



# AFDRA Retiree News



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# 3-2023

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**HERMAN R. BISHOP,  
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## 1894 Silsby Horse, Drawn Steam Engine

The city of Albuquerque had horse drawn fire wagons and Chiefs buggies. AFD had 11 fire horses at one time. According to fire department records, Albuquerque never had horse-drawn fire steamers. Horses were used locally for 14 years from 1900 to 1914. The horses were kept for the next four years as back up after motorized fire apparatus were approved. The steam fire engine had a steam boiler that drove a turbine which drove a water pump. Hoses were attached to the input pulling water through the pump to the main firefighting nozzles at high pressure and volume.



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**Mike Fox, Assistant Editor**





## Minutes, May 2023 05/10/2023

AFDRA 273<sup>rd</sup> meeting called to order @ 1900 hrs. by Kerry Horton President. The president called for the retiree body to stand and recite the “pledge of allegiance”. Opening prayer by Tom Romero. **Notice of Last Alarm for Eddie Brito** and moment of silence for our lost brothers.

Roll Call of Officers, President Kerry Horton present, Vice President *VACANT*, Treasurer Mike Fox present, Secretary Eddie Abeita present. Historian Herman Bishop absent, President *Emeritus Sam Trujillo present*.

**Advisory Board**, Noel Baca, Joe Martinez, Bill Raupher, Fred Teupell, Anthony Nuanez, Tom Romero. O.G. Lucero.

### **No Guest**

**Presidents Report**, Pablo Garcia has resigned from the vice president’s position. Citing there were no actual duties assigned to the vice president in our by-laws. Pablo will remain an advisory board member. Next month we will vote on changes to the by-laws.

**Storage Shed** Jim Summers has agreed to be Storage Shed Building Construction Manager. The shed will be of modular design in the event the shed has to be moved it can be dismantled easily. The estimated construction cost is \$2,000. The storage shed will be constructed at Mike Fox’s residence. Jim and his partner will do construction on their own. **SOME HISTORY**, Herman has the majority of historical documents along with Mike, Kerry and Sam the idea is to have a centralized location and look to reduce the quantity of paper by reducing multiply copies of one document and having the originals digitalized.

**Legacy Run** is coordinated by Training Chief Willis Mullan scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM. Sign up and get a yellow tee shirt. This is not a political event. Fire cadets graduate Friday June 16<sup>th</sup>, we will address the cadets Wednesday **June 21**.

**Trailer tires**, Kerry and Mike met with manager of Discount tires however not sure of the actual discount and cost. The trailer will be relocated to Pablo Garcia residence.

**Secretary Report**, Eddie read the minutes from April 12, 2023. Motion made to accept 1<sup>st</sup> O.G Lucero 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Hartley, Motion passed.

**Treasures Report**, Mike read the financial report from the treasurer’s books and reported donations received from Earl and Darla Gleason, Pat McKinney and Rio Grande Credit Union. Mike stated once again the Treasurer’s books are always available at the retiree’s meetings. Motion made to accept 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Romero, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Raupher.

President Kerry Horton **noted**; audit of the treasury’s books is conducted on odd years, Donny Sanchez has conducted this audit before so, Donny was asked to chair the audit committee. He accepted and approved by the body.

**Historian’s Report**, Herman was not present no report (family business).

### **Committee Reports,**

***Funerals***, Sam Trujillo repeated an ongoing message to all retirees; *anyone who has served in the military, please make copies of your DD 214 and place them at different locations in your home.*

Over the years some families had no idea of what a DD 214 was or where they were located. The DD 214 is needed for survivor's benefits. Please pass this on to all retirees.

*Picnic* is August 19<sup>th</sup> at Rotary Park Bernalillo NM.

*Elections*, Louie Trujillo Chairperson and Eddie Abeita Vice Chair of the Election Committee and conducted nominations for three officer positions. For **Vice President**, O.G. Lucero nominated Donny Sanchez, Donny accepted. For **Treasure**, Ralph Padilla nominated Mike Fox, Mike accepted. For **Historian**, Bill Raupfer nominated Herman Bishop, Herman was not in attendance, however Herman indicated to Kerry he would accept the nomination. Nominations were closed. Voting will take place at June's meeting and at July's meeting the winners will be sworn in. Raffle, won by Anthony Nuanez. Kevin Jarvis, Noel Baca, and Donny Sanchez.

**Matters good for the Association**, change to by-laws, add three additional duties for Vice President: 1. Assist advisory board member if needed with Welfare Report. 2. Assist Committee Chair with activities. 3. Perform any duties assigned by the president.

Financial Audits, change Article V Section 1, #3, discard odd year to every year.

Flagpole, Nick Mendez is donating all new stainless-steel tags for the flagpole. Once again, he said do not drill any more holes into the pole. Fire Chief Jaramillo has given permission to construction a memorial at the Fire Academy. The memorial will hold up to 200 name tags. Estimated cost to build the memorial is \$2,800. A fund raiser and request for donations will be announced for the memorial. The retiree's flagpole has the United States Flag and our retiree's flag, the retiree's flag that is white in color and dirty. The extra retiree's flag will replace the current one. The original flag will be laundered and rotated every 6 months.

Retirees Bikers, Motion made to donate \$250.00 to the motorcycle group to attend a firefighters bikers convention in Kenosha Wisconsin. 1<sup>st</sup> by Tom Romero---2<sup>nd</sup> by OG Lucero. Motion passed unanimously.

Retirees Association Assistance Program, Mike Fox noticed that NO information for this program was readily available. Mike has put the necessary information on our web page. The president noted I have no knowledge of who has used the program All we know is that a few have used the program; all is kept confidential. Please pass on to other retirees that there is an assistance program available, and for more information view our website.

**Closing Prayer**, by Tom Romero



NM Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham has appointed Sam Trujillo to serve on the New Mexico Veterans Advisory Board. We thank Sam for his tireless efforts to improve the lives of not only AFD retirees, but NM Veterans as well.



## Ray Kuhn Story (August 25, 2004)

**Special Note: (By Herman R. Bishop)** Fire Chief Ray Kuhn served six years as Albuquerque's Fire Chief from 1968 to 1974. He was with the department for 32 years. He established the first Fire Academy, formalized all promotional tests and is credited with bringing the department into the modern era at the time. He remained physically active until his death at age 81 of Cancer during April 2005. He was an active member of the AFD Retiree's Association and remained in touch with his fire service friends until the very end. Most firefighters who served with Ray Kuhn agree that he was one of our most respected and beloved Fire Chiefs.

I joined the Albuquerque Fire Department as a Fireman fourth class at 6: 00 P.M. on May 11, 1942. There was no training class and no classmates. I was a Senior at Albuquerque High School, and I was given the night off on May 29th to attend my graduations exercises. I grew up in the neighborhood of the main fire station, located in the City Hall building, at Second and Tijeras N.W. I went to Albuquerque High and walked past the station twice a day on my way to school and home. My first job when I was fifteen was at the Springer Drug Store in the Hilton Hotel at Second and Copper. My father knew many of the firemen and at one time had a business on Third Street near the fire station. I became acquainted with many of them from stopping by the station as I passed there nearly every day for a number of years. Many times, I ran errands for them as they were not allowed to leave the station while on duty. I don't know when I made up my mind that I wanted to make the fire department my career, but it was sometime when I was in grade school, perhaps when I was in third grade at the Fourth Ward School. The school burned down. (It was replaced and named Lew Wallace School). Albuquerque was a different city then, about thirty thousand population, four fire stations, only three in service.

The department had four American La France pumpers, vintage 1920's, and an American La France 65-foot Aerial truck, called the stick. The ladder was not in full service because the ladder was warped (16 inches out of plumb the last time I climbed it). There was a Seagrave Quad, called a quad because it had a pump, hose, water, (100 gallons) and ground ladders up to 45 feet in length, The Fire Chiefs car was a 1936 Buick, four door convertible and also served as the official city parade vehicle. The night I went to work my hiring brought the department strength to a total of 33, including the Chief, W. A. Westerfeld. The Chief was the only one who had a day off once a week. The rest of the department worked 84 hours a week with no days off and no vacation, no guaranteed sick leave. There were two shifts. The day shift worked from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The night shift worked from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Shift changes came every two weeks on a Sunday. The Night Shift that was going to days worked from 6 PM Saturday until 12 noon on Sunday. Dayshift changing to nights came in at 12 noon until 8 AM on Monday morning. I guess I should mention that my starting salary was \$125.00 per month and there were many in Albuquerque that would have liked to have my job. The United States declared War against Germany and Japan and their allies six months prior to my going to work. The resulting demand for manpower was one reason they hired an eighteen-year-old. The opening of Kirtland Air Force base had taken several members of the Albuquerque Fire Department to start the Fire Department at the base. Captain Pat Kane became Kirtland's first Fire Chief, Zeke Novarro became the Assistant Chief, and others that went to the Kirtland Fire Department from AFD were: Pete Sheyka, Joe Gutierrez, and Al Bradley. Years later Shayka and Bradley each became Chief of the Kirtland Fire Department. The vacancies created meant that the Albuquerque department was short on manpower. Members of the department who I worked



with when I started as I recall, were: Chief Art Westerfeld, Milton Grande Assistant Chief, Simon Seligman Captain, and Lieutenants Joe Bowdich, Bill Dobell, Carpio Martinez, Joe Selva, Ed Lucero, Henry DeBaca, Reno Stableton, Ernie Cleveland, and Ed Horne. The Drivers and Firemen were Carl Macaluso, Mat Ortiz, Frank Parenti, Jack Major, Ed Snapp, George Tafoya, Phillip Alarid, Pete Gutierrez, and S. B. Skidmore. I am sure I have forgotten somebody but that was a long time ago. Many of the men who were on the department when I left for the U.S. Navy were not on the department when I returned. The Fire Department hired University of New Mexico Lobo football players and they worked nights when they weren't practicing or playing football giving them a small stipend to help with their college expenses and a place to stay. The last UNM students I am aware of who were on the department in 1942 were: Stanley Frogge, Victor Crocco, and Larry Felicetti. I don't know what happened to Frogge but Crocco was a football coach at Valley High School and Larry Felicetti was a local Realtor. S. B. Skidmore was a former UNM Lobo football player and stayed on the department and retired as an Assistant Fire Chief. Pete Sheyka another UNM football player joined the Albuquerque Fire Department and then went to Kirtland Fire Department and retired as Fire Chief. I started my attempt to get a job on the department by asking Chief Westerfeld if he would accept me if I could get hired and he said he would. Then I went to Mayor Clyde Tingley, (actually Chairman of the City Commission), he told me "I can't hire you; you aren't old enough to vote." I continued to go to his office nearly every day to ask for the job, he never refused to see me, but he never agreed to hire me, giving me the same reason each time. I was beginning to give up when Captain Simon Seligman suggested I go with him to see Mrs. Tingley at her home. We went to see her one afternoon and I told her my story and what I wanted to do, she listened and when I had finished, she said, "I will talk to Buster tonight when he comes home for dinner." The next afternoon Chief Westerfeld contacted me and told me to go to Station No. 1 at 5:45 P. M., ready to work the night shift.



Fire Chief Art Westerfeld  
(Chief who hired Ray)



Several days later I was taken out on the 1923 Mile American La France pumper and taught how to catch a fire hydrant and to connect the hose. The pumper did not stop at the hydrant, you jumped off the moving vehicle with a loop of hose (2 1/2-inch hose) which you wrapped around the hydrant while the pumper proceeded to the fire scene. After a few falls and skinned knees, you learned to keep your balance, there was no specified speed maximum or minimum. There were times that disagreements between drivers and firemen, and officers and firemen, which resulted in a fall because the speed was a little too fast. Use of the brake at the time you left the tailboard could also make you fall. Incidentally when I went to work, I was hired as a pipeman 4th class and you progressed up one class each year until you reached the top, pipeman 1st class. Additional training was hit and miss with no regular schedule. Most training was received at the fire scene. The drill tower was behind the City Hall and there were occasions that the crews were taken out to the tower in the evenings for ladder or hose drills. One evening the life net was taken out and one of the older firemen who liked to jump was sent to the third floor to jump into the net. He then made some comment about whether the new kid would ever jump. I said I was ready, so I went to the third floor and made my jump. Nobody else jumped that evening. About one month after I went to work, I was assigned to drive for Chief Westerfeld. The Fire Chief's car was a 1936 four door convertible. The Chiefs car was used to take Mayor Tingley wherever he wanted to go for official functions such as parades or to take visiting officials to see Albuquerque's Military Bases etc. Chief Westerfeld was on duty 24 hours a day for six days and then got 24 hours off. As his driver, if there was a fire the Police Department called car 70 and gave the street address one time. Chief Westerfeld took the car home at mealtimes, and at night he would bring the car back to the station before bedtime and you would take him home and

return to the station. If there was a fire at night you would go code to his house, pick him up; and go to the fire. When the Chief got his day off Assistant Chief Grande would work the 24-hour shift in the Chiefs place. The rest of the time the Assistant Chief worked as a company officer on a pumper. Jack Major was my relief when I went to the service, and he returned about the same time and was my relief on the Chiefs car after the war. A new Chiefs car was purchased in 1946, a 1946 Buick two door convertible. There were no rescue units and the fire department responded to all requests for first aid or medical assistance in the Chiefs car if available. If the Chiefs car wasn't available, then a pumper was sent. The only rescue equipment available were two blankets, a 25-unit first aid kit, and an inhalator. The inhalator was a machine that provided a supply of oxygen to a face piece. If the patient wasn't breathing, you got the oxygen into the lungs using artificial respiration, (patient on stomach, you straddled the patient and applied artificial respiration by applying pressure to the patients' lower rib cage). All of the department members were required to take the American Red Cross Standard First Aid Course. If a male was 18 years old in 1942 it meant that you had a draft classification of 1A, meaning that you were subject to being drafted into the U. S. Military as needed. I tried to enlist in either the Navy or Coast Guard as a fireman. I couldn't get the enlistment for fireman, so I ultimately joined the Navy going to active duty, December 20, 1942. I was chosen to be an aviation radioman gunner because the Navy determined I was the right size and weight to fit into a gun turret on an aircraft. I went to school at the Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tennessee. I served as an instructor for a few months after graduation, then to the test and acceptance unit in San Diego, California. Afterwards I was sent to the Pacific Theater as a crew member on the USS Nassau, an Aircraft Carrier, until discharge in March 1946. Nerio Montoya (an AFD fireman) was also a member of the USS Nasau's crew. He left the day I was assigned. The carrier was used mainly for transport of Navy and Marine units to bases in the Pacific, traveling as far as Tsingtao, China and all of the islands West of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I returned to the department as a fireman in March 1946, and resumed driving for Chief Westerfeld. Also, I acted driver on the apparatus as vacancies occurred. There was no additional pay for acting driver. A driver's promotion became open and being the most senior fireman, I expected to be promoted. Word came down from the City Manager, Mr. Charles Wells, that another man was to be promoted. I complained to Chief Westerfeld who took me to see the City Manager, Charles Wells, who told me that he "could not promote me over a man who worked for the city for low wages during the War." The man who was promoted had been on the department since 1944 or 1945. I was mad and frustrated so I asked for a leave of absence. The leave was granted. I was returned to duty as a driver some few months later by the same City Manager. The department had the same four fire stations when I returned from the Navy. The apparatus was the same except a new Seagrave pumper was received in 1942. A new Seagrave ladder truck was received in 1948. A new fire station, Number five was opened in 1949 at Chico and Dallas N. E. Simon Seligman was appointed to Assistant Chief in the late 1940's. The next fire department growth was in 1950 when stations six and seven were opened. Promotional examinations were started about this time by the City Personnel Director. I was promoted to Lieutenant in 1951 after acting Lieutenant at station seven from the time of opening until test results and promotions were announced one year later. J. C. "Slim" Davidson was promoted at the same time and was my relief. There were only two shifts and we started to get one day off per week. At station seven we each took one day off at a time. When the officer was off the driver drove and acted Lieutenant. When the driver was off the Lieutenant drove. Station seven answered calls to all of the South Valley. In fact, many times we responded south to Isleta Pueblo. One year station seven answered one third of all the fire alarms the Albuquerque Fire Department received. Station eight was opened sometime in the early or mid 1950's and two more Assistant Chiefs positions were opened in 1956. The first announcement made all Lieutenants eligible for the test. The second announcement made all Lieutenants over the age of 32, eligible. This ruling made me ineligible. I fought this through the Veterans organizations and became eligible again. They changed the eligibility rule again and made only me ineligible again. I

accepted the fact that they were not going to allow me to take the test and did not protest any further. The test ultimately resulted in the promotion of Joe Bowdich, Carl Macaluso, Leo Reynaud, and George Tafoya.

Not all of them were promoted at the same time. Later in the fall of 1956, the department announced the creation of a Fire Prevention Bureau. Milton Grande, Assistant Chief was appointed to head the new Division. A test for the Captain, Training Officer was given in September 1956. All Lieutenants were eligible and five of us took the test in the bunkroom at Station One, located at Second Street and Tijeras N. W. The promotion list was finally posted in February 1957. There were eleven names on the list. I was second on the list behind an individual who was not in the room when the five of us took the examination. He turned down the promotion and I was promoted to Captain. The training facility was at the West end of Kit Carson Park and consisted of an unpaved fenced area with a seven-story drill tower and one fire hydrant. There was no classroom, and no blackboard. If any diagram was needed a stick was used to draw in the dirt. Ultimately a classroom and office were built on the site, the area was paved, and a pumper test pit was built on the site. Recruit classes varied in size from two to about thirty and the recruit training time was as short as two weeks and as long as eight weeks. A review of all fire department duties and responsibilities by the personnel department resulted in the Training Officers position being upgraded from Captain to the rank of Assistant Chief. I was named Deputy Chief in 1964 and named Fire Chief in 1968 serving as Fire Chief until my retirement in January 1975. Since my retirement I have worked for Clark Fire Apparatus testing and delivering fire apparatus. Most of my work since retirement has been investigating fires. I have worked for three fire investigating companies. Though I am not actively digging out fires now, I still work as a consultant to one company. I miss the fire department and would still be working if that were possible. I have many memories of the department over the years, most of them good. I remember as a Lieutenant being called back for a second alarm at Hinkles Department Store (300 block, West Central Avenue), the fire was in the basement. We had no breathing apparatus except MSA canister filter masks. Entry into the basement was impossible. The city gas inspector was at the scene, and he had just received a 15-minute Scott Air Pack. He showed me how to put it on. They tied a rope around me, and I went into the basement with a 1 1/2-inch hose line and knocked the fire out. The City Manager was there at the fire, and we received two Scott Air Packs for every unit within the next few months. Other fires that stand out are the Sears fire (5<sup>th</sup> & Central Avenue N. W.) Hawkins Lumber Company (400 South First Street S. W.) and an abandoned Hotel Fire (300 First Street S. W.) Several men were hurt when a wall caved in on them. Of the many fires I remember, were the many Apartment Building fires under construction during the 1960<sup>s</sup>. The fires during the riots in the 1970's and the fires during the firefighter's strike in 1973. During Chief Simon Seligman's tenure, he allowed me to research diesel engines for fire apparatus. The only two diesel powered units at that time were in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I was able to operate them, review their operation and evaluate operation costs. The Albuquerque fire apparatus at that time were powered by 12- cylinder Seagrave engines with dual ignition and dual carburetors. Operation costs were high, and efficiency of the engines was also a problem. After review, we started re-powering with diesel engines and purchasing new apparatus with diesel power. Albuquerque was the leader in the use of diesel-powered fire apparatus in the United States, except for New York City, and Cheyenne, Wyoming

I am probably one of the few people who got to spend their whole life doing the only type of work they ever wanted to do. For this I am grateful to the City of Albuquerque and the men that I was privileged to work with over these many years.



Fire Chief Ray Kuhn



## Minutes, June 2023 06/14/2023

AFDRA 274<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order at 1905 hrs. President asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Tommy Romero said the opening prayer. Moment of Silence for our brothers Tom Skidmore and Noel Baca. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

President called on Election Committee Chairperson Louie Trujillo for update. Louie said, there were three officer positions up for election, only one nomination for each office. Vice President Donny Sanchez, Treasurer Mike Fox and Historian Herman Bishop. Louie said with no other nominee, by acclamation I would like them declared as elected. Motion made to accept the new elected officials. First by Robert Sanchez, Second by Morris Gutierrez. Vote by Floor, Motion Passed. President Horton stated keeping with our By-Laws they will be sworn in at July's meeting. **No new members**

Roll call of Officers present, President Kerry Horton, VP vacant, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo. Advisory Board present, Morris Gutierrez, Louie Trujillo, Bill Raupfer Tom Romero, Anthony Nuanez and Donny Sanchez.

**President's Report.** AFR Fleet Services mechanic Max Mayer stated the refurbishment work on the Last Alarm truck has begun. Work completed includes the installation of a new cab-lift pump, door straps and latches, seat belts, compartment door struts, wheel chock mounts, and the A/C was repaired. The next phase will be to refurb the driveline, and they are waiting for ordered parts to come in before they pull the driveline from the truck. Upon start of the driveline, it will be out of service for approximately 1 month. Currently the truck is available if needed.

Utility trailer has new tires and is now being stored at Pablo Garcia's house. This places it at a more centralized location. If you are in need to borrow the trailer, please contact Pablo. Pablo has purchased wheel covers to protect the tire from weather. The trailer has been borrowed by retirees 3 times this year. After the picnic in August an official inventory will take place. Discussion from floor; the need for a user responsibility form in the event of damage or loss items.

Storage Shed Construction Manager Jim Summers estimates the cost for construction will be approximately \$1,200, the approved cost by the body was \$2,000. The storage shed construction is on hold for a while due to Jim falling from a ladder, he needs a few months to recuperate. The shed will be located at Mike Fox's residence.

Legacy Run is scheduled for June 15, 3 retirees have signed up for the run, our Retiree Honor Guard will participate and stage at Civic Plaza.

By-Law changes previously discussed will be tabled until the E-Board has further discussion.

Vice President's report, vacant position

Secretary's Report: By Eddie Abeita, Eddie read the minutes from the May meeting. Motion to accept the minutes, First by Mike Murphy, second by Jessie Gonzales. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: By Mike Fox, Mike gave a financial report from the previous month. Including the cost of the new trailer tires at \$478.62. Retirees Assistance Funds had no activity, hopefully a good sign. The audit committee chairperson Donny Sanchez was given last year's financial books and will give an audit committee report at the July meeting. Mike stated once again the books are open to all retirees not just at the meeting but also at his residence. Motion to accept, first by Bill Raupher, second by Ken Goodyear. Motion passed. [Mike noted RGPU has donated \$1,500 for the picnic and the residual to be used by the Honor Guard].

Historian's Report: By Herman Bishop, Herman stated over the years we have had changes in leadership and other areas, the newest Honor guards were James Parra and Anthony Nuanez. I commend these new retirees for stepping up and glad to know all honor guard members have uniforms. I thank my good friend Eddie Abeita who we have been friends since he entered the fire department. He stepped up to fill the vacancy of secretary and contributed stories to the newsletter. Herman thanked the members that have stepped up to fill vacancies on the E-Board and Advisory Board over the past year and he shared a heartfelt story about Noel



Baca. Herman said he feels discouraged of not being able to take his five-mile walks, the doctor told him to be patient with his recovery, it takes time.

Raffle ticket sales of \$101 three prizes given away. Sam drew tickets 7 times; 4 retirees declined their win to give others a chance to win.

**Committee Reports.**

Picnic Committee chairperson, Morris Gutierrez has secured the Rotary Park Pavilion for August 19<sup>th</sup>. One more meeting will be held to finalize the picnic plan.

Funeral Committee- Sam mentioned the plans for Noel's funeral services on Tuesday, and shared comments on how important Noel was in his life. Herman asked if we have any involvement at the Veterans Cemetery in Santa Fe. Sam said it is limited on space and all on a time schedule. His final blessing will not be at his gravesite, after he is buried, the family will be given his gravesite location.

**Matters good for the association-**

By-Law changes were tabled pending more discussion by the E-Board

IAFF New Mexico Motorcycle Group held their fund-raising raffle for the Firefighter Mailbox and was won by Bill Raupher.

Flagpole, Morris reported, Nick Mendez has donated approximately \$4,800 in material and labor toward our flagpole tags. 100 tags are ready and 200 more are being worked on. All tags currently on flagpole will be redone. Next flagpole ceremony will include adding 62 tags of our deceased brothers. A fund raiser will start for a new memorial which will cost about \$2,800.

**Herman Bishop's Challenge.** Herman said several years ago we needed major renovation on our trailer, to raise money quickly I made a \$100 challenge to all retirees. Now I make another challenge to all retirees to donate \$100 to the new memorial. So tonight, here is my check for \$100 Herman said. In discussion any donation graciously accepted, give donations to Mike Fox.

Closing Prayer by Morris Gutierrez

Meeting End

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!!**



**A special thank you to Jim Summers for his generous contributions and assistance. If you need realtor services, call him! (505) 450-1842**



**A special thank you to Pat McKinney for his generous contributions and assistance. If you need behavioral health services, call him! Petroglyph behavioral health**

# Did we Shoot Ourselves in the Foot or Just the Nature of the Beast.

## Freddie's and Firemen's Discounts

by Eddie Abeita



Back in the early days the *word* hazing or the term politically correct were not in our vocabulary, *say what!* Rumors were sometimes the truth and nicknames were always a given. Although a little crude at times all this could be considered part of learning about all the characters, we worked side by side with.

In the 70's and throughout the 80's the word "Freddie ", would pop up? That happened in fire stations. The association was with an old comedy actor in the 60's Red Skelton who portrayed a hobo type person AKA Freddie the Freeloader who was always looking for a handout. Thus, the word Freddie was used to describe certain individuals.

These episodes are history of station life. After reading, your wheels in your head will turn.

Back in the day, at the start of the shift the daily question was "who wants on the chow list? Meaning if you want to eat lunch or dinner with the rest of station crew. Normally each station had their identified cooks who would plan a menu and order a certain amount of food based on the total amount of firefighters that were going to eat together. Someone would finance the initial food purchase and the amount would be divided by the number of people eating. So compared to a restaurant the food was excellent and the cost was small.

There were some who did not eat with the crew sometimes they brought food from home or had a special diet.

Now the few, after a meal the cooks did not have to wash dishes so those who ate would wash dishes, pots, pans etc. Leftovers would be left on the stove or placed in the refrigerator. Now the drama, after the kitchen was cleaned things put away and no one was in the kitchen a Freddie would grab a plate of leftovers and eat behind a door, fire truck or wherever secluded area they can find. Now he had some good fire station cooking and all "FREE", and they like free. No one ever went hungry if any firefighter was short on funds they would agree to an IOU.

Another noted episode at a fire station, the menu was an oriental dish prepared by an expert. He would say with this food you get full right away so if you get hungry, have your seconds later. After kitchen clean up, an old senior Lieutenant had thoughts about the leftover and the Freddie's, so he had a witness watch him throw a spoon of the food right into the trash can. He said remember anyone looking for the leftovers you can say you saw me throw food into the trash can. Then he placed the leftovers in a storage area under lock and key and said seconds at 2 o'clock. Like clockwork two Freddie's came to the kitchen after the cleanup looking for the leftovers. They asked, where are the leftovers? The firefighter said I saw the Lieutenant throw food into the trash Why they said, it's wrong to throw food away, and immediately went to see the captain and complain about the food being thrown away.

The captain said it belongs to all who were on the chow list and paid for it. One Freddie said we need to file a grievance because the Lieutenant did not share food with us Freddie's. *Yes, he did say us Freddie's.*

During that era some local businesses wanted to give back and thank firefighters for their service, by offering a discount to firefighters. Some would give 10-20% off on a purchase or 50% off on carryout food orders *while on duty*. Ride the city bus for free if you were in uniform. Show your badge and get free admission to certain movie theaters.



A historic business Shakey's Pizza at Central and Louisiana would give 50% off to *on duty* firefighters.

After a fire call engine 5 crew decided to order a large pizza and pick it up on the way back to quarters. Greg Chavez (RIP) and I (Eddie Abeita) went into Shakey's to pick up the pizza, the manager came to the

counter and asked, which station are you from? I said engine 5 here on Dalles NE, he said someone picked up an order 30 minutes ago, and said he was from fire station five. We felt embarrassed, the manager said I see the fire truck outside, so you guys are OK. But this is the last time for any discounts, so pass it on. Thus, the end to fireman's discounts at Shakey's. Greg said in choice words the firefighter in question is unscrupulous. Another discount for 50% off on food was given at a fast-food restaurant at Central and Rio Grande. One Sunday a large order was placed, upon his arrival for the order he asked for his fireman's discount. The manager said are you on duty? The firefighter said no, the manager said sorry discounts only if you are on duty. The firefighter said, well no discount I won't take the food and you can keep it. The manager said well, OK, just this time you get the discount, however, pass it on no more fireman's discounts, and I mean **NO more**, the FF just said, OK!

In the early days at fire station one, all pipeman (FF 1/C) would rotate of being a "Go For" which was Go for this Go for that. One meal being prepared by Toby Pino was "payday steaks" which were generally T-bones. I was the go-for, so went to pick up the groceries. At the market the order was filled except for the steaks. I had to go pick out the steaks from the butcher. The butcher turned out to be an old friend that I had not seen since high school. He filled the order while we reminisced, at checkout I had more than enough cash to pay for it all, I noticed the word *hamburger* was written on the meat packaging. At the station the person collecting for lunch said, "oh boy this meal is cheaper than beans and chili". One firefighter kept bugging me over and over to go get him the same buy on T-bones steaks. He said, I can't pass up a deal like you get, my family likes steaks. He was getting persistence finally Toby Pino, told him lay off, don't ruin it for everyone, Toby said people like him don't care if they ruin the gift given, their motto most likely is "*what's in it for me*"!



## Minutes, July 2023 07/12/2023

AFDRA 275<sup>th</sup> meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. President asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez said the opening prayer. Moment of Silence for all our deceased brothers. Mike Fox read a story written by Noel Baca. Elected Officers Sworn In, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Treasurer Mike Fox, and Historian Herman Bishop. Roll call of Officers present, President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo. Advisory Board-present, Morris Gutierrez, Bill Raupher, Tom Romero, Anthony Nuanez and Pablo Garcia. Guest-Active duty AFR Charlie Bustos, Organized group called FORCE a spin off from Fire Bells. He is developing **a program for men** and seeking donations to support this cause. President Horton said this matter of donation will be discussed by the E-Board. New Members-Laura Pavatt, retired from AFR approximately 1 ½ weeks ago. her last duty assignment was the Fire Marshalls Office assigned to Plans Checking. *Laura has set a new record; first retiree to attend a meeting right after retiring (not waiting for years to attend a retiree meeting).*

**President's Report**, Kerry stated that retirees should get a COLA increase at the end of the month Kerry has been asking about the percentage of increase however no response from Santa Fe. IAFF golf Tournament information is posted on the bulletin board, just scan the code, if unable or don't know how to scan and download, ask someone younger than Kerry. Kerry has been in contact with AFR Fire Chief Jaramillo, she will be appointing two new Deputy Fire Chiefs and anticipates two more deputy appointment toward the end of the year. They are planning to have their departmental pictures taken along with their bios.

**Vice Presidents Report**- Donny Sanchez said the audit was conducted by Pat Goodyear, Richard Sanchez and me (Donny). The audit is completed, and all looks good, like the previous year I find that the accountability is there, *everything checks out* Donny said.

**Secretary's Report**-Eddie read the minutes from the June meeting; Motion made to accept. First by Tom Romero Second by Morris Guterrez. Motion Passed.

**Treasure's Report**-Mike provided an overview of all expenditures and deposits for the month of June. Mike mentioned in the audit, there were two receipts unaccounted for which were purchases made through the

internet. Mike explained in detail about the billing process via internet. Once again Mike said the books are always open to retirees for review. Motion to accept, First by Bill Raupher, Second by Ralph Padilla. Motion Passed.

**Historian Report-** Herman Bishop said, over the years we have written and published a lot of stories from our lives in the fire department. I am requesting fire department stories of any kind. You can call me, and I can write it for you, or if you are ashamed just mail it to me. Herman said Morris had previously published a book as a fundraiser about nicknames and recipes which was great. Now he is working on another book of fire department stories. Herman read a few humorous stories he collected over the past years.

**Welfare Report-** Pablo Garcia reported Lynn Turpin was in slow recovery mode. Evie Marquez was doing better; Pablo was going to bring Father Bob Martinez to the meeting however Father Bob developed an infection and could not attend. Sam noted, the oldest retiree is Silver Sanchez, who is 95, followed by Erasmo Garza who will be 91 in November.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Funeral-** Sam said in keeping with his schedule, approximately two weeks after a funeral, he makes contact with the deceased family. ***This is like a welfare check;*** some spouses have a hard time adjusting with things. Sam has noticed some having trouble getting finances in order because their husband did it all. In assisting families, still one of the biggest problems is the DD214. Some families have no idea what it is or where to find it, so please make sure you pass on this message to all, (looking hard at the membership Sam said) and if you have prior military service keep your DD214 available. Make copies placed in different locations or with other important papers.

**Picnic-** Morris said it's ready everything is a go, just one more meeting on Sunday just to nail things down.

**Museum-** Herman Bishop said I have been in contact with Roland Panedia, a Board Member of the Albuquerque Historical Society. Roland had asked Herman for information about the Pay Less and Sears fire which happened years ago. Herman said over the years Roland had a desire to tour our fire museum. But our planned meetings ran into delays, he and his wife were hospitalized with COVID and my bout with the heart. But finally, we were able to meet.

Herman gave Roland a tour of the museum, in which he asked many questions such as why fire trucks were red? I guess you may say he was my best student but ***taxed my energy*** Herman said. Roland said this museum is something Albuquerque can be proud of. Herman explained all the hard work by the retirees, and said the retirees did an excellent job. Roland invited Herman to give a history talk in February to the Albuquerque Historical Society, he said only one hour allotted for the talk, because after one hour, the group tends to fall asleep. **Mike Fox** stated the Motorcycle group and the Horse Patrol items needed for the museum are still on a holding pattern, when received they will be on display.

**Raffle** \$84 in ticket sales, 8 drawings with 3 prize winners. Reason for extra drawings some initial winning ticket holders said "run it again" so the drawings continued, until the 3 prizes were taken.

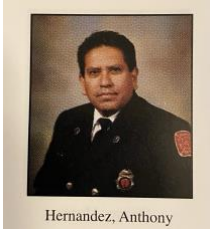
**Matters Good for the Association-** President Kerry Horton requested review for change to our By-Laws. There is a typo that needs deletion. **Article 5, Section 1, Duties of Officers, Item # 3.** Which currently reads. "Every year, the president shall appoint an Audit Committee comprised of three members in good standing. The members shall be appointed in May, and they shall conduct the audit in June. ***They shall report their findings at the July meeting of odd years.***" [Kerry would like THE LAST 3 WORDS STRICKEN]

With change to the By-Law the last sentence would read. ***They shall report their findings at the July meeting.***  
**[period]**

Our By-Laws require us to vote on by-law change(s) at the next regular scheduled meeting. By-laws are amended by a 2/3 majority vote.

**Office Printer,** Eddie Abeita stated a year or two ago we had a discussion about the purchase of an office printer. Eddie requested Treasurer Mike Fox look into the cost of an office printer. Question "this may not be costeffective"!

**IAFF Motorcycle Ride-** Kerry received a call from Robbie Sanchez who said they were in IOWA and the ride was going well. Donny Sanchez said no details from his brother however they should provide a report upon their return. Kerry stated the group would like a space at the museum to place a shadow box with a tee shirt inside. Kerry said, the motorcycle group is “part of who we are”! Sam Trujillo stated, the Honor Guard has just met and practiced, KUDOS to them, they make us all proud.**Closing Prayer** by Tom Romero, Meeting Adjourned



Hernandez, Anthony

### Death – Anthony Hernandez

AFDRA is saddened to report the passing of AFD retiree Anthony “Tony” Hernandez. Tony passed away on 8/1/2023. Anthony joined AFD on 11/14/1983 as a member of the 37th Cadet Class, and he retired on 11/27/2003. Please keep Anthony’s family in your thoughts and prayers.



### Death - Stephen Keffer

AFDRA is saddened to report the passing of AFD retiree Steve Keffer. Steve passed away on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He was a member of the 54<sup>th</sup> cadet class, joining AFD on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1993, Steve promoted to the rank of Captain before retiring on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please keep Steve’s wife Lisa and his four children in your thoughts and prayers.



### Death - Romolo Turrietta

Regretfully we announce the death of our retired brother firefighter Romolo Turietta, age 89, who passed away on August 10, 2023. He joined the department on November 11, 1955. After spending 29 years as a firefighter, he retired on February 1, 1984. He was promoted to driver during October 1959. He spent most of his career driving the apparatus at station one, Engine 1, Ladder 1 and rescue one. He also acted as Lieutenant when an officer was absent. He was part of a family of firefighters. His brother-in-law was Lieutenant Nicolas Gonzales, Arson Unit and nephew Paul Gonzales, son of Nicolas Gonzales. During his career he taught many new firefighters pump operations, City streets, first aid and testing fire hoses. He was a friendly fellow and was well liked and respected by his fellow firefighters. He was a member of the AFD Retired Firefighters Association for over twenty-three years. Ronnie will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences and sympathies go out to the entire Turrietta family.



### Death - Jack Armando Rojas



It is with great sadness that we report the death of our retired firefighter friend, Armando Jack Rojas, age 78, who passed away on August 23, 2023. He joined the fire department on August 17, 1967. After serving over twenty-three years to his community and to the fire department he retired on May 25, 1990. During January 1977 he was promoted to driver and served many years driving pumpers, ladder trucks and rescue vehicles. He loved his job as a firefighter and as a fire apparatus Driver. We remember his jovial nature and he was well liked by all his fellow firefighters and chief officers alike. He was a good role model to young firefighters coming into the fire service. He Served over 23 years as a member of the AFD retired firefighter's Association. On behalf of the retired firefighters we extend our most sincere sympathies and condolences to the Rojas Family. He will be missed as a member of our firefighter family.

# 2023 AFDRA Annual Picnic



Our AFDRA annual picnic was held on Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>, and by all accounts it was a great success, and everyone had a great time. I'm pretty sure that we had a retiree representing almost every year from

the mid 1980's up to 2023. Let me start by throwing out some big Thank You's. First to our cooking team, Morris Gutierrez, Todd and Maria Bethke, Robert Bethke, Ed and Maxine Chavez, Rob and Julie Sanchez, and of course Mike and Jude Padilla. I also want to thank Frank Maestas and Ray Sedillo for all the door prize donations, and to Lucy Sedillo, Todd Bethke, GQ Sanchez and Hollow Spirits Distillery, Bill Raupfer, Jesse Gonzales, Nan Eversgerd, Randy Pennington, James Parra, Sam Trujillo, and Mark Chavez for all the Silent Auction donations. We raised more this year for our Retiree Assistance Program than in previous years. A big thank you to Ralph and Lucy Sedillo and Eddie and Roberta Abeita for organizing and running the door prizes and silent auction, and a huge thank you to Rio Grande Credit Union for their financial donation that allows us to put on the picnic free to our members. I also want to thank everyone that hung around and helped clean up after the picnic. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you at next year's picnic.

## "The Preparation"



(Photos courtesy of Mike and Jude Padilla)

# Old Faces, New Faces Time to eat!



"Man of the Year" Donny Sanchez



Fire Chief Jaramillo with Eugene McPeek, and Jim Summers



# See you at the Christmas party!!

For more pictures visit our website at [www.afdretires.com](http://www.afdretires.com).

## President's Message

By Kerry Horton



**Hello** everybody, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Our picnic was a great success with about 120 participants attending, and we shared a lot of laughs and some wonderful food. Our picnic has become our biggest fund-raising event for the Retiree Assistance Program and many retirees stepped up at the silent auction and we raised a fair amount for the program. In case you're new to this retirement thing and do not know what our Retiree Assistance Program, or RAP, is about, it mirrors AFR's Member Assistance Program. We encourage everyone that needs mental health therapy to deal with all the challenges our careers brought into our lives to seek out counseling. RAP allows AFDRA to pay your copays and out of pocket expenses related to counseling so that financial

issues never prevent our members from seeking out mental health services. Attitudes are changing regarding mental health issues, and fortunately more members are exploring the benefits of counseling. If you have been dealing with the traumas of your career, or the transition to retirement, please seek out counseling services, and if the copays are an issue just have their office contact our Treasurer to arrange for the payment of copays and out of pocket expenses. Stay healthy and be safe.



# ROOTED IN RELIABILITY

Like you, a heart to grow a stronger New Mexico is in our roots!



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- CREDIT UNION -  
we understand

[RioGrandeCU.org](http://RioGrandeCU.org)

