

2881 FIRE WIRE

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DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

Many of you are still recovering from the long summer, and whether or not you were committed to a wildland fire or working your normal assignment, it was a busy and life changing year for many. As we conclude the holiday season, I can categorize my thoughts into family and friends.

I was privileged in 2014 to attend the memorial services at the IAFF Memorial in Colorado Springs and the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Maryland. I was tasked with offering the support of our membership to the families of firefighters who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Since Christopher Douglas died last year my life has been changed – meeting ‘Topher’s’ family and being able to assist them as they endure this catastrophic event goes beyond mere words. In addition to losing Topher, we added six names to the IAFF memorial; David Parks, Russell Gordon, Pete Santana, Gary Lott, Richard Halstead and Timothy Etcheverry. We also recognized Art Franco at our own California memorial.

The support that you, as colleagues and as members of CAL FIRE Local 2881, offer to these families reminds me of how lucky I am to serve as president.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums. These dedicated individuals crisscross the state to meet the immediate needs of families in crisis and to remind the troops that in difficult moments our union is there for them. I also want to thank the CDF Firefighters Foundation for their quick response subsequent to an emergency. This year we had numerous events when an injured firefighter's family needed financial support and the Foundation did not hesitate in their support.

I also want to begin the New Year by thanking those who have made the past year successful. Our union has always moved forward on the energy and dedication of volunteers who care deeply about the everyday lives of their sisters and brothers in the fire service. The time lost to families and private time while working on behalf of the union is considerable. The roles played by these volunteers cover the spectrum – ranging from the rough and tumble of the bargaining team to the long policy discussions of the executive board. Of course, it is not just at a state level. All of us got started

working at the local level and understand how important it is that strong leadership emerge to engender comprehensive communication with every member. Thank you.

THE GOVERNOR

There is not much dissension as to whether or not Governor Brown is turning around the fortunes of our state. As he begins his fourth term, his vision of the future seems to be the one shared by policymakers from both sides of the aisle. The crippling budget crisis is mostly behind us now and the credit can be ascribed to Governor Brown's leadership both in the Capitol and on the campaign front.

We have had discussions with representatives from the Governor's office that the woeful condition of our contract needs to be addressed in 2015. We took a very minor step in the correct direction with an adjustment in 2014 that we interpreted as a good faith offering. The problem is not going to get better as the Legislature reviews legislation in 2015 that will once again raise the minimum wage in California.

FIRE SEASON

We want to take the edge off the discussion that fire season has a deliberate beginning and an absolute end. The urbanization of California has resulted in the bleeding of fire season into months that were once silent for CAL FIRE Local 2881. The end result is that we are providing critical services all twelve months of the year and that needs to be taken into consideration when the wages, benefits and conditions are formulated.

A NEW LEGISLATURE

The biggest change in the Legislature is the decision by the voters that term limits be raised from six years in the Assembly and eight years in the Senate to a total of twelve in either house. The stability is an advantage for a group like CAL FIRE Local 2881 that needs to constantly educate policymakers on the mission of the department and the role we play in maintaining the safety of California.

We have a new president of the Senate, Kevin de Leon. He replaces Darrell Steinberg who had a twenty-year career in elective politics and now moves into private life. De Leon is an exciting young political

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LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

The dawn of a new year affords each of us a unique vantage point.

On one hand, we're able to look back and recall the accomplishments the past 12 months have borne, while on the other, we can look ahead and know that the coming year will bring many new and unfamiliar challenges.

So it is for our profession and for your union.

As firefighters in California, we are tasked to meet a fire threat that seems to grow more dangerous with each passing year. Chronic drought and tinder-dry conditions turned even modest wildland blazes into potential firestorms. Despite some December rain, there's no reason to expect anything different in 2015.

For California Professional Firefighters, it is also a time of remembrance and recommitment.

This past year marked CPF's 75th anniversary, and we celebrated this milestone with success on many fronts.

In Sacramento, we saw 11 of our sponsored bills signed into law, more than any other labor organization in the state.

Included in this count was AB 1035, legislation which relaxed the arbitrary "death clock" that penalized survivors of stricken firefighters and police officers who fought for life beyond the previous limit of 240 weeks. Because of our action, it is our hope that families will no longer be penalized because their love ones failed to die quick enough.

Our efforts also brought about the passage of SB 1019, which informs consumers about whether or not furniture contains flame retardant chemicals. Every year, these chemicals cause job-related cancer in countless fire-

fighter, and by informing the public of their risks, we can curb – and hopefully eliminate – their use here in California.

While these successes have been tremendous, we know that 2015 will bring a whole new set of challenges to our doorstep.

In Sacramento, the end of an election cycle brings unfamiliar faces to the Capitol, forcing us to build new relationships to replace the ones we've lost. At the same time, Gov. Jerry Brown is entering a historic fourth term as governor, and it's impossible to predict where he might place his focus now that re-election campaigns are off the table.

Obviously, there is always concern about attacks on public employee pensions. There is also renewed concern about the future of retiree health care. These benefits have proven vulnerable in local government bankruptcy proceedings over the last few years, most notably in Stockton and Vallejo.

At the ballot box, we'll likely see an effort to renew the vital funding provided by Proposition 30, while our enemies – including pension opponents like Chuck Reed and John Arnold – may try to use the new qualification threshold established by last November's historically low election turnout to mount an attack in the form of a statewide ballot initiative.

While these challenges promise to be severe, we will – as we have in years past – rise to meet them.

Our profession has demonstrated time and time again that, through solidarity, we can achieve amazing things. I fully believe that this year will be no exception, and look forward to the day when we can look back and celebrate an entirely new set of accomplishments.



CAL FIRE ADDS SUPER HUEY IN SAN BERNARDINO UNIT

Special to Flash Point Media | Photo courtesy of Kevin Otis



As wildfires exploded across California in September, a “new” helicopter joined the CAL FIRE fleet at Prado Helitack base in San Bernardino County.

It was a homecoming of sorts.

For more than a dozen years, Copter 305 flew mostly fire and rescue missions out of Prado, but it was operated by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, with a Sheriff’s pilot, a CAL FIRE Helitack captain and a California inmate Helitack crew. In 2012, the department decided to relinquish the chopper, returning it to CAL FIRE control.

But the helicopter couldn’t be added to the state fleet immediately, said Aviation Officer II Jon Robbins of the CAL FIRE Aviation Management Unit.

The Sheriff’s Department, he explained, had modified the aircraft to make it compatible with its own fleet, just as CAL FIRE does with its helicopters. By rights, San Bernardino was allowed to remove and keep the parts it had installed.

Consequently, the helicopter “was not in flyable condition when they gave it back,” Robbins said. “They returned a shell.”

CAL FIRE contractors spent more than a year rebuilding the UH-1H Super Huey and installing “all of the major modifications we have done over the years,” more than 60 in all, Robbins said.

But now, the bird is “all brand-new,” he continued. “We have rewired this entire helicopter. We had to fabricate some things and

buy some things. It was more work than we usually do.”

When the craft was returned to Prado in September, it began operating with a full-time CAL FIRE crew, including CAL FIRE Firefighter Is that are highly trained in firefighting, rescue and emergency medical care.

Its addition brings to 12 the number of initial attack and rescue choppers operated by CAL FIRE. Ten fly out of permanent bases, while two are spares, put to use when the others have to be pulled off the lines.

That can be often during a busy fire year.

“Some days, pilots can fly seven flight hours a day,” Robbins said. “There are days they time out.”

CAL FIRE helicopters are intended to handle the initial attack on a fire, “to try to keep the size down to 10 acres or less,” Robbins said.

Four of the 12 helicopters have fixed water tanks with snorkel hoses that can draw water from relatively shallow sources and are more appropriate for urban or urban/wildland interface fires. The rest rely on suspended, collapsible water buckets. Both hold around 320 gallons of water.

If the fire can’t be stopped quickly, private contractors are called in to continue the battle. That arrangement is per the agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, which owns the Army-surplus helicopters. Since the early 1990s, the Forest Service has given 17 Super Hueys to CAL FIRE, which either uses them or shares them with other agen-

cies that fight wildland fires.

Even when private copters are called in, CAL FIRE craft may continue to work big fires, flying in crews, performing reconnaissance or rescuing injured or endangered firefighters.

According to Robbins, since being outfitted with removable rescue hoists three to four years ago, CAL FIRE helicopters increasingly have been called on for rescue work (Copter 305 will not have a rescue hoist until next year, but hoist rescues may be conducted by the crew of Copter 301, based at Hemet.)

“We used to do ‘short haul’ rescues, to save our own firefighters or the injured public who were not accessible in any other way. Ropes were hung from the helicopters and people were lowered (and could not be raised) at the end of the rope. That has its limitations,” he said, including the exposure of moving rescuers and injured people at the end of ropes to a point where they had to transfer or reconfigure to continue moving the patient.

The rescue hoists, which can be installed in about 10 minutes, can handle up to 600 pounds and extend 250 feet. Two people at a time can be lowered to the ground and brought up again, making it possible to provide medical attention to injured people or pull out multiple firefighters from a dangerous situation.

“Now that we have hoists, we can rescue people, such as the dehydrated, lost hiker who is out while its getting dark and calls for help on his cell phone. We can go pull them out of there, where before we might have inserted someone on a short-haul rope to take supplies and evaluate the patient,” Robbins said. “We now rescue a lot of mountain bikers who are over the handlebars and have broken bones, or those who have cardiac events or who are dehydrated. Between cell phones and GPS, it’s easy to find them. We do more of that now.”

On average, each CAL FIRE helicopter flies more than 300 hours per year -- impressive considering the aircrafts were originally built in the 1960s and ‘70s. Continual maintenance, currently provided by 80 employees of DynCorp International, keeps the copters and fixed wing aircraft in good shape.


The pilots of all CAL FIRE fixed-wing air tankers and observation airplanes, of which there are 53, are also DynCorp International employees and work seasonally. The helicopter pilots are CAL FIRE employees and work year-round. There are 20 helicopter pilots in the field.

Also, each year, one of the helicopters is completely refurbished during an “IRAN (Inspect and Repair as Necessary) inspection,” which involves stripping and repainting the airframe, extensive rewiring and upgrading aircraft systems and overhauling or replacing components.

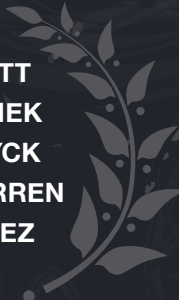
Richard J. Ernest SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2014 - 2015

*The 2014-15 academic award winners were recently
announced by the Richard J. Ernest Scholarship Trustees.
Congratulations to:*



JENNIFER FROST
MIKEL FROST
CELINA GOMEZ
ALANA GOOKIN
KYLIE JOHNSON



MADISON SCOTT
TERI SZCZEPANEK
JOANNA TENEYCK
GARRETT M. WARREN
RUDI M. YNIGUEZ

JENNIFER is the daughter of Steven and Wanda Frost, who both reside in Redding. She recently graduated magna cum laude from California State University, Sacramento, with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and became a private pilot in December 2013. Jennifer believes flying for CAL FIRE would be the ultimate career opportunity and plans to pursue that dream by enrolling in an institute of higher learning, such as Flight Incorporated – Flight Training Institute.

MIKEL'S parents are also Steven and Wanda Frost of Redding. He continues to attend Shasta Community College, completing lower division transferable credits in preparation of the next step in his college education. Mikel states he is a progressive young man, very proud to be an American, and places a high emphasis on faith, education, family, integrity and service to others.

CELINA resides in Fresno with her parents, Michael and Heather Gomez, who she states have always given her encouragement, support and motivation to obtain a higher education. Celina plans to pursue her aspirations of becoming a nurse anesthetist so she can help ease the pain of others.

ALANA is the daughter of Pete and Lynn Gookin of Columbia. She is studying agriculture at California State University, Fresno, with the goal of obtaining a BS degree in livestock business management with a minor in agriculture business. Jennifer notes she will be participating on the beef show and livestock judging teams this coming fall.

KYLIE'S parents are Robert and Sara Johnson from Awahnee. She just finished her first year at the Honor's College of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, majoring in political science. Kylie reports this past year she trained for and completed the Tough Mudder Race supporting the Wounded Warriors project, involving ten miles and 25 obstacles of mud, water, hills and walls.

MADISON is the daughter of Bryan and Karrie Nunes of Redding. She is in her third year at Shasta College working towards a career goal of becoming a physical therapist assistant. Madison looks forward to learning how to heal patients with different disabilities and improving people's lives.

TERI is from Etna and her parents are Dan and Linda Szczepanek. She attends California State University, Chico, working on a degree in nutrition. Teri explains during prior summers she has been employed as a seasonal firefighter. However, this year she is working an on-campus job while completing hours towards a graduation requirement as an intern for the Center for Nutrition and Physical Promotion (CNAP).

JOANNA is the daughter of Joe and Veronica Ten Eyck from Penn Valley. She is attending Sierra College, pursuing her dreams and goals of obtaining master and bachelor degrees in agricultural sciences and agricultural marketing, respectively. Joanna points out that the world relies on agriculture as the supplier of furniture, clothing, construction, automotive material and food, and she wants to help move it towards a more sustainable future.

GARRETT is the son of Joe and Rebecca Warren of Redding. He studies philosophy at North Park University in Chicago. Garrett explains his desire is not to simply put a "quick fix" on social ills but to instead mend the source of the problem. After studying for one semester in India, his resolve to this commitment is even stronger.

RUDI'S parents are Rudy Yniguez and Jenni Middleton from Redding. As a student at Williams College in Williamstown, MA, she was given the chance to study in Morocco this past year and awarded the opportunity of studying at Oxford University for her junior year. Rudi notes that adding the element of travel into her college experience further widens and reformulates her world view, as well as her place in the world.



Eva Schicke

10 Years Remembered



By Barry Rudolph | TCU Chapter Director

The skids settle into the cobblestones of the sandbar left behind from a spring torrent of the mighty Tuolumne. What once had been submerged under the floating rafts of hundreds of thrill seekers looking for the “Class Five” rapids was now exposed for a different purpose. Chopping air from the blades disrupt the quiet like so many times before in so many places. Blowing dust and rock fly everywhere as boots hit the ground. The doors slam shut and the momentary chaos subsides.

The hike begins. It is just after 1 pm.

The third anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is just yesterday. The United States is fighting two wars. On this day a third battle will be waged – a fire has started at the bottom of the

canyon and is gaining momentum.

The Lumsden Road, carved into the side of a mountain, winds its way slowly down to the wild and scenic Tuolumne. With barely enough room for a vehicle to pass and no way out, it is a firefighter’s nightmare-“what ifs” play over and over in the fire commanders minds. Where the road crosses the Tuolumne, an old dilapidated bridge still stands. It is here one gets a sense of the country and lay of the land. Shade comes early to the steep hillsides here. Fire engine operators unwillingly trek into this canyon when fire visits.

Grass and brush cover the south facing side of the Tuolumne. It probably has for millions of years and millions to come. Its purpose: to provide a meager habitat for hardy deer and hold back the canyon from the river. On the

north-facing side is more brush, but with an over story of oak canopy to give an afternoon break from the sun. It is desolate in every sense of the word.

With an infectious smile and an appetite for intense competition, Eva Schicke left the confines of fire station life to join one of the most intense jobs a firefighter can do: fly to a fire on a helicopter and fight it with a chainsaw, shovel, hoe, fusee or four gallons of water. All are handpicked from a pool of hundreds to be on the team. Esprit de corps, self-starting, hardest working are terms of the standard lexicon here. It’s not hard coming to work. Eva was one of them.

She had dreams. At 24, Eva was accepted into a nursing program and was preparing to begin a new chapter in her life.



Hiking for the next thirty minutes, the helitack crew arrives at the right flank of the fire where it crossed the Lumsden Road. The Tuolumne lies less than three hundred feet below. The fire is all the way to the bottom and as far as anyone can see to the top. The time is 1340. The crew begins the fire fight.

In the ensuing minutes, things happen very fast. A change in wind, a burst of flame, attempts to escape. Dreams turn to nightmares in an instant. It is over in less than thirty seconds. A game of seconds, how many times has that phrase been uttered by a firefighter to describe the speed at which things change on the fire line?

Paper, Hamm, Larson, Early, Pilot, Granite, Jerrel, Ackerson, Rogge, North Mountain and Rim. A place where the land welcomes fire and fire welcomes the land.

Along Highway 120 east of Buck Meadows is a place called "Rim of the World." Named for the once majestic views of the Tuolumne, visitors now see the aftermath of the death of a forest. For as far as one can see there is nothing but dead trees. The Rim Fire made its presence known here for all to witness and be reminded of. Here land welcomes fire.

A small group arrives to mark a somber anniversary. Retired and active agency folks, chiefs...an old IC. A mother speaks of the loss of a daughter. The bagpipes play, the bell rings three times.

The radio suddenly comes to life with a set of quick-call tones: "To all personnel, please observe a minute of silence for our fallen firefighter and teammate Eva Marie Schicke who gave up her life in the line of duty on September 12, 2004, 1346 hours. It has been ten years since we lost her and she will never be forgotten."

Chopping air from the blades disrupt the quiet like so many times before in so many places.





TEEING OFF FOR THE FOUNDATION

CDF Firefighters Benevolent Foundation Invitational Golf Tournament

By Kevin O'Meara, CEO; CDF Firefighters Benevolent Foundation
Photos by Mike Gagarin

As a result of the tragic loss of CDF Firefighter Eva Marie Schicke on September 12, 2004, on the Tuolumne Fire, a group of fellow CDF Firefighters (now CAL FIRE Local 2881) met in an effort to determine how in the future we could assist firefighters and their families in their time of need. As a result of those efforts, in October of 2006, the CDF Firefighters Benevolent Foundation was born and approved as a 501 (c)(3) charitable foundation to ensure that immediate assistance is forever available.

The Foundation is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation.

This Foundation is organized exclusively to engage in lawful charitable and educational

activities supporting the families of firefighters and other fire suppression personnel in times of financial need or hardship; assist burn victims and their families and support research and studies on occupation hazards and exposures unique to firefighting.

On October 9, 2014, the Foundation held their second annual invitational golf tournament at the Yocha Dehe Golf Course located at the Cache Creek Casino in Brooks, CA. This year we had 62 golfers participating in the event and the firefighter team for TCU and AEU taking home the top spot. We would like to thank all who participated in this year's event and challenge you to return in 2015.

Funding for the foundation comes from a variety of sources; the golf tournament is

the primary fundraiser. Other sources include direct contributions through payroll deduction from many of the CAL FIRE Local 2881 members, royalties from the CAL FIRE trademark as directed by CAL FIRE Local 2881, donations from the public and contributions received through Amazon Smile. Also, we are working with the "No One Left Behind" fundraising efforts for the Fire Firefighter Cancer Support Network and are planning joint fundraisers that will benefit both organizations.

Since our last report at the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Convention, through October 31, 2014, your foundation has given assistance in 32 events, providing over \$100,000 in direct assistance and in support of those that support all of us.



PENSION-CUTTING MEASURE REMOVED FROM NOVEMBER BALLOT

By Gary Messing and Jason Jasmine

The Ventura County Superior Court recently ordered the county to remove an initiative from the ballot that would have phased out the county's defined benefits pension plan and replaced it with a 401(k). A second question on the measure, if approved, would have set a cap on retirement benefits. The court invalidated the measure in its entirety.

The measure had been widely touted by those who would cut or eliminate public employees' pensions as a model for other counties in California to replace their defined benefits pension plan with a lesser retirement benefit. Chuck Reed and his cronies in San Jose were likely salivating at the prospect of a new way to strip public employees of retirement security.

Thankfully, nine of the county's unions filed suit in a coalition called Citizens for Retirement Security ("CRS"), which argued that the county cannot "repeal" unilaterally its participation in the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 ("CERL"). The choice to participate in CERL was a decision Ventura County voluntarily made. Once made, however, the county became subject to CERL's requirements. This includes the man-

date that if a county wants to exit CERL, the state legislature must determine that the plan to exit the system protects employees' pension rights. Only the legislature has the power to authorize this plan.

The Ventura Court agreed, concluding that putting the decision to voters would amount to a waste of public tax dollars because voters are not empowered to approve a plan to withdraw from CERL.

As a separate basis for barring this initiative from the ballot, the court found that it violated the "single subject" requirement imposed by the California Constitution, by including two different subjects in the same initiative. In addition to eliminating defined benefit retirement programs, the initiative would have imposed a five-year salary cap on what could be considered pensionable compensation for retirement purposes.

Although the backers of the initiative decided not to appeal, we fully expect the attacks on your pensions to continue.

"Are Firefighters Covered by the FFBOR or POBR?"

The Attorney General recently issued an opinion in *Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General v. Anya M. Vinsaca, Deputy*

Attorney General (14 CDOS 11448), in response to a request from Senator Ted Lieu of the California Legislature regarding several issues.

One question was whether the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act applies to firefighters who provide emergency medical services at the joint forces training base at Los Alamitos. Even though the firefighters are funded with federal funds, they are deemed to be state employees, employed by the State's Military Department, and therefore covered by the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act.

However, it is interesting to note that the decision specifically states that if the "primary duty" of the employee is "the enforcement of the law . . ." the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act would not apply to them. Of course, such employees like arson investigators, fire prevention specialists and the like, would be covered by the provisions of the Peace Officer Bill of Rights Act if their primary duties involve the enforcement of the law. In CAL FIRE, Fire Captain Specialists, Bureau Chiefs and others are peace officers under Penal Code section 830.2(g) because they are designated by the Director under section 4151 of the Public Resources Code.

Oddly, the opinion states that individuals with law enforcement as their primary duty are "excluded from coverage under the [FFBOR] Act," when there is no such exclusion in the Act. However, at the least, such employees will be covered by one act if the other does not apply.



THE COLLEGE OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT HONORS GARY MESSING

CAL FIRE Local 2881's Chief Counsel, Gary Messing, has been a public sector labor law attorney with Carroll, Burdick & McDonough since 1976, and has been a partner with the firm since 1984. He has been practicing in the Sacramento area since opening Carroll Burdick's Sacramento office in 1980. On November 8, Gary was inducted as a Fellow into The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. The primary purpose of the College is recognition of individuals, sharing knowledge and delivering value to

the many different groups who can benefit from its value model. Gary's nomination evidences, amongst other things, his highest professional qualifications, ethical standards, integrity, professional expertise and leadership. The prestigious college has a nationwide membership of just over 1,000 and Gary is the only union attorney of five elected fellows in California, north of the Bay Area.

Congratulations, Gary, on this well-deserved distinction

CDF PERSONNEL HISTORY REGISTRY

Exactly what is the living history of CAL FIRE? It is made up of firefighters of years past, firefighters here now and those firefighters who have yet to respond to the many rescues, traffic accidents and brush fires that we routinely handle day after day, year after year. Most importantly, our history is made from the people who rush into harm's way every day to serve the needs of the citizens of this great state. Of all those calls, all those rescues and all those responses, only a few stories have ever been recorded. Most are written down as simply a call time, a response time and a return to quarters. There is a lot to be told about the sacrifices and risks taken by each member of our CAL FIRE L2881 Team.

We are currently engaged in the recovery of many of these records, but the best part of the information is held by the firefighters who made that history. We are asking you to provide the best of your experiences, memories and hard fought campaigns where they can be shared and preserved. Many of the memories have already passed away, but if you have a recollection of those who have gone before, we would encourage you to post it for them also.

To submit your stories to the registry, begin by visiting **www.calfiremuseum.com**. Click on the "CDF Registry" tab (we are fine tuning this page, but feel free to start your record). Click on the "Registry Sign Up New". The email address will be your login to edit or add new information. If you have trouble, please send us an email and we can assist you in editing your record for inclusion into the Registry. Below is a synopsis of how the registry works.

1. Submit your email address, first name and last name on the registry Sign Up page. To prevent mechanical spam entries there is a math problem to solve to complete your submission.
2. Once you have registered, you will receive an email at the address you provided. It will contain a web link. Click on the link and it will direct you to the website page to enter your information. When you are done simply click the save button.
3. When you submit your form, the site admin will be notified. If the record is complete we will approve it for public display.
4. There is a space at the bottom of the form for you to leave a message for the admin. You can also send us an email. Please use the same email that you used on the submission form so we can locate your record.
5. There is a space on the form for the year that you started with CAL FIRE and a space for your retirement year. If you are not yet retired, leave that space blank and bring your record up-to-date when you do retire.

Again, please visit www.calfiremuseum.com to register or contact us at **cdfmuseum@yahoo.com** if you have any questions.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED 2015-16 STATE OFFICERS



President **Mike Lopez**



General Vice President **Cliff Allen**



Finance Director **Paul Van Gerwen**

Nominations were opened by Past President Bob Wolf on September 23, 2014, at the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Executive Board meeting and the following names were properly nominated per policy for election:

President - **Mike Lopez**
General Vice President - **Cliff Allen**
Finance Director - **Paul Van Gerwen**

Nominations remained open for a period of 45 days, or until November 7, 2014. Because there were no further nominations submitted by the closing date, the above nominees have been elected by acclamation and will serve the membership during 2015-16.

Officer elections are staggered so the president, general vice president and state finance director are elected in even years for a two-year term. The following year the state supervisor

director, state rank and file director, state retiree director and fiscal steering committee trustees are elected for a two-year term. State Supervisor Director Jim Crawford, State Rank & File Director Tim Edwards, State Retiree Director Rick Swan and Fiscal Steering Committee Trustees Bill Christen, Sunnie Fronek and Dennis Nelson will be completing the second half of their two-year terms in 2015.

SEASONALS MAY CONTINUE MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year for our reminder that seasonal CAL FIRE Local 2881 members may continue their membership after termination of employment, either by continuing to pay for full membership status or by electing to be an inactive member while unemployed by CAL FIRE. This is provided for in Section 0410.06 of the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Operating Procedures and Policy Handbook as follows:

0410.07 - CONTINUATION OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP – PERMANENT INTERMITTENT AND/OR SEASONAL

.A Upon written application, a permanent-intermittent or seasonal member may elect to retain his/her membership. This should be done within 15 days of separation and a new membership application forwarded to CAL FIRE Local 2881 headquarters with a check to cover dues from the date of separation until the next June 30. If the member should regain payroll deduction status

prior to June 30, CDF Firefighters headquarters will hold the membership application until after July 1.

.B Upon written notice, a permanent-intermittent/seasonal member may elect to maintain membership as an inactive member. This should be done prior to the time of separation and the notice forwarded to CAL FIRE Local 2881 headquarters.

.C If a Bargaining Unit 8 seasonal employee (including but not limited to the following: FFI, LT FFII, LT FAE), between periods of employment, is elected by his/her chapter or district as a delegate to the convention, he/she shall be required to pay full membership dues for only the month of the convention in order to participate as a delegate; providing that the seasonal employee was a full dues paying member while employed during the fire season preceding the convention.

POLICY MOTIONS ADOPTED AT THE JULY 22-24, 2014 CAL FIRE LOCAL 2881 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Moved, to adopt the changes to Section 1100 of the operating procedures as follows:

1110 Timelines

September 1 - Chapters will submit their resolutions to their district director in accordance with Section 1120.10 below:

September 10 - Resolutions that have been rejected or amended in accordance with Section 1120.12 below must be returned to their originating chapter with a written explanation for such action.

September 20 - The originating chapter will then have until September 20 to rewrite and re-submit the resolution to the district vice president.

75 days prior to the commencement of the convention - District vice presidents must have all the resolutions from their district in the hands of the convention resolutions committee chairperson or their designee by seventy five (75) days from the commencement of the convention. Constitution Article XI section 5.

5 days from the Executive Board Meeting - The executive board resolutions shall be transmitted to the resolutions committee within five (5) days of the September executive board meeting. Standing Committee Resolutions are due to the Resolutions Committee chair on the same date.

November 15 – Resolutions Committee Chair must return rejected or amended resolutions to the District Vice Presidents, Executive Board or standing committee.

November 20 – corrected resolutions from the District Vice Presidents, Executive Board or standing committees must be returned to the Resolutions Committee chair.

December 1 - The convention resolutions chairperson will forward to each chapter director, district vice president, member of the CAL FIRE Local 2881 PAC Board, and convention committee chair a resolution packet as described in Section 1140.01.G below. The packet described below will also be posted to the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Internet web page, password protected to members only.

.01 In the July Local 2881 newsletter, chapters and districts will be requested to review their proposed resolutions.

.02 Chapters will submit their resolutions to their district director in accordance with Section 1120.10 below, by August 15-

.03 Resolutions that have been rejected or amended in accordance

with Section 1120.12 below must be returned to their originating chapter by August 25 with a written explanation for such action.

.04 The originating chapter will then have until September 15 to rewrite and re-submit the resolution to the district vice president.

.05 District vice presidents must have all the resolutions from their district in the hands of the convention resolutions committee chairperson or their designee by seventy five (75) days from the commencement of the convention.

.06 The executive board resolutions shall be transmitted to the resolutions committee within five (5) days of the September executive board meeting.

.07 By October 15, the convention resolutions chairperson will forward to each chapter director, district vice president, member of the CAL FIRE Local 2881 PAC Board, and convention committee chair a resolution packet as described in Section 1140.01.G below.

.08 The packet described below will also be posted to the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Internet web page, password protected to members only, by October 15.

1120 Convention Resolution Preparation

.10 Resolutions that have been rejected or amended must be returned to their originating chapter by September 10 with a written explanation for such action. The originating chapter will then have until September 20 to rewrite and re-submit the resolution to the district vice president.

1140 Resolution Processing

.01 Upon receipt of the resolution(s) the convention resolutions chairperson will:

.G By December 1 forward to each chapter director, district vice president, member of the CAL FIRE Local 2881 PAC Board, and convention committee chair, a packet containing:

.H The packet described above will also be posted onto the CAL FIRE Local 2881 Internet page, password protected to members only, by December 1.

1160 Resolutions Committee (see also Section 1255)

.02 The resolutions chairperson delivers resolutions received by the deadline to the district vice presidents and chapter directors in packet form by December 1.

DID YOU KNOW?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

leader who is remaking the Senate into a leaner entity with an eye for being responsive to the importance of California workers and to the economic health of the state.

The Assembly also has new leadership. John Perez of Los Angeles has been replaced by the estimable Toni Atkins of San Diego. An accomplished leader with local government experience, Atkins is immensely popular with her colleagues and admired by staff. Her appointments of committee chairs represents her commitment to working men and women in California.

STAYING THE COURSE

I enjoy hearing from those great California firefighters who preceded us. I truly believe that we have a great organization and the values that have sustained us now for three generations must never be compromised. It is up to you, the membership, to continue to be creative and to promulgate new and progressive ideas that are premised on our fundamental approach to taking care of each other.

That CAL FIRE Local 2881 has **fourteen new retired members**?
Welcome to:

Marquette Healy, Palm Desert
Jarrold Dougherty, Cathedral City
Douglas Wenham, Redding
Eric J. Kurtz, Missoula, MT
Eric Rapp, Chico
Art Elizarraras, Arcata
Glenn F. Brooks, Rio Dell
Casey Emerson, Jackson
Frederick Flores, Fortuna
Mark Mazzucco, Spencerport, NY
Douglas Roper, Merced
John Ferreira, San Juan Bautista
Larry Bergman, Atwater
Mario Galliano, Yreka

Preparations are being finalized for the **49th Annual CAL FIRE Local 2881 Convention** scheduled for January 15 – 18, 2015, at the Sheraton Grand in Sacramento?

That the following is the schedule for this year's retired member get-togethers?

- **Amador-El Dorado** – third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at Denny's, Highways 49 and 88 in Jackson. Contacts: Hoot Gibson (209) 223-2281, or Sheridean Swift (209) 223-1310.
- **Butte** – third Wednesday of each month at 1130, rotating between Paradise, Chico and Oroville. Below is the schedule for 2015:
 - ◆ January 21 – Paradise
 - ◆ February 18 – Chico
 - ◆ March 18 – Oroville
 - ◆ April 22 – Paradise
 - ◆ May 20 – Chico
 - ◆ June 17 – Oroville
 - ◆ July 15 – Paradise
 - ◆ August 19 – Chico
 - ◆ September 16 – Oroville
 - ◆ October 21 – Paradise
 - ◆ November 18 – Chico
 - ◆ December 16 – Oroville
- ◆ Meeting locations are the Cornucopia Restaurant at 515 Montgomery Street in Oroville, Kalico Kitchen, 2396 Esplanade, Chico, and Cozy Diner at 6371 Skyway in Paradise. All CDF retirees in Butte County and the surrounding areas are welcome to attend. For more information, call 530-589-0764 or 530-877-6464.
- **Fresno-Kings** – first Monday of each month, 9 a.m. at the Brooks Ranch Restaurant at Chestnut and Highway 99 in Fresno. Contacts: Don Olday (559) 787-2453, Jerry Barnard (559) 432-6499, or Ken Karle (559) 834-2763.

- **Humboldt-Del Norte** – first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Bear River Casino. Take Exit 692 and proceed uphill on Singley Rd. for a quarter mile. All retirees, as well as former and active CDF employees, are welcome to attend. Please contact Brian Burger at 707-725-5563 or at fireworn@suddenlink.net or Jim Moranda at jbmoranda@suddenlink.net if you plan on attending.
- **Madera-Mariposa-Merced** – third Monday of each odd-numbered month, lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Iron Kettle in Oakhurst, and the third Wednesday of even numbered months at 11:30 a.m. at the Triangle Café in Mariposa. Contact: Jim Turner (209) 966-3988.
- **Mendocino** – first Monday of each month at 9 a.m. rotating between Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits. The schedule for 2015:
 - ◆ January 5 – Fort Bragg
 - ◆ February 2 – Ukiah
 - ◆ March 2 – Willits
 - ◆ April 6 – Fort Bragg
 - ◆ May 4 – Ukiah
 - ◆ June 1 – Willits
 - ◆ July 6 – Fort Bragg
 - ◆ August 3 – Ukiah
 - ◆ September 7 – Willits
 - ◆ October 5 – Fort Bragg
 - ◆ November 2 – Ukiah
 - ◆ December 7 – Willits
- ◆ Meeting locations are Henny Penny in Ukiah at 697 South Orchard Avenue, David's Deli in Fort Bragg at 163 Boatyard Road and Lumberjacks in Willits, 1740 South Main. Contact: Ken Schleintz (707) 328-8083.
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer** – second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at "Larry and Lena's," intersection of Highway 49 and Alta Sierra Drive.
- **North Coast** – second Wednesday of each even month at 11:30 a.m. at the Legends Bennett Valley Golf Course Restaurant, 3328 Yulupa Avenue in Santa Rosa. Contact: Ron Matteoli (707) 527-8993 or bat1413@aol.com.
- **Riverside** – third Thursday of February 2015 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sizzler in Perris on Nuevo Road near Perris Blvd. in the Stater Brothers Shopping Center.
- **San Benito-Monterey** – third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. Contact: Steve Norris at (831) 663-3688 or swnorris@sbcglobal.net.
- **San Bernardino** – quarterly meetings on March 12, June 11, September 10 and December 10, 2015, at 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at DJ's Coffee Shop, 265 East 40th Street, San Bernardino. Contact: Jerry Glover (909) 421-1135.
- **San Diego** – second Wednesday of every third month (next meeting on January 14) at the Boll Weevil Restaurant, 2548 Main Street, Ramona, at 12 noon. Contact: Mike Valley (619) 997-9366 or Lennie Baker (760) 789-3438.
- **San Luis Obispo** – second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. The odd months are held in the south county at IHOP's, 212 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo. The even months are held in the north county at Carrow's, 7300 El Camino Real, Atascadero. Contact: Don Salisbury (805) 544-0849.
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz** – first Thursday of each month at 12 noon at the Santa Cruz Diner, 909 Ocean Street in Santa Cruz. Contacts: Ken Thomas (831) 724-0233 or Ken Gilbert (831) 426-0960.
- **Santa Clara** – first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m., at Station 55 on 5th Street between Monterey Street and Egleberry in Gilroy. Exceptions: March meeting will be held in Los Banos and at Jack's ranch in August. Contacts: Zack Snyder at snyderzd@verizon.net.
- **Trinity and Redding Region Office** – first Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at Country Waffles, 2300 Athens Avenue, Redding. Contacts: Brian Weatherford (530) 241-7141, or Ray Stewart (530) 243-8511.
- **Siskiyou Unit Retirees** – first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. Odd months at "Bob's Ranch House" in Etna and even months at the "Black Bear" in Yreka. All are welcome. For more information contact Doug Kaufner at (530)340-0667 or John Berggreen at (530)467-3519.
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa** – second Wednesday of each even-numbered month at 11:30 a.m. in the Legends Restaurant at the Bennett Valley Golf Course in Santa Rosa. Contact: Ron Matteoli – bat1413@aol.com.
- **Tehama-Glenn** – second Tuesday of each month, breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Rolling Hills Casino Buffet in Corning. Access is off of I-5 at Liberal Avenue south of Corning. Contacts: Jim Ross (530) 529-1630.
- **Tulare** – first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Ryan's Restaurant in Visalia on Mooney Boulevard north of Caldwell Avenue. Contacts: Ken Kenoyer (559) 784-8846, Bill Bruno (559) 733-7676 or Ed Bartlett (559) 733-8655.
- **Tuolumne-Calaveras** – second Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Rodz Grill, 730 South Main Street, Angels Camp, CA. Contacts: Bob Yohr (209) 588-2711, Bob Sutton (209) 532-2991, Buddy DeMasters (209) 772-1476, Debbie Nelson (209) 754-3831 or Carl Nicolson (209) 772-2344.



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CAL FIRE Local 2881

On the Alert – Year Round







HISTORIC FOURTH TERM

By the time the membership reads this report, Gov. Jerry Brown will have been sworn in for the fourth time as Governor of California. This historic record is also highlighted by the fact that at one point Governor Brown was our youngest governor in modern history, and he is now the most experienced. At the age of 76, he is by far the most dominant voice in California politics.

Governor Brown has proven remarkably resourceful as he balances budgets with a combination of mandatory savings and tax increases voted upon by the electorate. He has proven to be open to the infrastructural needs of our department and his Administration understands how vital it is to have CAL FIRE ready to respond in an emergency.

Obviously, the issue of 2015 will be our discussions during bargaining. The fact that there will be legislation dealing with another increase to the minimum wage will cast a shadow over the talks. The bargaining team has a great deal to tout with the role CAL FIRE has played during these prolonged fire seasons.

ELECTIONS

The 2015–16 legislative session has officially begun. All 120 legislators were sworn-in on December 1 and dozens of bills were introduced on the very first day. As of this writing, 157 bills have been introduced and hundreds more will be put across the desk in the coming months. To give you a sense of perspective, 1,074 bills were presented to the Governor for his signature in 2014. In a non-election cycle, I anticipate that there will be a one third increase.

The CAL FIRE Local 2881 legislative team will actively review each of these bills as they are introduced and take positions when necessary. It is common for us to be following dozens of bills through a variety of committees at the same time.

Although the Legislature was sworn in during a brief window in December, statewide officeholders take office separately. January 5, 2015, is the date they assume control of

their bailiwick. Interestingly, Governor Brown is limiting his own public appearances and will combine the state of the state speech with his inaugural address. He has become, in the winter of his political career, a man of few words.

It is also interesting to note that while Republicans in the Legislature averted a super majority by Democrats, there is not one Republican who holds constitutional office.

COMMITTEES

Every new Legislature also brings new structure and personalities with whom we are not yet familiar. This year is no different. We will provide the legislators and their staff with background on the work we do every day to keep California safe. They have a demanding job and need to get a grasp on a stunning array of issues. It is our intention that they understand that CAL FIRE takes their mission as California's fire department seriously.

GRASSROOTS

The people who dare to run for office do so with the idea that they want to make California a better place to live. You can help them do their job.

Take the time to reach out to your legislators in their home offices. Call them and make an appointment for a Friday afternoon to explain who you are and what it means to be a firefighter that can, at a moment's notice, be called to tend to a fire hundreds of miles away. Let them know that you love what you do, but the challenges are real.



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