that the fire was under the building. Chief Martinez crawled under the building a few feet and could see the fire. He called back to the other officers to send him someone small. Lieutenant Sid Garcia sent me in. The floor joists were 2"X12" with 16" centers and they were about 6" above the ground. They gave me a 1 1/2" line and I crawled in. I had to crawl in with my arms extended above my head because I didn't fit with my arms at my side. I crawled to a low place where I could see the fire and was able to operate the 1 1/2" nozzle. I proceeded to put out the fire. Chief Martinez was at the entrance to the trap door so he yells at me, "when it's all out come on back here." As I was by myself under there I had not noticed that there was a low spot which turned out to be because of a sewer line joint or elbow. All of the water I had put on the fire had begun to flow into the low spot where I was. As I was on my stomach and my arms above my head, there was no room to bring my arms down while holding the nozzle. I had my head between the floor joists just above the water. I tried to crawl forward or backward but my bunker jacket hook had caught on the sewer elbow joint and I couldn't do anything. I tried to get one arm down to get my bunker hook loose but I had no room on my sides.

All the crews were in the Cafe above me and I could hear them talking, laughing, and having doughnuts and coffee but they making so much noise that they could not hear me calling for help or my loud whistling. I managed to get the 1 1/2" nozzle and banged it on the floor joists. Lieutenant Myrick from Rescue 1 heard the pounding and told everyone, be quiet, someone is banging." When everyone was quiet I yelled that I was stuck and couldn't get my bunker coat hook unstuck, or off. I showed them where I was by banging and they cut a hole in the floor above me. Alfonso Padilla reached in and unhooked my bunker jacket. I was sure glad to get out of that predicament.

### THE SWAYING TREE

By Nicolas Gonzales, Arson Lt. Retired

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

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



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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

by Sammy Trujillo, President

As we near the end of another year, I reflect on the activities that occurred during 2002. Our members continue meeting on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:00 P. M. at the Fire Academy located at 11500 Sunset Gardens S.W. Attendance at the monthly meetings are good and we have made lots of progress.

As retired Firefighters we share a special gift in the bond we have with our brother and sister Firefighters. No occupation creates the bonds that Firefighters share. We are an extended family. I encourage each of our members to maintain these bonds. In good times and in sadness we are family.

I wish to thank our Executive Board and Advisory Board members for their dedication and support that they have given to make our association a success.

I would like to extend my best wishes and holiday greetings to all of you.