



# AFDRA Retiree News



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# 1-2024

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Saint Florian is the patron Saint of firefighters. Florian Was born about 250 A.D. in Cetium, Austria. He joined The Roman Army as a youth and advanced through the Ranks becoming an officer. He did not confess his faith in anti-Christian times. The emperor ordered soldiers to slaughter all Christians. Learning Florian did not carry out his orders to kill them, he sentenced death to Florian by fire. Florian challenged the soldiers to light the fire. "If you light the fire I will climb to the Heavens on the flames." Instead of burning Florian the soldiers flogged and beat him. They finally tied a millstone on his neck and threw him in the Enns River. Later, his body was recovered by a pious woman, and she set an honorable burial. About 600 years later a monastery was erected near his tomb In Linz. Florian has been Regarded as a patron saint of Poland, Austria and firemen. A person was saved from fire by invoking Florian's name. Since that time Florian has been known as the patron Saint of firefighters.

## Saint Florian



Mike Fox, Assistant Editor

**ANNUAL FUND DRIVE.** March winds are blowing, and with that comes our annual fund drive. If you would like to donate, please send your donation to the Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree's Association, care of Mike Fox, 3508 32nd Circle SE., Rio Rancho, NM 87124.



## THANK YOU!!





## Minutes, November 2023 11/08/2023



AFDRA 279<sup>th</sup> meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. President Kerry Horton asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez gave the opening prayer. Moment of Silence for all our deceased brothers and Albert Lavigne who passed away and was living with family in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

Roll call of Officers President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasurer Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo

Advisory Board present, Louie Trujillo, Morris Gutierrez, Bill Raupfer, Anthony Nuanez, O.G. Lucero. No Guest or New Member

**Presidents Report**, Max Myer AFR maintenance reported about the Last Alarm truck; all body work painting and gold leafing completed. Back up camera and camera to monitor casket area installed. A lock out for the hydraulic system was also installed, there was a leak that was repaired. A new fuel tank and lines were also installed. Maintenance is still looking for a new engine short block, that particular engine is no longer available. Next option would be to overhaul the original engine. Also installed was an LED electrical light system, this would allow the truck to be shut down and the emergency lights could be left on for a long period of time without running down the battery. Transmission and differential have been rebuilt; a URN holder will be installed in the truck's cab. IAFF Local 244 will have their Christmas Dinner Friday December 15, at Sandia Casino. Tickets are on sale at a cost of \$35.00. Information is posted on the bulletin board.

**Vice Presidents Report.** No report at this time.

**Secretary's Report** Eddie Abeita read Octobers minutes. Motion made to accept secretary report, 1<sup>st</sup> by Ralph Sedillo 2<sup>nd</sup> by Louie Trujillo. Motion Passed.

**Treasurers Report** Mike Fox stated, first part of October, we had same amount of money, we ended up with in September. Mike provided an overview of all expenditures for the month of October. Deposits made from donations from Earl and Darla Gleason, \$48.00 raffle and \$35.00 in donations. Mike stated, "I would like to recognize Darla and Earl Gleason for their generosity of monthly donations. Motion made to accept treasurers report, 1<sup>st</sup> by Morris Guterrez 2<sup>nd</sup> by O.G. Lucero. Motion Passed

### **Committee Reports**

**Historian Report**, Herman Bishop said, Mike Fox has done an excellent job in assisting Herman with the Newsletter. Herman said the next featured article will be about fire horses which dates to 1882. Albuquerque first horses were named Tom and Jerry, they were not the large type of Clydesdale horse type but more of what we may see of a quarter or racehorse. The horses weighed about 1200 pounds and were kept inside the fire station. [Sam asked, when Louie was a rookie firefighter, if he had the job of scooping up the poop?] Herman said he remembered our deceased brother Albert Lavigne who was in AFD with Herman, however he left the department to be with his sick father. After his father's death, Albert returned to Albuquerque and rejoined the fire department. Herman asked President Kerry Horton if he has received a copy of AFR budget to continue with the historical timeline? At this time Kerry said no response from the chief's office. Sam said, speaking of timelines, I call retirees on their birthdays to keep in touch and open communication. Herman found an old ledger these ledgers would record day's events, normally written by the chief's driver. This ledger was written by Captain Pat King. Herman said I would like to refer to the secretary's minutes, Sam Trujillo's motion; to nominate Paul Stripmatter *an Honorary member of Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association*". The motion was passed. The citation was read by Vice President Donny Sanchez. Paul accepted the citation gracefully.

**Funerals**, Sam said I remind all of our brother retirees to "get your ducks in line", in the event of a death not just the DD214 but other items. Families struggle with arrangements for insurance and sometimes it brings out the evil in some families. So, a will is so important for the family and also to fill out our single page Louie put together of your last wishes is so important. Kerry noted, we are going to send the family of Albert Lavigne a "Resolution of Condolence". Kerry also said Mike Fox has a great idea for our deceased brothers that were living out of town. At a lot of services, the family has a picture presentation they play on a large screen. Mike thought we could make a generic Honor Guard ceremony on tape that could be played at these services. That could include the Striking of the Four Fives. Kerry noted AFR has a complete video production studio, and they may be able to help.

**Christmas Dinner** Eddie Abeita said the dinner is on schedule and will be held on Thursday December 14 at the Moose Lodge. Eddie reminded all to get your tickets and the cost is \$10.00 per person. If unable to purchase tickets in person

contact John Barnum for ticket reservations. Also, another ticket sale will be held here at the union hall on Saturday December 02 from 10AM to 1 PM. Invitations will be extended to AFR Chief's Office, Local 244, Rio Grande Credit Union and TLC Uniforms.

**Museum,** Mike Fox reported that a flyer is being developed for the museum. Morris Guterrez said construction on the memorial will start with a concrete foundation, the forms will be put together on Monday and the concrete poured on Tuesday, the concrete was donated by Star Concrete. Kerry noted the City of Albuquerque CIP program was originally going to pour the concrete slab however with administrative changes it came down to one person that could do it, but he hurt his back. The city went out for bid and the bids were from 5- 7 thousand dollars. After getting an OK, the city gave permission for the retirees to pour the slab.

**Matters Good for the Association,** Robbie Sanchez gave a report of their National Firefighter Bike Run sponsored in part by the IAFF. Their first day on the road was a 600-mile ride to Wichita Kansas. One of our bikers lost his bag with his underwear in it so his SHORT-TEES were scattered along the highway, BUT if found they should be clean(?). They started out with 9 bikers but lost 5 who drove a litter faster. In 2 weeks, they rode over 4,000 miles. The following week the firefighter bikers did another ride to Red River. The IAFF Firefighter's Bike group is rebuilding however our local firefighter's bikers are doing good. Robbie said he would like to deeply thank all retirees for their support, it helped with cost. **New Business,** None **Closing Prayer** by Morris Guterrez

## Death of Evaristo Marquez



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our brother and retired firefighter friend Evaristo Marquez, age 88, who passed away January 17, 2024. He joined the fire department on February 13, 1957, and after serving 29 years with his community and the department he retired on December 30, 1986. He was promoted to driver on May 6, 1958. He served at the old station #5, at Chico & Dallas NE for many years. Later he served as the ladder driver at the old Station # 13 near Winrock Shopping center. He came from a family of firefighters. His brother-in-law, Roy Gonzales was an Assistant Chief, and his nephew

Paul Gonzales Was a driver. His two sons served, Steve Marquez Inspector, and Victor, Battalion Chief. E.V., as his friends called him, was a friendly, personable fellow and was also a dedicated and good firefighter. He loved training the new firefighters teaching them the streets, pump operations and driving the fire trucks. He was a long time Member of the AFD Retired Firefighter's Association where he served over twenty-three years as a faithful and dedicated member. He will be greatly missed. Our Most sincere condolences to the entire Marquez family.



## Death of Sebastian, Mirabal



Unfortunately, we report the death of our friend and fellow retired firefighter Sebastian Mirabal, age 89, who passed away on January 9, 2024. He joined AFD on March 9, 1964. After serving over 21 years with the department he retired on July 1, 1984. He was a United States Army veteran and was part of a fire department family. He served the department with his two brothers, Cruz and Pablo

Mirabal. He was promoted to fire alarm operator in November 4, 1968, and served in the alarm room for over seventeen years. His nickname was "Sammy Davis Jr." because of his resemblance to the famous singer and actor. We called him Sammy. He was a happy-go-lucky fellow with a great sense of humor. He was friends with all his fellow firefighters. He loved his job and was competent as a fire alarm operator. When the field personnel responded to emergency calls, he was most helpful with details of all calls, street locations, calling for assistance from the police, water, electric and gas technicians. He was a member of the AFD Retiree's Association for over 23 years. He was well respected by his fellow firefighters and Chief Officers as well. We have many fond memories of Sebastian, and he will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences and sympathies are extended to the Mirabal family.





## AFD Retiree's Association

The Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association was established on June 9, 2000 - on the centennial anniversary of the Department's founding - with the stated purpose to "preserve the rights, interests, and welfare of retired members of the Albuquerque Fire Department; to promote sociability and friendship; to keep retirees in touch with the Fire Department Family on a regular basis; and to create and maintain a cohesive, cordial, and warm feeling of friendship between all active members and retirees and their families." The association



promotes social events - such as an annual summer picnic and Christmas Party - and works at keeping retirees informed through both a phone tree and an e-mail network. A quarterly newsletter provides information about events of interest to Association members, as well as historical material about AFD. To accomplish these goals, the Association strives to maintain a working relationship with the Fire Chief, the Department's Executive Staff, and other department members, in order to promote the success of the Association and its members. There are regularly scheduled monthly meetings where retirees are able to get together and maintain the bonds of friendships, and the membership is kept informed through a quarterly Association newsletter. In addition to maintaining a current roster of all retirees, the Association also maintains a similar list of all deceased members, each of whom are remembered with a moment of silence at each meeting. A key role of the Association is its commemoration of deceased AFD retirees, through the presentation of a Firefighter Funeral -



honoring the deceased for their service to the Department. Included in the ceremony is a special proclamation, as well as the presentation of the "Last Alarm" ceremony. During the service, the Association Honor Guard performs the "Last Alarm" ceremony, ringing the "Four Fives" on an antique fire engine bell - as is traditional within the American Fire Service. Since its inception, the Association has recognized more than 200 AFD Retirees with the service. The bell ceremony has also been used in the annual Archdiocese of Santa Fe "Blue Mass" and at the City of Albuquerque's annual September 11 memorial. Association members also volunteer to assist in the Albuquerque Fire Department's annual Rio Grande bosque patrol activities, in support of the Department's Open Space fire prevention plans. Members staff bike patrols during the high fire danger season when the bosque is otherwise closed to the public.



# Clyde Tingley – Mayor of Albuquerque

(By: Herman R. Bishop (November 15, 2023))

Clyde Kendle Tingley was born on a farm in London, Ohio on January 5, 1881, and died On December 24, 1960, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His wife Carrie Wooster Tingley also an Ohio native had suffered from tuberculosis and in 1910 moved to Albuquerque to take advantage of the southwest dry climate to improve her health. Clyde Tingley dedicated his life to public service for over forty years. From 1916 to 1955 he served as chairman of the City Commission, two terms as Governor of New Mexico, and Chairman of the New Mexico State Fair Commission.



ALBUQUERQUE FIRE DEPARTMENT 1939  
A CELEBRATION OF WESTERN DAY

Tingley was a strong advocate and supporter of the Albuquerque Fire Department during the terms of two fire chiefs, Fred Russell, and later Art Westerfeld. Art Westerfeld's father Henry Westerfeld was the Mayor during Tingley's term as a City Alderman in 1917. After The death of fire chief Fred Russell there are many official photos of Mayor Tingley and Fire Chief Art Westerfeld in front of fire station one and fire apparatus at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Tijeras NW. Ray Kuhn, former fire chief, tells of his attempt to join the fire department in the 1940's. Firemen were required to be age 21 to join. Ray lived near fire station one and passed by there daily on his way to school. He was friends with the firemen and although only 18 he was too young

to join. He talked to Chief Westerfeld, but the chief referred him to Mayor Tingley as he was not 21. The mayor said, "son I cannot hire you as you cannot vote to support me." Ray was friends with Captain Simon Seligman. Simon knew Mrs. Tingley and sent Ray to see if she could help. She thought Ray was a nice young man and said, "Tonight I will talk to "Buster," and ask him to hire you." The following day The Mayor contacted Ray and told him I will hire you. Go see Chief Westerfeld and tell him to put you to work. Ray joined the department where over several years he was promoted to Fire Chief. After arriving in Albuquerque, Clyde Tingley, a democrat, was shocked that the Republican party ran the state. Getting into politics in the city, he served as a city alderman from 1916 to 1917. In 1917 Albuquerque switched to a City Commission form of government and He served as a City Commissioner from 1922 to 1935. He served as Chairman of the City Commission from 1922 to 1935. From 1925 to 1935 he served ten years as the Mayor Pro Tem. Tingley referred to himself as "Mayor," Tingley. Tingley was elected to Governor in 1934. During this time, he was a strong proponent and friend of President Franklin Roosevelt. He was a strong advocate for children's health care. With federal funding he set up Carrie Tingley Hospital to help sick children in honor of his wife. He was re-elected to Governor in 1936 and became the first Governor to serve two consecutive terms. In 1938 he resurrected the New Mexico State Fair. The center of the State fairgrounds, Tingley Coliseum. Tingley served in public life from 1916 to 1955. He served several years as Chairman of the City Commission. (Mayor Pro Tem) His wife referred to him as "Buster," He served two terms as Governor of New Mexico and served several years as Chairman of the New Mexico State Fair. There was never any hint of dishonesty, misconduct or scandal during Tingley's long and hard-fisted political career. However, he was often criticized for his gruff and ungrammatical language. A newspaper objected to his continual use of the word "ain't." Tingley brought thunderous applause at a political rally when he exclaimed, "I ain't gonna stop using the word, "ain't." Tingley's friendship with President Franklin Roosevelt allowed him to obtain millions of dollars in federal funding. Included were: UNM Zimmerman library, Albuquerque Little Theater, Roosevelt Park, Tingley Coliseum, Renewal of the NM State Fair, Tingley Beach, Airport Terminal, Santa Fe railroad under pass, Albuquerque Fire Station Three, (1936) Veterans Hospital. Upon the death of U.S. Senator Bronson, Governor Tingley appointed United States Representative Dennis Chavez to United States Senator. Tingley's long and prominent role in city government came to an end in 1955. He decided not to seek re-election to the City Commission. Tingley died in Albuquerque on December 24, 1960. at age 79. His wife Carrie Wooster Tingley died one year later in 1961.



## Minutes, December 2023 12/ 13 /2023

AFDRA 280<sup>th</sup> meeting called to order at 1900 hrs. President Kerry Horton asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Morris Guterrez gave the opening prayer. Notice of Last Alarm, Moment of Silence for Silver Sanchez and Ray Padilla

**Roll call of Officers** President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasure Mike Fox, Historian Herman Bishop and President Emeritus Sam Trujillo

**Advisory Board** present, Pablo Garcia, Louie Trujillo, Morris Gutierrez, Bill Raupfer, Anthony Nuanez, O.G. Lucero, Joe Martinez, Vince Holcomb. Guest or New Member, AFR Chief Emily Jaramillo unable to attend.

**Presidents Report**, the Christmas tree is up and ready for the Christmas dinner. No updates on the Last Alarm Truck, Kerry left message for Max Myer of AFR maintenance however, no response. Sam Trujillo stated its frustrating, an order was given not to die while the Last Alarm truck was out of service, but some just didn't listen! IAFF Local 244 will have their Christmas Dinner Friday December 15, at Sandia Casino. Cadet Gradation on Thursday December 14, our Honor Guard is participating, AFD's Color Guard is having internal problems. Kerry will meet with Fire Chief Jaramillo to discuss Retirees Honor Guard's future deployments at AFD's functions. After graduation the firefighters will return to fire academy for orientation some will stay an additional 4 weeks for EMT training. Our retiree's association will meet with the new recruits and provide our AFD history. All of you are welcome to attend. Mike Fox said, we also will give them an ethics class, it will help them; *so not to do what we did.*

**Vice Presidents Report**. Donny said I have one item, we had Honor Guard practice at station 21, James gave us some pointers. One neat thing was we were invited to breakfast and treated well. Reminded me of the old days they had real food cooking including chili. With the cadet's graduation and no AFR Color Guard available our Honor Guard stepped up and did the honors. Sam said, at funerals it makes me so proud when our Honor Guard is assembled at funerals, and I know you all feel the same. The deceased families are thankful for our presence however It's sad sometimes when they think the Honor Guard is AFR, they never knew it was the retirees Honor Guard or our association involvement. When some of our brothers retired that was it, they never attended a function or a retiree meeting. However, we will still provide a retiree' funeral upon the family request.

**Secretary's Report** Eddie Abeita read Novembers minutes. Motion made to accept secretary report, 1<sup>st</sup> by Robbie Sanchez 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Ortiz. Motion Passed.

**Treasurers Report** Mike provided an overview of all expenditures for the month of November. Mike Fox stated I am going to do this with graphics. We started with about that much money, we collected about that much and spent about that much. Deposits made, donation from Earl and Darla Gleason, \$20.00 from Morris Book sales, \$65.00 raffle, \$135.00 in donations. The question asked, if David Myers received their Federal Tax Number? Answer NO! Motion made to accept treasurers report, 1<sup>st</sup> by Jimmy Candelaria 2<sup>nd</sup> by O.G. Lucero. Motion Passed. Also, Mike said, I would like to thank **YOU GUY's** for allowing the purchase of the color printer, it's great. Also, a *SPECIAL* thanks to you all for your generosity in donations to the retiree's association. Also Honor Guard members, when you take your uniform in for cleaning it needs to be billed to our Star Bright account, if there is a problem call me and I will talk to them.

**Historians Report** Herman thanked Mike Fox for his hard work in putting the December newsletter together. Herman said I remember going to the print shop and being charged \$800 for black and white copies. So, it's great with the new printer. Herman said I would like to talk about our deceased brother Silver Sanchez he was one of my favorite firefighters. He was a tiller driver who could place that aerial ladder trailer in places a Volkswagens could not fit into. Sam Trujillo said "thanks" Pablo Garcia for binging Silver to our meeting, also I have been in contact with his daughter. She said for his birthday she contacted AFR Chief's office and asked for a drive by for the oldest retiree in AFD. The request was denied, however Pablo talked with fire station personnel, they came by with their emergency lights on sirens and air horns blasting and even brought him balloons. Silver's daughter said that Silver was so happy with it all he will take it with him "THANKS PABLO".



Sam also said Johnny Elwell is the oldest retiree followed by Joe Maldonado, so we all move up on the ladder. Herman mentioned the death of ALISTINO Marquez who was a firefighter for about 6 years he left due to health reasons. His brother Orlando Marquez retired from AFD; Herman said I got such a kick at his funeral, because his daughter *read in church his eulogy*. In it she read, the brothers were building an outhouse and when the hole was being dug into the ground for the waste the ground was so hard, so someone got the bright idea to use dynamite that was stored in their shed. After the blast she said the hole was *so big* even if all the family used it, it could not be filled up in the next 100 years.

Herman said, "I would like to recognize Pablo Garcia and Ralph Sedillo for restoring the old AFD aerial ladder truck". They used so much of their time and paid for items out of their own pocket. They bought items from private owners and negotiated cost with some AFD retirees, still a lot of these were out of pocket purchases. Even now Pablo has purchased a big light that was carried on old ladder trucks. With that being said, I would like to make a motion: That AFDRA give \$500.00 each to Pablo and Ralph to help with some of their out-of-pocket expense. We cannot put a price tag on what they did. President Horton read the motion to retirees, "The AFDRA give Pablo Garcia and Ralph Sedillo \$500 each, for their out-of-pocket expenses to restore the La France aerial ladder truck". Motion to accept, 1<sup>st</sup> by Robbie Sanchez, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Tuma, motioned passed.

### **Committee Reports**

**Funerals, HONOR GUARD,** OG Lucero said he was trying to contact Mike Murphy who had not participated in previous Honor Guard ceremonies. Sam said Mike was ill and may not be able to participate in Honor Guard functions. OG said, it would be good to recognize Mike for serving as an Honor Guard member. Sam was in contact with deceased retiree Ray Padilla wife, who gave a thank you to the retirees for all their prayers for their family. Sam said, one particular retiree's death the family is still struggling because there was no will in place. Once again please have your ducks in line. Kerry reported the City of Hobbs requested use of our Last Alarm truck, Kerry referred them to AFR, which their request was denied. The Last Alarm truck does not belong to the retirees.

**Christmas Dinner,** Eddie said we are ready to go, don't be late get there early.

**Raffle,** \$81.00 in ticket sales. 1<sup>st</sup> winner \_\_\_\_? 2<sup>nd</sup> Winner Vince Holcomb, 3<sup>rd</sup> winner Joe Martinez.

**Matters Good for the Association,** Sam Trujillo was appointed to the Governor's Veterans advisor board, they had there quarterly meeting on Wednesday. Sam noted there are a lot more younger veterans seeking help, the reasons for help, remains high with drug abuse, alcohol abuse suicide tendencies and homelessness. Also, cancer is reported more among Vet's we see this more with TV broadcast about burn pits and Camp Lejeune. One of our retirees called Sam because he was having trouble getting a copy of his DD214. Sam said I have repeated this message over and over, it's so important to have this document and keep it with your other papers. Any of you Vets that have any questions "please reach out to me"! O.G Lucero, said I have a question can we get another Honor Guard uniform? Because Jim Tuma wants to join our Honor Guard.

**NEW BUSINESS** NONE Closing Prayer by Morris Guterrez.

## **Mayor Tingley Fires Firemen** (By Herman R. Bishop) July 23-2023

Clyde Tingley was a popular politician and for 37 years he served on the Albuquerque City Council, As Mayor, and served two terms as the Governor of New Mexico. During the terms of President Franklin Roosevelt's Presidency, he had a strong relationship with the President and brought lots of federal money to the City. Federal money funded City buildings, infrastructure, streets, a fire station, And the buildings at the airport. He had a strong relationship with members of the Albuquerque Fire Department and was supportive of the department. Lieutenant Mauricio Cordova was highly supportive of the mayor and each year he and his wife worked diligently and long hours to get Mr. Tingley elected. Fire station one was located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Tijeras Blvd. downtown. In the early 1950's one morning, a schoolboy reported a dead fireman in the alley behind station one. Upon investigation the Chief found Mr. Cordova was drunk and passed out. Of course, Lieutenant Cordova was fired for conduct unbecoming. Mauricio and his wife

Mrs. Cordova attended a hearing at the mayor's office pleading for his job back. The mayor denied their request. Mrs. Cordova told the mayor, "Sir, look at my shoes, I wore them out getting you elected. You should know I have a new pair at home just like these shoes and I am going to wear them out working to get you out of office. The mayor closed his political career in 1955. After he left office the Fire Chief re-instated Lieutenant Cordova to his job, and he served another fifteen years with the department. I worked with Mauricio at the old fire station three at Bryn Mawr and Central Avenue NE. Mauricio was the officer on Ladder Three and showed me the ropes. He and I were good friends for several years until his retirement in 1968.

## **Mother Cat saves Kittens from fire** (By Herman R. Bishop) July 30-2023



In our fire department records we have many fire stories and we do not know their origins or their author. This story was written by a New York City fireman (name unknown). This story is a day about life and love. This day we responded to an early morning alarm in a home garage. As I went inside towards the fire, I heard the sounds of cats crying. After a long while we got the fire under control. As the smoke cleared, I followed the meowing outside the garage door. About five feet away there were five terrified kittens, crying and huddled together. Their fur was badly singed. Neighbors brought a box to put them in. We could not find the mother cat, but it was obvious she had found the kittens and rescued them. She had made five trips into the fire and carried each kitten outside to safety. Now, what happened to her? Cops said a cat had gone to a nearby vacant lot. When we found her, she was lying there injured and crying with heavy burns. Her eyes were blistered shut. She was too weak to move but still breathing. Shortly we got the mother cat and five kittens to a vet on Long Island. When I arrived two teams of vets were waiting for me. After treatment the vets said they would be observed overnight and tomorrow we would get a report on their condition. The next day we were told the kittens would survive. It was too early to know if the mother would survive. After a week I went to check on the mother. The vet said she had made a remarkable recovery and was going to survive. Her eyes had healed, and she could see again. The technicians named her Scarlett because of her reddened skin. Shortly thereafter Scarlett was reunited with her kittens. She touched each kitten nose to nose to see that they were all safe and sound. She had risked her life not once, but five times, and her efforts had paid off. All her babies had survived. As a firefighter, I see heroism every day. But what Scarlett showed me that day was the height of heroism. This kind of bravery comes only from a mother's love.

## **Toby Pino said, Rescue One's High-Tech Equipment was the "Thumper."** (By Eddie Abeita)



**Toby** said, whenever I see a Fire unit responding to a call or the news showing an incident involving Albuquerque Fire, I always get some sort of flashback(s). Most of my career was on the rescue, my first assignment was in fire suppression. I watched rescues go on calls, and I knew then I wanted to be part of it. When first assigned, the rescue units in service were Rescue 1 at station one, Rescue 2 at station three, Rescue 3 at station thirteen and Rescue 4 at station four. It is nice to see Albuquerque Fire Rescue has good vehicles now, when we spared out it was into an old van and sometimes a pick-up truck (aka unit 61), they were unsafe for emergency response.

My first training was First Aid, then advanced first aid with extra training at UNM and later becoming a paramedic. The early days Rescue One's **high-tech equipment was the "thumper"**, which was a small plunger that would go up and down for compressions on a cardiac patient's chest. But it took so long to get into operation and cumbersome to use it was kind of like a secondary piece of equipment. We used the E&J resuscitators and bag valve mask with an airway for most cardiac calls.



The backboard was important piece of equipment, we packaged the patient onto the backboard, it was better for CPR and easier to move the patient onto the gurney for transport. I was surprised that now the backboards are not used as much.



In the early days on CPR calls we did not have a BP cuff, we used airways, oxygen and bagged them. One call I remember, upon arrival grandma had been gone for a while, but emotions were running high some family members wanted us to revive her and others were yelling at one another, about her lack of care, it was a mess, so we put the oxygen mask on grandma put her on a backboard and placed her in the ambulance and transported her to the hospital.

Toby said, another call I remember, Albuquerque Ambulance (AA) would be dispatched about the same time as us. Whoever was on scene first the patient was theirs and the other entity would support them. On one call we were on scene first and started our patient assessment when AA arrived. One of their paramedics pushed me out of the way almost knocking me to the ground and said I'll take over. I came to my feet and ready to kick the (&%\$#@\*) out of him. I chased him around the ambulance he finally jumped in the ambulance and locked the door. We both filed reports and his partner told his supervisor(s), lucky he locked the door to the ambulance because he had an ass whipping coming to him, no further action was taken.

About three-quarters of my career was on a rescue, I asked for reassignment to fire suppression however it did not come easy. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) took its toll. PTSD can affect any first responder. It does not have to be a large multi- person incident or a series of bad calls, sometimes it's just that one call that does it! Things happen on the job, but the emotional factor does not end when you leave the station and go home. When you retire, that's it, you are a civilian and kind of on your own, I know our retiree's association has handed out an olive branch to help AFD and AFR Retirees with assistance toward behavior health co-pays. I wish that help was available when I retired. *God Bless all my brother and sister retiree's brother Toby*

## Christmas Dinner 2023 (by Eddie Abeita)



In the early days Albuquerque firefighters had purchased a building on Cedar SE and called it the Fireman's Club, this building was previously owned by a religious organization. Many functions were held including Christmas parties and union meetings. Presbyterian Hospital wanted this property to continue their growth in the area. So, it was sold to Presbyterian and another location was found where a new structure was built. After building problems, the new firefighters club was closed, and membership dissolved. This saw the era of get-together's end.

The year 2000 was the beginning of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retirees Association (AFDRA). The original group's goal was written and objectives to support the goal. Although one objective was unwritten it was more of an emotional need, it was to keep our brother and sisterhood camaraderie intact". Upon the establishment of the AFDRA, Fire Chief Morris Huling gave permission for the association to conduct monthly meetings at the Fire Academy.

One thing the association knew, upon retirement, communication with some retirees is lost. Memories of functions held at the old fireman's club inspired the association to provide some type of gathering. But being realistic for a good turnout you need food, so President Sam Trujillo said let's have a gathering and for planning purposes let's start with a pot-luck Christmas Party.

The first Christmas party(s) were held in December at the fire academy, on Wednesday's meeting night. They were potluck and well attended. After a few celebrations there was a need for a larger room and maybe include children and Santa Clause. Eddie Torres was appointed chairperson and planned the next Christmas parties and being a community member of Bernalillo was able to secure their Community Center. After several years as Christmas Party Chairperson, Eddie Torres said "it's time to step down".

AFDRA President Sam Trujillo at a monthly retiree meeting appointed Eddie Abeita to chair a Christmas Party Committee. A Christmas Committee was organized, and the committee brainstormed different ideas, with Louie Trujillo's stating we need a "Christmas Dinner" not a party. The initial planning by the Christmas Committee was

to find an entity that would fit the needs of the association. Restaurants, Casinos, Fraternal Orders and Kirtland Air Force Base were contacted about providing a sit-down dinner. They all welcomed our association but the money (\$\$\$\$) was always the main issue, money we did not have. Also, in negotiating for a large group, these entities require some type of binding agreement with a monetary clause.

Vince Holcomb mentioned a function that he and wife Linda attended at the Moose Lodge which he thought “may” fit our needs. A meeting with Moose Lodge was held and all the particulars were discussed. The Moose Lodge provided a menu with cost per plate and hall rental. All other entities we had discussed the dinner with, their cost for the month of December was at a premium. The new relationship with an outside entity was refreshing. Everything discussed was done openly with all retirees being kept informed, so no surprises or secrets.

Moose Lodge manager noted if you have your dinner on a Thursday night, hall rental will be a lot cheaper. The other factors with selecting the Moose Lodge were no down payment, no contract to sign and the Moose Lodge is in a centralized location. With the relationship with the Moose Lodge the management started the practice of reserving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of December for our Christmas Dinner.

Roberta Abeita shopped for items needed for center pieces and door prizes, a date was scheduled at the AFR Union Hall for centerpiece construction and gift wrapping. In attendance were Linda and Vince Holcomb, Mike Fox, Merry Flores, Debbie and John Barnum, Nancy Diehl, Theresa and Leroy Barboa, Roberta, and Eddie Abeita. The ladies also divided up the 26 tablecloths to iron for the dinner tables. After each dinner the tablecloths are laundered and stored until the next use. Three other dates were scheduled, the first was putting up the Christmas tree, decorating the Moose Lodge and taking down the Christmas tree. New faces joined in and



helped to decorate and set up the Moose Lodge for the dinner, Patricia and Emiliano Chavez, Jeff Fox, Dennis Lowder, Anthony Nuanez, Jim Tuma, and Paul Stripmatter.

Merry Flores donated meatballs, paper plates John and Debbie Barnum donated lemon-lime artesian water. Roberta and Eddie Abeita donated punch, coffee, water, snacks, and paper goods. TLC Uniforms donated 5 gift certificates (polo retiree’s shirts); Pablo Garcia donated door prizes. The retiree’s association funded the centerpieces, cash door prizes, hall rental and residual cost of dinner tickets. The dinner activities started with a social hour which has become a popular part of the dinner. There was a lot of hand shaking, fist bumping, hugging, chit chat, reminiscing and just visiting with one another. Snacks were enormous Moose had cocktail service available. Mike Fox designed and printed dinner tickets John Barnum, handled telephone reservations and both coordinated ticket sales. Vince Holcomb was communication liaison with Moose Lodge.

Vince Holcomb provided the Moose Lodge a final ticket count of 122 for dinner meals to be prepared. The Moose Lodge charged the association \$17.00, per each dinner plate. As a “thank you” to retirees for continued support, AFDRA paid &7.00 toward each ticket purchased by retirees for a cost to retirees of \$10.00 per dinner ticket.

AFDRA President Kerry Horton extended invitations to Albuquerque Fire Rescue Chief Emily Jaramillo and Vice President Donny Sanchez extended invitation to Local 244 Union President\_Miguel Tittmann.\_Committee Chair Eddie Abeita provided written invitation to the retiree’s perpetual supporters, Rio Grande Credit Union, and TLC Uniform Inc. Lucy Sedillo was recognized for her continued support as liaison with RGCU and our Retirees Association.

Retirees brought family members as guests and new retirees faces in attendance. There were more than 50 gifts given as door prizes to attendees.



The Honor Guard was given the task of delivering the door prize to the winner's tables. The committee would like to thank Local 244 Sergeant at Arms, Aaron Flores, for providing the union hall for committee planning meetings.



## **Sam Trujillo Said, "Just the Nature of the Beast"**

**(By Eddie Abeita)**

Sam said back in our prime days working in fire stations we would jokingly say remember there are two (2) things in life you have to do, its death, and pay taxes. However, since our creation of the Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree Association (AFDRA) seems like death is more of the inevitable. We also would say, can't wait till the Golden Years so where did the golden go?

Sam said upon notification of a retiree's death contact is made with the family by me or a designee. We offer assistance and help per our Albuquerque Fire Department Retiree Association (AFDRA) practices. Under *normal* conditions the family will designate a person who will be our main contact. However, we must remember things are not *normal*, at that time.

In conversations with the family Sam said I tell them about certain agencies to contact as soon as possible (ASAP) there may be entitlements. Sam said however, the big question that I pose is, "was he in the military"? Some have responded quickly and said, yes, he was in Korea or in Vietnam. Some would tell me, we don't know, maybe so because we heard talk that he was in the military. Or another response was, we think there was a picture of him in some kind of uniform. Sam said it's like a swinging door that leads to the next question," do you have a copy of their DD214? Wow, and answers do vary once again with, yes right where his other papers are kept, or we don't know but will check. But the million-dollar-question from a family, what is a DD-214? Sam said I will give the short answer which is, if the deceased had any previous military service there may be benefits available including burial.

However, there sometimes is the family scholar who wants a solidified technical answer. They ask a series of questions about the form as if I created the DD-214 Sam said. I just remember it's just the nature of the beast. If the DD214 cannot be found, I always provide information on how to get a copy ASAP. The next defined answer I give is;

DD Form 214 -- DD stands for Defense Department -- are Discharge Papers and Separation Documents which provides veterans with an accurate and complete summary of their active military service. It usually lists dates of service, any commendations or medals received, the reason for separation and the type of discharge. The Report of Separation contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations, and used for important funeral-related benefits.

Sam said after I have met and offer our assistance from our association with the family or after a funeral service, the thought of the DD 214 comes back like the Phoenix. At our retirees meeting we have an agenda, however with most topics the DD214 can fit into any discussion. So, as some would say I get up on my soap box and instill the importance of the DD214 to the body. I tell the membership, it's great that you understand the importance, however, you need to share this with your family and have all documents available for them.

Next Newsletter History of the AFDRA's Funeral practices from the incipient years of development to current.



### **Minutes, January 2024 01/10/2024**

AFDRA 281<sup>st</sup> meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. President Kerry Horton asked the retiree body to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Louie Trujillo said the opening prayer. No new deaths reported. Sam Trujillo read the names of our brother retirees who died in 2023, Mark Dillard January 5<sup>th</sup>. Billy Chenault January 7<sup>th</sup>. Chris Montoya, March 25. Eddie Brito April 23rd. Tom Skidmore May 13<sup>th</sup>. Noel Baca May 30<sup>th</sup>. Anthony Hernandez August 1<sup>st</sup>. Steve Keffer August 9<sup>th</sup>. Romolo Turrietta, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Armando Rojas August 10<sup>th</sup>. Jesus



Frias October 10<sup>th</sup>. Albert Lavigne November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ray Padilla November 10. Silver Sanchez November 18<sup>th</sup>. Roll call of Officers, President Kerry Horton, Vice President Donny Sanchez, Secretary Eddie Abeita, Treasure Mike Fox, President Emeritus Sam Trujillo, also Herman Bishop--**MIA**. Advisory Board present, Morris Gutierrez, Ogee Lucero, Anthony Nuanez Tom Romero, Louie Trujillo, and Pablo Garcia No Guest or first meeting Retiree. **Presidents Report**, Kerry reported local television station 4 aired their program entitled, **Pay it 4ward**. The program recognizes person(s) who are a tribute to their community or organization. Our own Eulogio (Ogee) Lucero contacted the television station and submitted Sam Trujillo's name for consideration. Ogee gave a brief rundown of Sammy's involvement with the AFDRA, the television news person gave a quick thumbs up for Sam to receive this recognition. Both Sam and Eulogio were interviewed in which Eulogio was given \$400 in cash by the television reporter to give to Sam for his role in the "Retirees Association? Eulogio presented Sammy with the \$400, after an emotional speech, Sam gave the \$400 to the retiree association as a donation. Sam received several calls of congratulations from retirees. Kerry said we also "thank Ogee for making this happen!" Kerry received a call from Albert Ortega who was in Santa Fe at the legislature, He had conversation with some Santa Fe retirees who wanted help in organizing a fire retiree association. Kerry said, "I invited them to come to our next meeting Sam noted he had a few meetings before, offering guidance, however their organization never got off the ground. Last Alarm Truck, after 6 unsuccessful months of looking for a particular diesel engine for the truck, the mechanics agreed the engine block is in good condition. The work will continue with other parts of the engine and drive train. Bodywork has been completed and an urn holder is being installed. The truck can be used for funerals. When the new transmission has arrived, the truck will be completely out of service for approximately 1 week. Work will continue for 4-5- months. **Vice President**, No report, at this time! **Secretary's Report**, Eddie Abeita read the minutes of December 2023 Motion made to accept minutes. First by Kenneth Goodyear, second by Tommy Romero. Motion Passed. **Treasure's Report**, Mike Fox said I remember working with our deceased brother Ray Padilla, and I will tell you that I never heard him talk or say a bad word about anybody. Now my report, I will tell you, *how much we started with, how much we brought in, and how much we spent*. Mike said deposits made in the amount of \$50.00 from Earl and Darla Gleason, \$40.00 Morris Book sales, Decembers donation, \$100.00 raffle, \$500.00 Bishop challenge, \$50.00 trailer use, Motion to accept Mikes overview of expenditures. First by Louie Trujillo, Second by Micheal Murphy. Motion Passed *Mike once again stated the books are always open for your review*. **Committee Reports** Funerals, Sam Trujillo noted he was in conversation with Ray Padilla's wife who had problems with PERA's Health Care Authority. Sam immediately started to help by making phone calls starting with the Albuquerque office, which to no avail he had to contact Santa Fe PERA for help. Sam said I want you to remember, these problems start to happen right after a retiree's death. Sometimes it starts with the family and of course PERA and Veterans benefits. You need to have your **ducks in line** which comes down to having a will and the sharing of information with your spouse. For starters you need to go to our retirees' website and look at and print that last wishes sheet that Louie Trujillo put together. **Christmas Dinner**, Eddie reported the Christmas Dinner was a success. There were 122 tickets sold including comped tickets. A post dinner meeting with Anthony of the Moose was held during the Christmas tree disassembly. Anthony said his cooks and staff enjoy serving us retirees and hopes this event continues. Also, in the discussion with Anthony was the possibility of changing one of the dinner entrées. Sam Trujillo said I attend the Christmas Dinners for the enjoyment of socializing with other retirees and their family for me the dinner is a big winner. Kerry Horton also said, the following night local 244 held their Christmas Dinner at Sandia Casino. The tickets were \$35.00, Filet Mignon was the main entrée, Kerry said I heard complaints about the meat being tough and was not cooked enough so our \$10.00 dinner ticket is a great bargain. **Raffle**, \$66.00 in ticket sales, winners were, James Parra, Joe Costales, Micheal Murphy. **Matters Good for the Association** Sam stated once again about Ray Padilla and PERA problems. You need a will if you need help..... My daughter may be able to help you. Kerry "thanked Micheal Murphy for serving on the Honor Guard these past years." Kerry also wished Micheal well and hopes his health improves. Sam said, Micheal if you need help, Jose and Baldy are on notice and ready to go????

**New Business= NONE** Closing Prayer by Morris Guterrez, meeting Adjourned

## **AFD Early History** (By Herman R Bishop (3-1-2001))

The "Albuquerque Albuquerque Fire Volunteer Company," Fire department hook and ladder was organized as a company in February 1882 in front of the Montezuma saloon. An old photo dated February 1882 was taken prior to the incorporation of Albuquerque in 1885. The ladder wagon was hand-drawn. The saloon was located at the SW corner of Second Street and Railroad Avenue (Central Avenue) The Albuquerque Morning Journal on February 24, 1882, reported that the Albuquerque volunteer hook and ladder company was headed by Chief William Sanguinette. It was reported that "The Hook



Albuquerque Public Library, Picture Collection, Page - 143

### **The first Albuquerque Fire Company, 1882 Montezuma Saloon at 2nd St. and Railroad Ave. The Town of Albuquerque prior to incorporation in 1885. Hand-drawn ladder wagon**

and Ladder Company" is efficient, but a better water supply is needed. A big fire was reported on March 9, 1882. "The pump of the R.R. news Company proved of much service. The pump was used to fill hundreds of buckets. On July 13, 1882 William Sanguinette was re-elected to Chief. The Fire Company name was changed from "Albuquerque Fire Company" to "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company." John Borradiale was named Foreman, and James Blanchard was named Secretary. Names of inactive members were removed from the membership roster. From a newspaper column entitled "Nubs of News" on October 8, 1882, it was reported that "The fire boys are erecting a building for a new truck on Front Street (First Street) opposite Holiday and Sanguinette Saloon." The first Fireman's Ball was held on March 17, 1883, and the men wore their uniforms. The lady's attire was not reported, and the name of the Band is not known. The location of the Fireman's Ball is unknown or the number attending. The Firemen received their first badges on April 7, 1883. A Railroad Fire Company was organized on August 12, 1883. It was called the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company in those days. At this time the fire company tested its first fire hose and the test proved successful. A City Water Works Company was proposed on August 17, 1883. At that time the City Water Company was not sufficient to supply fire hydrants, but the hand-drawn fire carts and horse drawn fire wagons carried their own water. In September 1883 a bad fire was reported at the Hub Saloon. No further information was provided. Later in the year on December 8th an improved Water Works Company was decided upon. Then on December 11, 1883, the King Building sustained heavy losses after a big fire. The Maden Store suffered heavy fire losses on April 22, 1884. A new type of ladder was purchased and arrived on June 13, 1884. It was called a "Fire Escape Ladder" (extension ladder) This ladder apparently was similar to a 40-foot Bangor ladder. It was described as having sections held together by brackets which allowed the sections upward and downward mobility. The first fireman's tournament was held on October 3, 1884. The election of June 1885 allowed the citizens to vote on whether or not to incorporate Albuquerque as a town. The citizens voted in the "majority" to incorporate. Just five days after the election a contract for installation of a city water system was awarded. William Sanguinette was re-elected Chief, and the first hose company was organized during November 3, 1885. This hose company was comprised of 23 volunteer members. Two hose carts were approved for purchase by the



City Commission during December 1885. Also awarded in the contract for the two hose carts was 1200 feet of 2 1/2-inch fire hose. The name "Scott Moore Hose Company" was adopted for the first hose company in early January 1886. To provide fire service to the south Albuquerque area, on January 18, 1886, a second hose company was organized. The name, "A.A. Grant Hose Company" was adopted. At this time the ladder company was known as the "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company" The company's fifteen volunteer members elected C.E. Cramer as Foreman. The two new Gleason and Bailey two-wheel hose carts arrived on February 15, 1886. The "Scott Moore Company" hose cart was cream colored, and the "A.A. Grant Hose Company" was colored brown. (The cartwheels measured 6' 3"). On February 15, 1886, Volunteer members of both hose companies, "Scott Moore", and "A.A. Grant" held their first practice drill along with the "Albuquerque Hook and Ladder Company." Although the water works was not complete at this time the volunteers were able to hold their drill with hoses hooked up to new fire hydrants. The drills were reported a success by all three companies. An election was held in March 1886 and William Sanguinette was elected Fire Marshal by members of the three fire companies.



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## 2024 Legislative Session (By Kerry Horton)



The 2024 New Mexico legislative session is over, and all the excitement and hope of a possible bump in our PERA COLAs have fallen away. This legislative session was marked by numerous debates over the state budget, gun laws, teacher salaries, and a whole multitude of other important items, but let's be honest, all we really care about is if we were going to get a better COLA this year.



Senate Bill 62 was the first bill we all heard about that would match our COLAs to the COLAs received by Social Security recipients. This bill was a long shot due to the burden that it would put on the PERA fund, and it never even made it out of the very first committee. It was dead on arrival.

House Bill 172, the bill that would have given us two more years of the 2% 13<sup>th</sup> check, in addition to whatever our COLA will be, had a better chance of surviving to the end of the session. Having received a recommendation to pass in the House Labor committee, it never made it out of the Appropriations Committee due to the 63-million-dollar per year appropriation from the general fund it needed to fund the thirteenth check.



Senate Bill 114 was the bill I really wanted to pass. This bill would have exempted our PERA incomes from state tax, just like the social security bill did for social security recipients last year. This bill made it to final discussion on the senate floor but just ran out of time before it got to a vote, due to this being a short legislative session. I'm hoping this bill gets more traction next year and we can get it passed.

House Bill 236 has made it to the Governor's desk and is waiting to be signed. This is an interesting bill that could allow current public safety retirees to return to work for a department for up to three years while still receiving their PERA checks. You would have to start at an entry level position, and you could not accrue service credit or increase your high three during the employment period, and the public safety agency must have a vacancy rate greater than 10%. This is a bill designed to give agencies that are having a difficult time filling vacancies another option for filling positions. It has many more parameters that must be met, but if you think this might be an opportunity for you, please look up the final version of the bill that is waiting on the Governor's signature.

## President's Message

By Kerry Horton



Hello everyone, hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. I want to share with you an event that happened on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Albuquerque Museum. Some months back, Herman was contacted by the Albuquerque Historical Society to give a talk regarding the history of the Albuquerque Fire Department at the museum, and Herman is always ready to share the colorful story of this department that we all made a career of. Herman enlisted the help of Eddie Abeita, Mike Fox, and myself with Eddie presenting the slide show, Mike performing expertly with the audio/visual portion of the presentation, and I made the formal introductions and then got to sit back and enjoy the show. Herman, of course, was the star of the

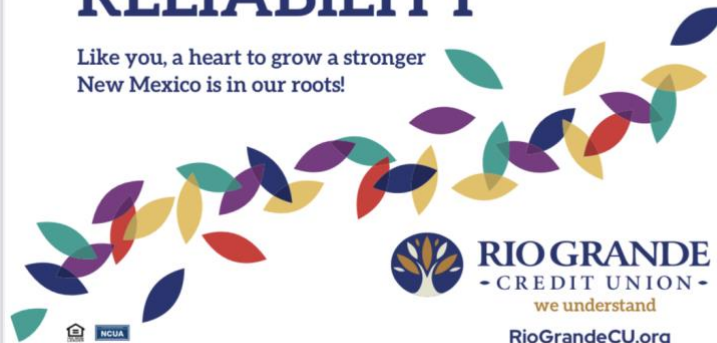
afternoon, and gave a wonderful and entertaining timeline of AFD/AFR's history, starting with the volunteer days and leading the listeners all the way up to today. Herman shared some humorous stories along the way and pointed out the milestones that the department has achieved through the years.

At the end, there was a question-and-answer session, and the audience was so engaged we had to leave with some questions left unanswered. I'm not sure how many I expected to attend the talk, but we were all happy with the turnout. The Albuquerque Historical Society were great hosts and made all of us feel welcome, and a little bit important, at least for the afternoon.



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