

# ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

newsltr

## NEWS LETTER

# 1- 2003

June 3, 2003

**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

### ADVISORY BOARD

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

### ACTIVITIES SUMMARY, AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, 2003, BY:HERMAN R. BISHOP

Dear Retirees:

The January meeting was kicked off on January 8, 2003 and attendance was good. Deacon Santos Abyeta presented a humerous and uplifting prayer. The treasury report was given by Ralph Sedillo, Treasurer. Although our treasury balance is by donations only, it remains strong. We pay for stamps, printing, newsletters hats, patches, coffee and refreshments and other operating expenses. If you have not made a donation this year we would be most appreciative of your support and donations. Send checks to Ralph Sedillo, Treasurer. 7912 Beverly Hills NE Alb.N.M. 87122.  
Note: Your donations to the Retiree's Association is tax deductible.

During the weekend of February 7, 8, & 9th 16 members of the AFD Retiree's Association staffed a public Fire Department display during the 2003 Children's Fair at the Convention center. We showed off the new Engine #14 2000 GPM Pierce fire pumper. Hundreds of children and their parents visited our display booth. The children climbed on the pumper, took pictures and played FF.

The February meeting began with a memorial to our deceased members. Special respects were paid to Nicolas Gonzales(Arson), who passed away in December 2002 and to Al Lujan who passed away in January 2003. Deacon Santos Abeyta led us in a special prayer in their memory. Ray Flores played taps on the trumpet to honor our deceased members. During 2003 we have lost two more of our members, Roy Gonzales(Fire Marshal), in April, and Nestor Tapia(Fire Investigator), in May.

When one of our members dies, with the permission of the family, the retirees present a proclomation to their families at the Rosary or at the Visitation. We recognize their years fire service, mourning the loss of a member, and offering our heart felt sympathies and condolences to the family.

On March 4, 2003 members of the Retiree's Association were invited to a special AFD memorial dedication at Fire Station #19 A memorial mural was unvaild which was painted by Fire Captain Mark Chavez, depicting those Firefighters who died in N.Y. City on September 11, 2001. Captain Chavez also carved a plaque recognizing AFD's fallen firefighters and another plaque listing all 343 Firefighters from the New York F.D.(FDNY). who were lost at the World Trade Center Tragedy.

The March meeting was held on March 12, 2003 and was called to order by President Sam Trujillo. He introduced two guests, Lucy Sedillo and Victor A. Montoya of P.E.R.A. Lucy and Victor gave us an informative and up to date report on our P.E.R.A. funds. Membership stands at 49,466 members and our pension fund is financially sound. There is more than enough money available to pay all our retirement benefits during our lifetime.

Ralph Sedillo is working with a uniform company to design and develop a cap with our retiree logo. When complete the cap will sell for \$10.00. Vince Holcomb designed a plaque to frame our proclomations which are presented to the families of our deceased members. The membership approved the plaque design presented by Vince. Good Job Vince!

Louis Trujillo led a group of five retirees who assisted the AFD members in a fund raiser on March 22, 2003 for the Children's Hospital Fund. Thanks Guys!

Retired Fire Captain Allen Rhodes who now lives in Mays Landing, New Jersey was our special visitor during the March 2003 meeting. Allen was in town visiting his family and dropped by to catch up on the latest developments of our retiree association.

Because of several recent deaths of our retired members Juan Sandoval made a beautiful presentation and talk at the March meeting about death and dying. It centered around the religious wood carvings he has made during recent years. A big thank you goes to Juan for all his fine work on this most informative and worthwhile project.

Attendance was good at April's meeting. President Sam Trujillo reported that the personalized License plates for retired firefighters introduced by Representatives Rick Mierra and Ed Sandoval was passed by the 2003 NM State Legislature. Governor Bill Richardson signed it into law.

Ray Flores committee chairman for the retiree's annual picnic reported that our picnic is planned for August 23, 2003, from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. It will be held at Sandia Lakes recreation area. Go north where 4th Street and 2nd Street intersect, and then it is 1 1/2 miles north. At the big sign, "SANDIA LAKES", turn left. \$10 adults, \$5 Children, \$2 for Children under 10 years. Tickets will be for sale at the monthly meetings on June 11th, July 9th & August 13th. Call Ray Flores @ 898-8948 or Eddie Torres @ 857-2631 for tickets or picnic information.

## ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT BOOK UPDATE

*The book is nearing completion!*

*Good News... The book is now being printed.*

The Albuquerque Fire Department has joined forces with Turner Publishing Company to publish a library-quality, hardbound, yearbook. The publication documents the 100-year history of the Albuquerque Fire Department with photographs honoring the men and women who have served.

This large 112-page, 9" by 12", coffee-table style volume includes history of the department, photos of past fire chiefs, major fire events, station photos, all active, retired and administrative personnel photos that were taken for this historic project are included.

The book is being printed on a high quality, 70 pound, glossy paper for superior photo reproduction and will have a Smyth-sewn binding for durability. The cover will feature the 100 anniversary logo embossed in gold with a deep red lexotone, leatherette cover.

**The book is now in press and we are anticipating the book to be ready for delivery in July, 2003.**

**We have received your reservation for the book** and would like to let you know that you may order additional books at this time at the special price of only \$54.95 plus \$7 shipping/handling.

This is your last chance to reserve additional copies of the book. Only a limited number of books will be printed over those that have been reserved. This book may not be reprinted once all copies are sold. **Orders must be received before June 15, 2003.**

Every Albuquerque firefighter will want a copy!

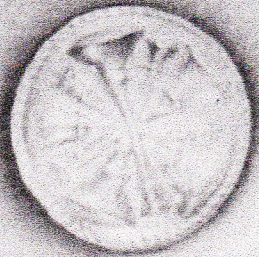
If you have questions you may call us at (270) 443-0121 ext. 103.

Sincerely,

Turner Publishing Company

# FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

August 1953



ASST CHIEF S SELIGMAN



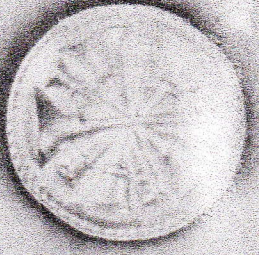
W A WESTERFELD  
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CITY MANAGER



ASST CHIEF N GRANDE



LT HONCA



LT BARRAS



LT B BUCHNER



LT O'NEIL



LT J DAVIDSON



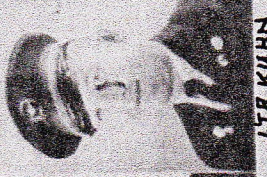
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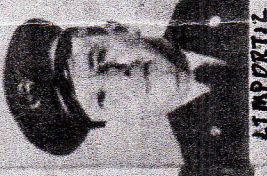
LT J MARES



LT ROGIEN



LT PORTIZ



LT STADILLA



LT MC PROO



LT J RAYMOND



LT SKIDMORE



LT R STEBLETON



JAYDAXA F. RAMON E. ARMIJO P. BUESERA E. CANO-SUBIA J. GARCIA A. CHAVEZ J. CHAVEZ P. CHAVEZ R. ENAVEZ P. COOPER



A. CORDOVA M. CORDOVA D. COBARRIET M. DOMIER G. DUNN R. DURAN F. ESPINOSA L. GALLIGOS I. GARCIA P. GARCIA



A. GIRON R. GOMEZ D. GONZALEZ F. GONZALEZ J. GONZALEZ B. GONZALEZ N. GRIECO M. GUERRER J. GONZALEZ M. GUERRER A. R. JARAMILLA



M. JIMINEZ T. LOPEZ B. LOPEZ M. MASTAS F. MARTELLI AB. MARTINEZ N. MATOYA A. MAYSLEY W. MARRÉ D. MYRICK R. OCHOA



M. MOLINAS A. OROSCO P. PEREA E. PEREA C. PERKINS E. RICE M. ROMERO N. SANCHEZ E. SAJUE J. SANCHEZ P. SANCHEZ



S. SANCHEZ T. SANCHEZ J. SHORT L. SPRINGER D. TAPAYA R. TRULLIO L. VALDEZ M. VIGIL E. ZAMORA

DAVE WOLGIN  
Columbo Spinn

## 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 - together. Here is such a story.

### THE NEW TRAINING OFFICERS

By Bill Raupfer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Gene Padilla*  
*2nd Wednesday Hearg,*  
*Pm. 7:00g*  
*272-2111*  
*272-1009*

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

by Sammy Trujillo, President

On June 9th we will be celebrating our 3rd anniversary. Three years have come and gone by fast. Our monthly meetings have been both productive and enjoyable. Attendance has been good and the feedback has been positive. I want to take a moment to thank our members, officers and advisory board members for their dedication and involvement in making the first three years a success.

I look forward to seeing more of our brother retirees at our monthly meetings and at the annual picnic later this year. (August 23, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

Presently I am working with the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department on the design of the prestige license plates for retired firefighters which was approved by the 2003 New Mexico State Legislature. I will keep you posted as to when these license plates will be go on sale. Please call me @ my home number , 899-1500 for further information.

Just a reminder about change of addresses or new telephone numbers. Call me or any of our officers listed on page 1 of this newsletter regarding changes about your status. Please help us keep in touch with you.

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

June 11th,

July 9th,

August 13th,

September 10,

October 8th,

*HTTP://doNOTCALL.CA/*  
*REGISTER/REGISTRATION*

# ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

newsltr

## NEWS LETTER

September 22, 2003

# 2-- 2003

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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### ADVISORY BOARD

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Vince Holcomb	897-2667	Joe Martinez	891-8817
Robert Cisneros	877-9357	Charlie Alderete	620-2400
John Herrera	856-1741	Tommy Romero	855-9389
Ross Escarcida	345-7006	John Serino	266-1252
Ray Flores	898-8948	Bill Raupfer 281-8478	Santos Abeyta 877-2977

### ACTIVITIES SUMMARY, AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, 2003, BY: HERMAN R. BISHOP

Dear Retirees:

Our June news letter drew lots of favorable comments. Many members sent us letters of thanks and we appreciate that very much. Now we know you are getting the news of our association. Everyone was happy to get a copy of the 1953 photo of the members of the Fire Department at that time. Fifty years ago our Department had 87 personnel including the Fire Chief. As of today 19 of those people are still living. Unfortunately 68 people from that long ago photo are deceased.

DONATIONS - We wish to thank all of you who sent donations since the last newsletter. Please make checks for future donations to: "AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION." All donations are now tax deductible. Mail your checks to Ralph Sedillo 7912 Beverly Hills NE , Albuquerque, New Mexico 87122. Do not make checks out to Ralph Sedillo.

The May monthly meeting was opened by President Sam Trujillo and there was a quorum of Officers and members of the Advisory Board. We welcomed Ralph "Dudley" Chavez to our monthly meeting as this is the first association meeting he has attended. Louie Benevides was a first time attendee at the August meeting. Welcome guys! We hope you come back real soon.

We sent condolence cards to the families of Roy Gonzales Nestor Tapia, Bennie Griego, and Jerry Gregg who recently passed away. The families sent nice letters of thanks for the proclamation/condolence of last alarm read at their Rosaries and attendance by AFD Retirees.

Vince Holcomb has finished six more plaques for the Resolution of Condolence and last alarm which will be presented to the families of deceased firefighters of our retiree's association. Thanks Vince for all your hard work on this project. A special note of thanks to our Secretary Luis Trujillo who does a fine job presenting the proclamation of last alarm and condolences to the families at the Rosaries.

The June meeting was the 3rd year celebration of our Retiree's Association. We had a nice surprise. Juan Sandoval and his wife provided a great green chili stew. Ray and Mary Flores brought two delicious cakes for dessert. Thanks folks for your thoughtfulness and making it a fun celebration.

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We are happy that Fire Chief Robert Ortega is allowing us to continue our monthly meetings at the AFD Fire Academy, 11,500 Sunset Gardens SW. July's meeting was well attended and the high light of this meeting was the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officers by President Sammy Trujillo. The following officers were elected in May for two year terms, Vice President, Eddie Torres, Treasurer, Ralph Sedillo, and Historian, Herman Bishop. Sammy also appointed the following people to serve as members of our advisory board: Ross Escarcida, and John Serino.

An article in the August 10, 2003 Albuquerque Journal reported that old Fire Station # 8, located at Graceland and Menaul NE has been sold by the City. It will become a restaurant, "Rob's Ribs." This station opened in 1954 and closed in the late 1980's when the new Station # 8 was relocated east of Tramway Blvd. and Indian School Road NE.

For our annual picnic we received a generous donation from Chris Fitzgerald, President/CEO of the Rio Grande Credit Union. This donation covered refreshments and soft drinks. A big thanks goes to Mr. Fitzgerald and the nice folks at our Credit Union.

The annual picnic was held on August 23, 2003 at the Sandia Lakes Recreation area. The attendance was great and we renewed old friendships with our fellow retirees and their families. The success of this event was due to the hard work of our picnic committee headed by Ray Flores. He was assisted by Eddie Torres, Eugene Maldonado, and Santos Abeyta. Our hats are off to the Picnic Committee!

AFD RETIREE OFFICIAL SHIRTS - For those of you who wish to purchase our official shirts you may get them at the two following uniform stores: NEVE'S UNIFORMS, 4716 Central Avenue S.E. & TLC UNIFORMS, 925 2nd Street N.W. Call Sammy Trujillo or Luis Trujillo to get details on the proper monograms and lettering for the shirts.

Ralph Sedillo has official AFD Retiree Hats for sale. They are \$8.00 each and come in four colors. They are: red, white, blue and black. Pick up your hats at the next meeting or call Ralph, 821-7802.

We are updating our call/notification roster, telephone numbers, and addresses. For new telephone numbers or addresses please contact one of our officers or an advisory board member, listed on the front page of this newsletter. If you are not getting the information you need let us know.

The recent photo donations by Art Loera, Melvin Vigil, and Bruno Bernasconi are most appreciated and will be placed in our historical archives. Luis Padilla gave us two humorous stories as well which will be added to our collection. We are still looking for additional photos, stories, and memorabilia from our members. Contact Herman Bishop, Historian if you would like to donate stories or photos about your career. PHOTOS- Please date and identify people in the pictures.

Recently we learned of the death of retired Fire Captain Joe Gonzales (Fire Academy). The location or year of his death is not known. If anyone has additional information please call us.

*Many of you have inquired as to when to expect our next newsletters. We are generating enough information to publish quarterly newsletters. Planned are: March, June, September & December.*

We finally received the AFD yearbooks produced by Turner Publishing company of Paducah, Kentucky. Overall this was a quality book especially the 140 color photos of our retired members who attended the photo shoot. We were pleased to get an entire section devoted to our retirees which included our color logo, a roster of our retirees and history about the formation of the retirees association. We regret that the list of our deceased members which we submitted was not published. We didn't have any editing authority on the final draft. Copies are still available, \$65, Call Sammy.



AFD RETIREE REUNION/PICNIC 8-23-2003



L-R, KNEELING- RALPH SEDILLO, VICTOR SANCHEZ T.V. JARAMILLO,  
LOUIS TRUJILLO, SAM TRUJILLO, JOHN HERRERA, LOUIE MONTOYA,  
NOEL BACA, JOSE SALAS, EUGENE BALDONADO

L-R, STANDING- HORACIO QUINTANA, HERMAN BISHOP, VINCE HOLCOMB,  
ROBERT JARAMILLO, EDDIE TORRES, JOHN SERINO, JOHNNY MARQUEZ,  
EUGENE GARCIA, DOUG SIEBEN, JUAN SANDOVAL, RAY FLORES, RAY KUHN,  
GILBERT ROYBAL, ADOLPH LUCERO, JOE MARTINEZ, EDDIE BRITO, BILL PEDIGO



AFD CHIEF OFFICERS STAFF (1975)

J.C. "Clint/Slim" Davidson's Retirement party. 40 years service with AFD

(L-R) Frank Cisneros, (Dist. Chief) Herman Bishop, (Chief, Fire Prev.) Martin Romero, (Dist. Chief) Ernie Gutierrez, (Dist. Chief) Esequiel "Skippy" Padilla, (Asst. Chief) Joe Maldonado, (Dist. Chief) Slim Davidson, (Dist. Chief) Al Lujan, (Dist. Chief) Leonard Ortega, (Asst. Chief) Moe Daubert, (Deputy Chief) Owen Metcalf, (Asst. Chief) (By Clock) Ralph Ochoa, (Deputy Chief) Rey Salazar, (Dist. Chief) Rudy Buckner, (Dist. Chief) R.D. Allyn, (Dist. Chief) Louis C. Trujillo (Asst. Chief, Training)

FIREHOUSE STORIES

Note: Since our association was formed the stories about how it was back when, always comes up at our Monthly meetings and gaterings. Here is three such stories

"Quadruplets"

By, Luis Padilla (Big Bird)

In the late 1970's I was stationed at old Fire Station # 3 (Monte Vista & Central NE). The crew on the pumper at that time consisted of Captain Gene Padilla, Driver Carmen Padilla Jr., Pipeman Joe Padilla, and myself (Luis Padilla).

It so happened that a Firefighter from Portland, Oregon was visiting the station right at shift change. When the shift bells hit and the vocal came on Captain Padilla gave the roll call for Engine # 3 crew. It was Padilla, Padilla, Padilla, and Padilla. The Oregon Firefighter stared in amazement and finally asked if we were related. I answered him, "yes we are, we're quadruplets."

"The Fire Was Brought To Us"

By, Herman R. Bishop

When I was the driver for District Chief Carl Macaluso at old Fire Station # 13 during 1965, we had a large number of fires in garbage trucks. The main cause of the fires was people putting hot ashes in cardboard containers and leaving them on the curb for the refuse department to pick up. To combat this problem the Fire Department staff conducted a training program for refuse workers and firefighters jointly. Numerous press releases were made to the general public about prevention of these type fires. Once it was discovered that a garbage truck was on fire the refuse workers were instructed to drive to the nearest vacant lot or open space, dump their load of garbage and call the Fire Department.

A few weeks after the training about how to handle garbage truck fires we received a call to Fire Station # 8 (Menaul & Graceland). It was reported that there was a fire on the ramp of the fire station. When we arrived we found that another garbage truck had caught fire and that the driver had driven to the nearest fire station and dumped his load of garbage onto the ramp at station # 8. This blocked Engine # 8 from leaving the station but the firefighters started the Fire Engine, pulled the booster line and extinguished the fire.

"Adelino"

By Luis Padilla (Big Bird)

If anyone ever worked with Adelino Giron you know that stories of his exploits abound. In the early 1980's I was stationed at Fire Station # 7 (47th & Central NW). The crew consisted of Lieutenant Orlando "Hookie" Armijo, Adelino Giron, Tom Skidmore, Simon Hernandez, and myself, (Luis Padilla).

As you know Giron was not the best driver as far as knowing his streets. We had a fire call to a new addition of Artrisco and Coors NW. Adelino didn't know where it was so we directed him as best as we could from the tailboard of the pumper.

After taking care of the emergency and going back in service (10-8) I bet Tom ten to one that Giron wouldn't find his way back to the station. Forty five minutes later we finally found Central Avenue. I made a quick ten bucks off my bet with Tom.

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

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

**MEETING DATES (Second Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, 11500 Sunset Gardens SW), Fire Academy**

87105+7217  
**October 8th**

**November 12th**

**December 10th**

**January 12th**

**Page 4**

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**  
by Sammy Trujillo, President

In the last three years since our association was formed we have had the opportunity to meet monthly. We have been able to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood that our profession as firefighters has given us.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly meetings and other social events. During the last three years we have attended quite a few services and funerals for our brother retirees. As a result we have received a lot of positive feedback from families of the deceased as well as our fellow retirees. The common thread is that all of the families have been deeply touched and sincerely appreciate our presence during their time of need and sorrow. We know that death is part of life and we need to continue our support of each other. Thank you for your participation.

We are still working with the N.M. MVD on the design and cost of the retired firefighter prestige license plates. Costs of the new plates will be the registration fee plus an additional \$25.00 fee.

This year we have witnessed the large and disasters bosque fires and have all wanted to assist in some way. Many experienced the same feelings we felt during the 9-11-01 disasters along with our fellow Americans. Recently we have been meeting with Fire Chief Ortega about the possibility of creating a retired firefighter group who could be called in to assist during major disasters locally when the Emergency Operations Center is activated. We will keep you posted on our progress.

**\*\*\* Please contact me or any of our officers if you would like to be involved in this unit. \*\*\***

**Just another reminder, please keep us updated on your new addresses and new telephone numbers.**

# ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2003

#3- 2003

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		Santos Abeyta	877-2977

### ACTIVITIES SUMMARY, AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION, 2003, BY:HERMAN R. BISHOP

Dear Retirees:

By the time you receive this newsletter Christmas will be just around the corner. We would like to invite all retirees and their spouses or a guest to join us for the annual December Christmas Party at our monthly meeting on December 10th at 7:00 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Fire Academy 11500 Sunset Gardens S.W. in the main auditorium. Food and refreshments will be served. Please come and join us as we Celebrate this Christmas Season and renew our friendships.

Ray Flores is chairing a food drive for the needy and is coordinating this effort with the Roadrunner Food Bank. He is asking those who attend our Christmas Party to bring non-perishable food items. He will then deliver the donated items to the food bank. Call Ray @ 898-8948 for information.

The Firefighters Union, Local #244 has invited the retirees to join them for their annual Christmas dinner and Firefighters Ball on December 6th, 2003. This event will be held at the Sheraton Inn, Uptown. Rooms are available at the Sheraton for \$60.00 per night. (Reservations- 1(800) 252-7772. Tickets for the dinner and ball are \$25.00 each. Cocktails will be served from 6:00 :PM to 7:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. the dance will follow. For reservations call 245-2033.

Donations: Just a reminder that this is a good time of year to make donations to the Retired Firefighters Association and all donations are tax deductible. Get your gifts in and dated by December 31, 2003. Mail checks to Ralph Sedillo, Treasurer, 7912 Beverly Hills N.E. 87122  
Do not make the checks to Ralph Sedillo but make checks to: "AFD RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION."

On September 10, 2003 President Sam Trujillo and Herman Bishop met with Fire Chief Robert Ortega and his staff to further discuss the use of retired Firefighters at emergency operations during times of major disasters in the future. Representatives of the Red Cross and the Director of Albuquerque's Emergency Management also attended this meeting. Future discussions will be held.

Retired Fire Captain Raymond "Ramo" Chavez passed away during September. His family thanked the retirees who honored him at the funeral and for the proclamation of remembrance.

The telephone calls and letters we have received from many of you to let us know you are receiving the newsletters and are enjoying them is sincerely appreciated. It is helpful to us when we hear from you and get some feedback. Please let us hear from you particularly if you haven't attended any meetings lately.

Retiree Mike Martinez sends word that he is recovering from surgery and expressed his sincere thanks for our prayers and the get well card, support, and best wishes during those difficult times. He is slowly improving and hopes to attend future meetings. Ray Kuhn also sends word that he is recovering from his recent hospital stay and is making improvements as well.

At the September meeting Deacon Santos Abeyta led the opening prayer and gave a nice talk in remembrance of those firefighters, emergency service personnel and citizens who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the airplane crash in Pennsylvania three years ago during the September 11, 2001 bombings/disasters.

Treasurer Ralph Sedillo reports that retiree hats (red, white, blue and black) are still available for \$8.00 each and that he still has pins and retiree arm bands with the AFD logo available.

Our sincere thanks goes to Ralph "Dudley" Chavez and to big Joe Hernandez for the recent photos from the past that they donated to our historical collection. These photos were displayed at our last two meetings and were enjoyed by all. Just a reminder, go through your old records and photos and make a donation to the Retiree's Association so we all can enjoy them.

The October 8th meeting was opened by President Sam Trujillo with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen members. Juan Sandoval led us in the opening prayer.

During the October meeting a discussion was held about the possibility of selling our 1960's Mack, 100' aerial ladder truck. Information on the internet indicates that there is a market for this apparatus. A motion was made by Ralph Sedillo and seconded by Ross Escarcida. The membership approved the motion.

The November 12th meeting was held at 7:00 P.M at the Fire Academy. Attendance was good and we had a guest speaker, Debra Gullo Director of Programs and Services of the American Red Cross. Debra spoke to us about volunteer opportunities to serve with the Red Cross to assist during major emergencies or disasters. She can be reached at 265-8514.

A special note of thanks goes to Johanna Castillo, Secretary at the Fire Academy for making available to us a large number of old photo I.D's which have been in storage at the Academy for over 30 years. We have 280 photos of most of the retiree's and have filed them in a master book. These photos date from the 1960's to the late 1980's. To us retirees they are quite a treasure and will be placed in our permanent collection. Currently we are looking into the possibility of compiling a booklet which will be available to our members for a reasonable cost of printing them. We will keep you posted as this project develops.

A Holiday Message from members of the Executive and Advisory Boards. One of the joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for your friendship and good will at our monthly meetings. We hope you are on top of Santa's list. May the true gifts of the season be yours,--peace, hope, love and happiness. This is the time from which wonderful memories are made. May you and yours have the best holiday season ever and we wish you the best for the new year to come. From all of us to you, "MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

## FIREHOUSE STORIES

Note: Since our association was formed the stories about how it was back when, always comes up at our Monthly meetings and gatherings. We hope you enjoy the following stories.

### "Thor The Fire Dog" By Adolph Lucero

What I found out when I came to work at the old fire station four was that Thor a Dalmation fire dog was given to Lieutenant Carl Macaluso. At that time Carl was the Fire Department mechanic. I was assigned to station four. Later Macaluso was promoted to Assistant Chief.

Thor was a very smart dog and everyone loved him. He was named after "Thor," the God of Thunder. I am sure that with more training he would have been a super dog. He took me as his master. He would bring me the paper and I used to bathe him. When he brought me the newspaper I would reward him with a treat. He finally got too smart and he would bring four or five papers from the neighbors. At that time the Postmaster was Mr. Warner. Every Sunday he would come to the station for his paper. One day he said he would choke me or Thor for having to pick up his paper every Sunday at the firehouse.

The love of Thor's life was the pumper. He could be two blocks away and hear the fire bells. He was the first to be on the fire truck and rode on top of the utility box behind the driver. We had to keep the door on the office side of the building open. He was a typical fire dog. Also he liked to go to Martinez Town (Dog Town) and fight.

He was known in different parts of the country. A couple on their way to California stopped to see him and measure his spots. A fellow from Budweiser's team of horses stopped by and asked me if he would like to ride with the horses. I said probably not, because the fire truck was the love of his life.

Folks at Thunderbird Fire Equipment Company made him a Fire Department vest, but he lost it. At night when he was ready to go to sleep, he would drag his blanket to where the firefighters were. I would put it on his back and take him to his bed.

Finally the time came when we had to get rid of him. I was going to take him home with me because my yard was big enough for him to roam. A fellow by the name of Cordova said that Macaluso had given Thor to him. After a few weeks passed I stopped by to see him. I felt sorry for Thor because he was tied.

One time he swallowed a rubber ball and was in the hospital for four weeks. The City paid the bill. He developed cancer in the head and later died. He was a wonderful and smart dog.

### "Nixon and Kissinger" By Sammy Trujillo

I joined the Fire Department on September 3, 1968. There were nineteen cadets in that class taught by Assistant Chief "Skippy" Esequiel Padilla and Captain Alfonso "Al" Lujan."

My nick-name while working in the Fire Department was given to me while I was serving as Chief's driver for District Chief Al Lujan. I was given the name of "Kissinger" by my fellow firefighters. This was during the Administration of President Richard Nixon and the famous Watergate Incident. Chief Lujan was called "Nixon " by some of the firefighters and when we would drive up to a fire station the crew would say, "here comes Nixon and Kissinger."

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Meeting Dates: January 14, 2004, February 11, 2004, March 10, 2004

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

by Sammy Trujillo, President

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that the year 2003 is nearly over. The year 2003 has been very rewarding and enjoyable. We have been able to get together monthly and strengthen the bond that we as Firefighters have. I encourage all of you to attend our annual Christmas party this year as well as our monthly meetings and the summer picnic/reunion.

The December monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10th and we will have our Christmas party. Please plan on attending and you are invited to bring your family. This meeting will also include a food drive of non-perishable food as mentioned earlier in this newsletter. Food items collected will be donated to the New Mexico Food Bank. Join us in enjoying good food and good company that evening. Please call me if you need a ride to our meetings and I will make arrangements for your transportation.

I am still meeting with the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department regarding the cost and design of the prestige license plates for retired Firefighters. Passing the legislation in 2003 was easy compared to when this project is completed and the license plates go on sale.

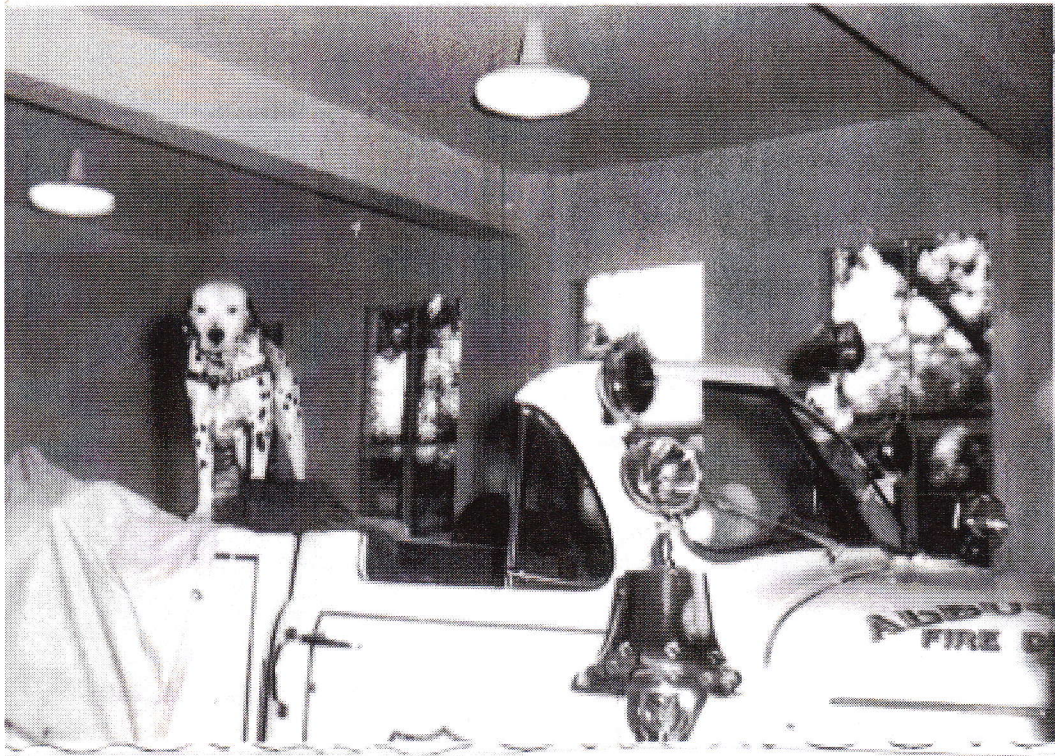
Ray Flores Chairman of the picnic committee reported that our annual picnic/reunion was well attended and was the best one ever since the association was formed three years ago. Ray donated a 20 inch child's bicycle which was raffled off at the picnic. Ray donated the proceeds to our association. Carmen Bishop won the bicycle raffle. Because of the raffle and other generous donations of food and drinks our picnic was in the black this year. Thanks Ray for a job well done.

Again, please help us keep in touch with you. Give us your new telephone numbers and addresses.





TOP SID GARCIA, LARRY GALLEGOS, RAYMOND "COOKIE" CHAVEZ,  
RALPH "DUDLEY" CAHVEZ  
FRONT ATILANO CORDOVA, "THOR" THE FIRE DOG, AMADO OTERO, BLANE BUSEA,  
ESEQUIEL "SKYY" PIDILLA (CIRCA 1956)



“THOR” THE FIRE DOG AND ADOLPH LUCERO, AUGUST 1958  
OLD FIRE STATION #4 (5TH AND MOUNTAIN ROAD NE)