



# THE THIRD RAIL

Official Publication of Seattle Fire Fighters Union Local 27, IAFF, AFL-CIO



Volume 18, Number 2



Summer 2009

## Local 27 Supports Providence Fire Fighters

Providence Fire Fighters, Local 799 have been struggling with their Mayor to get a fair and decent contract, but he has refused to bargain in good faith with them for almost a decade. He has instead focused on delay tactics, verbal attacks, and misrepresentation. Local 799 held an informational picket at the US Conference of Mayors, held in Providence, RI June 12-15, to draw attention to the mistreatment by Mayor Cicilline, and his total lack of respect for fire fighters, police, and collective bargaining.

President Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden cancelled all plans for Biden and twenty-five White House cabinet members to attend the conference after hearing of the protest from IAFF General President Schaitberger. Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, among many others, also chose not to attend.

Unfortunately, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, who was to be installed as President of the US Conference of Mayors at this event, decided to go in spite of Local 27's request to respect and support the Providence Fire Fighters picket. Although Mayor Nickels was put in a difficult position by Cicilline's policies and behavior, his handling of this situation is troublesome. He had several opportunities to demonstrate support for Local 799's protest and did very little. As the incoming President of the US Conference of Mayors, he was uniquely positioned to demonstrate leadership and provide direction to local government across

the country in regards to how fire fighters and police should be treated by their respective employers. We are very disappointed that, as our own relationship with Mayor Nickels continues to improve, and although we have been treated with respect at the bargaining table by him, he did little when he had something to lose. One should ultimately be judged on his principles by how he responds to the tough decisions, not the easy ones. Local 27 will continue to support Providence Fire Fighters as they struggle to get a fair and decent contract. Their fight is our fight. (Go to [www.iaff27.org](http://www.iaff27.org) to see a Joint Press Release by Mayor Nickels and Local 27 regarding this issue.)

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The Local 27 Political Action Committee spent several days interviewing over 30 candidates running for public office in 2009. They are all vying for the coveted support of approval and support of Seattle Fire Fighters, Local 27. **Former King County Prosecutor Sally Bagshaw** stood out as a well-respected advocate for public safety with integrity and common

## Seattle Fire Fighters Endorse Sally Bagshaw



sense, and Local 27 will work hard to help Sally win this election. Ms. Bagshaw is an exceptional choice having recently retired as a King County Prosecutor and being a longtime supporter of public safety and healthy communities. Sally's experience in the Prosecutor's office gives her unique insight into the challenges facing first responders in their efforts to protect our communities. Like many Seattle Fire Fighters, Sally is committed to public service and taking care of people. Sally was responsible for dealing with the aftermath of the Aurora bus accident where an individual with a gun shot the driver, sending the bus full of passengers off the bridge. Under her leadership, all of the passengers were taken care of

and as a result there were no lawsuits and King County saved millions of dollars. Her list of community service is long and distinguished. After Sally's sons were grown, she took the time to learn to fly, fulfilling a life-long dream. In her spare time she piloted sick children to medical facilities and camps throughout the region with the non-profit organization Angel Flight. Sally Bagshaw is going to be a great member of the City Council, but she needs our support to get there. When Local 27 calls on members to help get Sally elected in the months and weeks leading up to the November election, please make every effort to help out. If you'd like to learn more about Sally's campaign, you can visit her website at [www.sallybagshaw.com](http://www.sallybagshaw.com).

**Contract Passes!**

The membership of Local 27 has voted to accept the 2009-2011 contract proposal. The Collective Bargaining Agreement must next be approved by the City Council via legislation and then finally be signed by the Mayor to become official.

Bargaining began last June and our current contract expired on December 31st, 2008. An agreement was reached in March and this proposal was sent to the membership for ratification.

This agreement is the result of many hours and a lot of hard work. The goal from the beginning was to bring back a fair proposal that met your expectations. I believe we did that. I want to thank the Negotiations Committee, including Chris Gilbert and Dennis Karl, for their part in this successful bargaining session. Adequate compensation and fair working conditions are the cornerstone of America's labor unions and I am proud to have represented you at the table.

- Local 27 President Kenny Stuart

## Double Save!

by Adam Hadley, E24D

On Saturday April 25, 'A' shift, at 11 PM, Engine Companies 40 and 38, Ladder Company 9, and Battalion Chief 6 responded to a call at 3222 NE 91st St, reporting a deck fire. While en route it was upgraded to a Full Response due to the number of additional reports coming in from the neighbors.

Engine 40 was first on scene, took command, and initiated the fire attack from the rear of the building. The fire at this point involved the back deck and a tree in a neighboring yard, and it was extending into the kitchen

(Please see *Double Save*, page 3)

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## Miscellaneous Musings from Dave's Universe

An Editorial Opinion!  
BY DAVE PEERY



What if there were no graves?

Chances are, if you chose to remember a loved one on Memorial Day, you visited their grave or mausoleum. Nothing stays the same forever. But Memorial Day and cemeteries are two consecutive thoughts in which almost everyone who hears the first term automatically envisions the second.

Perhaps your family comes from another place far from here and visiting their gravesite isn't always possible or practical; still, you remember what the gravesite looks like, perhaps bringing back memories of where "your people" settled and where you're from.

For my generation that was the norm. A small rural farm/logging community in the foothills of the Oregon Cascades--small town, small church with an adjacent graveyard. That was the world I grew up in. There were few jobs in the area for young men and women so most of our cohort left for more urban areas and promises of better jobs. But Home--with a capital H--was where we came from, where our parents lived and where they usually grew up, married, bore children, and eventually passed on.



We noticed a nearby grave belonging to a fallen SPD member and veteran so we placed a flag there as well.

Not everyone shares that sense of place. My generation wasn't as traveled as our children and their children have become as they too followed spouses, colleges, jobs and personal interest far and wide. "Home" may no longer be a single physical site but may now be a series of places. Still, there probably is one place that harbors fonder memories than all the others.

If you remember the original focus of Memorial Day you will think of military cemeteries, row on row of white crosses, simple, geometrically aligned, red, white and blue flags gently flying in the breeze. You see, Memorial Day was originally dedicated to those Americans who gave their lives in service to their country. The date was officially designated as the 30th of May. The holiday began life as "Decoration Day" during the Civil War era and was primarily practiced in small communities in the eastern U.S.

Over two dozen towns lay claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. It was officially proclaimed on May 5th, 1868 by General John A. Logan, national commander of

ton National Cemetery.

The history of Memorial Day is interesting and if you Google it you can gain a better perspective about the holiday, the history, and the controversy that surrounds the change of the date from May 30th to the current observance on the last Monday in May.

Members of Engines 31's, 40's, and Ladder 5 went to Evergreen Washelli Cemetery on Memorial Day to honor fire fighters who died in the line of duty. We were at that particular cemetery because that is where one of our members is buried who has no marker at his gravesite. Written about last issue, Luther Bonner's grave is in a section of the cemetery that also contains the graves of several other fire fighters.

Like many others, we had forgotten the fact that Memorial Day was originally designed as a memorial for those who fell in service to their country. We were apprised of that fact prior to our visit but chose to honor our line of duty fallen brothers and all those others in their presence as well. There are at least three fire fighters at this cemetery who died in service to their community--Luther Bonner, Henry Gronnerud and Ted Cousland. We hope to find the final resting place of all our fallen brothers and



On-duty members search for markers of fire fighters at Evergreen Washelli Cemetery.

sisters in the near future so that they too may be properly memorialized and recognized in the future.

"Place" is important. A Memorial Day without the graves would not be the same. Certainly the practice of cremation may allow for more portability, especially useful when people move frequently and may never have any special place in the same sense that the older generation had. But if that is to be the case, I feel that something will have been lost. The historic picture of church and graveyard may be replaced, but with what image? What "place"?

Cemeteries serve their communities as a "place" of remembrance, a focal point for citizens and families and help to lend a sense of permanence and of history. Personally, I miss the older graveyards replete with statuary, individualized headstones of all sizes, designs and messages. Epitaphs on headstones might be viewed as the departed's last opportunity to have a few well chosen verses, poetry, timeless wisdom, or even a bit of whimsy

the Grand Army of the Republic in his General Order No. 11, and it was first observed on May 30th, 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arling-

ton National Cemetery. carved in granite for the edification of all who visit the site through eternity... not a bad idea if you ask me.

If we choose cremation and the spreading of ashes as a replacement for interment in a local cemetery, I think we will have lost the opportunity to preserve a sense of place, permanence, and history, as well as the opportunity to recognize the debt owed to those who have preceded us in death.

A Memorial Day with no graves? No thank you. And for your review, let me leave you with a few lines from a Robert Service poem call "Just Think:"

*Just think! some night the stars will gleam  
Upon a cold gray stone,  
And trace a name with silver beam,  
And lo! 'twill be your own.*

Kinda hard to do if there's no stone.



Engine 40 C member Robin Norberg stands in a long row of fire fighter graves.

## Notice of Nomination & Election

### Healthcare Trustee Positions 3 & 4

- Non compensated positions
- Oversee all Trust benefit plans

### 2nd Vice President

- 30% top step compensation
- Responsible for grievances, disciplines, legal claims, and politics.
- Delegate to state and county labor councils.

### Treasurer

- 30% top step compensation
- Union Financial Officer

### Director

- 10% top step compensation
- Attend meetings and chair appointed committees

All positions have 3 year terms.

### Nominations (Date/Time/Place)

All members in good standing are eligible to nominate and run for office.

**Open:** July 09, 2009 Regular Business Meeting at the Union Office.

**Close:** August 13, 2009 Regular Business Meeting at the Union Office.

Nominations may be submitted prior to the close with a Nomination Form from Local 27's website.

### Election (Date/Time/Place)

All members in good standing are eligible to vote.

**Start:** Upon receipt of Ballots (Ballots will be sent out on 8/19/09).

**End:** Ballots will be counted on 9/09/09.

### Runoff Election (should one be necessary) (Date, Time & Place)

**Start:** Upon receipt of Ballots (Ballots will be sent out on 9/16/09).

**End:** Ballots will be counted on 10/07/09.

Ballots may be mailed or dropped at the Union Office.

Absentee Ballots are available at the Union Office.

On 9/09/09 ballots shall be collected and counted. Ballots received after the ballot collection shall be invalid and will not be counted.



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# President's Report

by *Kenny Stuart*

## FMO Investigation

The recent investigation and resulting actions involving members of the Fire Marshall's Office are unfortunate reminders of how important the public's trust is to us. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards and it cannot be otherwise, because the citizens of Seattle expect that. As the sting of these recent events subsides we should not spend our time pointing fingers, but rather we should all focus on how we as a fire department can learn from these events to continue to protect and honor the critical relationship we have with the public we serve.

## Collective Bargaining Agreement

The contract proposal was passed by the membership ending a year and a half process. The Seattle City Council must now approve the agreement via legislation. That should take place soon. Local 27 will continue to keep you informed.

## Medicare Divided-Referendum

The Washington State Social Security office finally released the process that will allow those members not

currently contributing to Medicare to elect to do so. This option resulted from HB 2510, legislation supported by Local 27 that was passed last year. If you were hired by the Seattle Fire Department between 1978 and 1986 and do not qualify for Medicare, or are not sure if you do, stand by for further information.

## Volunteer Relief

Thanks to all of the members who provided Voluntary Relief for Colette McLennan. Special thanks to Battalion Chief Richardson who managed every facet of Colette's support with an unprecedented level of organization and thoroughness. (Somebody obviously paid attention in ICS class.) Colette was lucky to have him as her Chief.

## Terry Taylor

I would like to recognize Fire Fighter/Driver Terry Taylor (L12 C) for his many years of service to Seattle Fire Fighters as a member of the Joint Safety Committee. Terry also served as a member of the Local 27 Executive Board in past years. He demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety of fire fighters and will always be remembered as someone who was willing to take the unpopular stance to protect fire fighters. His advocacy will be missed. Thanks, brother.

## PAC Endorsement Process

Thanks to the members of the PAC for all of their time and effort on behalf of the membership.

## Fire Ball

It's been almost 7 years since the last fire fighters ball and we are renewing an old tradition. Depending on the post-incident analysis we may make it a regular event. Hope we saw you there.

## SFD/Local 27 Photographer

Local 27 and the Department have teamed up to provide a dedicated photographer to document significant incidents. Retired Lieutenant Mike Heaton will be our official photographer and we are hopeful that we'll have many more photos of incidents for training and for posterity.

## Local 27 Staff

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank the staff at Local 27 for all of their hard work and dedication to helping us to serve the members of Local 27. We count on them every day to support the Executive Board and the mission of Local 27, and they do so cheerfully with skill and efficiency. Thanks Gino, Tanya, Ashley, and Loriann.

## Local 27 Joins Safe Call Now

Safe Call Now is a confidential crisis referral service in which the people taking the calls are trained to deal specifically with police officers and fire fighters. Local 27 recently joined Safe Call Now to show their support and endorsement of Safe Call Now's valuable and much needed services. Everyone on the job knows of members who have needed these services, however, the needs have not always been met. We must do a better job of taking care of ourselves and each other in the mental health arena, and Safe Call Now offers a tremendous resource to do that.

Special legislation was passed to guarantee your confidentiality if you use these services. Below is an excerpt from a letter Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen wrote discussing his support of this valuable program:

"The bill, SB 5131, is executive request legislation from the lieutenant governor, who has been working for the past several months with members of the public safety community on establishing a help program called 'Safe Call Now.'

Open to law enforcement, fire fighters, and correctional officers statewide, Safe Call Now offers confidential assistance aimed at reducing suicide and substance abuse. It will include a 24-hour toll-free help number and a Web site to connect troubled officers and fire fighters to coun-

selors, mental health specialists, support staff and other experts who can both coach them and provide additional resources for treatment and help. The program also assists their family members."

"Within public safety are some of the toughest, most stressful occupations you can find. People who choose this line of work are extremely dedicated and committed, so much so that too often their personal lives suffer because of what happens on the job," said Lt. Gov. Owen, who serves as board chair for the new organization.

Owen said while Safe Call Now is already established, the legislation further supports the program by providing direction to the Criminal Justice Training Commission to train law enforcement and correctional officers to recognize personal crises and seek assistance before problems escalate. Secondly, the bill provides for confidentiality for crisis referral services to give public safety employees the confidence that they can seek assistance for personal difficulties without jeopardizing their careers.

Check out their web site at [SafeCallNow.org](http://SafeCallNow.org) or call (206) 459-3020 for more information.

## Double Save

*continued from page 1*

and attic. Engine 38 laid a back-up line, and Ladder 9 set up ventilation and initiated a primary search of the residence. These initial units had the fire significantly knocked down within minutes, primary and secondary searches reported all clear, and as other units arrived on scene, the tasks of checking for extension and overhaul began.

While this was occurring, the home owner, who was outside the residence talking to firefighters about what had happened, suddenly collapsed. Firefighters rapidly assessed the patient, and found him to be without a pulse and not breathing. The firefighters from Engine Companies 31 and 39 started CPR in full turnouts and SCBAs. The resuscitation began in the driveway and continued into the back of Medic 16 with two shocks delivered to the patient, who was treated, stabilized and rushed to Harborview Medical Center.

The home owner recovered, was released from the hospital, and has returned home to a remodeled house.

Due to the aggressive and coordinated actions of the fire attack companies, as well as the quick treatment by Medic 16, Engine 39 and Engine 31, not only were we able to save a house, but also a life.

## IAFF Line of Duty Deaths

- **Fire Fighter/Paramedic James Reeder, Local 2959, Elizabeth, NJ** - Brother Reeder, 42, passed away after suffering severe injuries from a vehicle accident.
- **Engineer Gregory L. Cocke, Local 440, Fort Worth, TX** - Brother Cocke, 41, passed away from a brain aneurysm.
- **Fire Fighter Stewart W. Chase, Local 242, Grand Forks, ND** - Brother Chase, 66, passed away from cancer.
- **Captain John W Nunes, Local 1230, Contra Costa County, CA** - Brother Nunes, 50, passed away from cancer.
- **Captain David G. Lorang, Local 814, Sioux Falls, SD** - Brother Lorang, 45, passed away from cancer.
- **Captain James A. Harlow, Local 341, Houston, TX** - Brother Harlow, 50, died while fighting a house fire.
- **Probationary Fire Fighter Damion J. Hobbs, Local 341, Houston, TX** - Brother Hobbs, 29, died while fighting a house fire.
- **Fire Fighter Patrick J. Reardon, Local 825, New Haven, CT** - Brother Reardon, 42, passed away from a fall.
- **Captain Frankie P. Nelson, Local 514, Shreveport, Louisiana** - Brother Nelson, 51, passed away from a heart attack after responding to an incident eight hours prior.
- **Fire Fighter Paul J. Roberts, Local 1669, Beverly, MA** - Brother Roberts, 54, died from a heart attack while responding to an emergency.
- **Captain James M. Hall, Local 249, Canton, OH** - Brother Hall, 40, passed away from a heart attack.
- **Fire Fighter Kevin P. Kelly, Local 863, Newton, MA** - Brother Kelly, 54, passed away from occupational heart and lung injuries.
- **Lieutenant Stephen M. Cospelich, Local 22, Philadelphia, PA** - Brother Cospelich, 56, responded to a dwelling fire and collapsed several hours later while walking near his home. He remained in a coma until his passing.
- **Fire Fighter/Paramedic Debra A. Cole, Local 1476, South Portland, ME** - Sister Cole, 40, passed away after suffering a severe stroke while on duty.
- **Captain Alexander F. Harris, Local 209, Edmonton, Alberta** - Brother Harris, 53, passed away from esophageal cancer.

## Groundbreaking for Station 37

May 12 saw the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Fire Station 37. The old station, built in 1925, is no longer capable of supporting the needs of 21st century firefighting. Additionally, its status as a “landmark” means the exterior can’t be substantially changed in any way. As anyone who has ever driven an engine in or out of the current apparatus bays can tell you, it is a very tight fit to get a modern-day fire engine in or out of there.

Built on the site of a former City Light substation, the new station will be located at 35 Ave SW/SW Holden St, two blocks south of the existing building. At roughly 9000 square feet, it will be twice the size of the old one. Workspace and bunkrooms are on the ground floor with crew living areas above. In keeping with the City of Seattle’s desire to be environmentally progressive, the building will feature a “green” roof and low maintenance landscaping. The new station is also a recipient of some “One Percent for Art” funds, and an interactive sculpture will be located on the sidewalk along 35th Avenue.



Current Station 37, built in 1925



Plans for the new Station 37



L-R: Brian Paterik, Aaron Bocchetti, Steve Borgstrom, Glen Sattelberg, Gordon Wolcott, Tom Newman, Jay Roughton

## Seattle City Council Member Sally Clark Experiences Fire Ops 2009

*Sally Clark writes about her experiences at the 2009 Fire Ops in Richland, WA with Local 27 and the IAFF.*



Finally, I found the pylon.

Well, finally I bonked into it with my helmet in the pitch black on my hands and knees scuffling forward with my right hand on the wall and my left searching the floor in front of me for the drop into the bottomless pit I was sure had been overlooked by the organizers when they set up the search and rescue maze...

The pylon marked the exit door. I heaved myself up in my bunker gear, heavier-than-you-think helmet, air tank and mask and exited into the Richland sunshine with my shadow, Seattle Firefighter Steve Borgstrom. I was finished with station 4 of Fire Ops 101, an exercise for elected officials and other government decision makers. The Washington State Council of Firefighters organizes Fire Ops 101 annually and it is a brilliant lobbying tool.

As far as understanding what fire fighters and medics really do and what they need to do it well every time, as a policymaker I might as well be in a pitch black room. We all watch television (“Backdraft” and “Rescue Me” or grew up with “Emergency!”) and we have smart advisors and analysts, but few of us understand that fire fighters have to be the ultimate jack-of-all-trades. A little building construction expertise, a little fluid dynamics, a little medicine, a little endurance athletics, and all under a merciless clock.

So, every year Fire Ops 101 puts people like me through a series of exercises meant to challenge you mentally and physically and, coincidentally, demonstrate the equipment and personnel numbers required to save lives and preserve property. Six stations, six different situations that firefighters encounter regularly – a ladder climb to the top of a six story building to ventilate the roof; putting out a fire on the first and second floors of a building; freeing victims from a car wreck; search-and-rescue in a dark building; heart attack response; and a gas tank fire. Having a councilmember, mayor, commissioner or

city administrator expire would be an example of poor lobbying, so each of us gets shadowed by a member of our local department. I couldn’t have hoped for a better shadow than Steve. Especially when Steve accidentally found the light switch in the first part of the search-and-rescue maze. If only the monitors of that station would have let us keep the lights on.



*Fire Fighter Sally’s results:*

I seized the chance to be first up the **ladder** because of my intense fear of heights just to get it out of the way. I made it up! However, you get to the top and then can’t figure out a safe, simple, elegant way to get from the ladder to the safety of the roof. I was sure my heavy air tank would cause me to flip over like a beetle just at the wrong moment. And before I could step off? The guy tells me I have to pound on the roof with an iron rod a real fire fighter would have held while climbing the ladder (probably with an ax and chainsaw, as well). This is perfectly reasonable, but I am calculating in my mind how much longer I can be at the top of the ladder without swearing at him.

The **burn building** is the first station for wearing the mask and breathing from the tank. My mask fogs over immediately when I crawl forward with the hose into the burning room. I can see nothing and hear nothing, but I know it’s hot. Going up to the second floor I lose my footing with the hose, get stuck and do a good job of flooding the landing before one of the monitors puts me out of my misery by helping me shut off the hose and sending me back down the stairs.

At **vehicle extrication**, I go through multiple saws-all blades as I persistently attempt to cut the roof at the wrong angle. We lose one fire district commissioner at this station as it is sunny and hot by this time and we are wedged into small spaces in wrecked automobiles with heavy hydraulic equipment and no leverage. Ultimately, we saved the baby mannequin!

At **search-and-rescue** we’re greeted by Seattle’s Theresa Purtell who is running the station. This station seems to

be about memory games. Right hand on the wall all the way, “tracing” your way through the building. Steve and I go first and I lead us immediately into what is most likely a closet with a folded wheel chair on the floor, but it takes me what seems like forever to get past the wheelchair. An object! I hadn’t counted on objects to throw us off, but why wouldn’t there be objects? Fire fighters crawl around everything from living room furniture to cubicle-villes in highrise office buildings. Ultimately, I found a “victim,” but wasn’t very effective at dragging the dummy to safety. The dummy has Steve to thank for surviving my search-and-rescue attempt.

At the heart attack **medic response** I realize I will never be a medic because I get car sick if I’m not sitting facing forward.

The **liquefied petroleum gas** exercise is a new one for Fire Ops 101 and they wanted to know if it was helpful. You stand as a team of three and create a protective curtain of water as you step forward together, in unison, far enough so that the middle team member can reach out through the curtain and turn off the gas valve. It was the most visually dramatic of the stations as the fire shot 40 feet in the air (controlled by a staff person at a control box a dozen yards away). I couldn’t hear a thing because of the roar of the fire and I couldn’t see much because of the water spray against my mask. Precise teamwork and non-verbal communication was the only way to get to the valve.



All through the day, fire fighters volunteering their time explained the importance of responding with the right equipment, the right people and responding quickly. I know Seattle can always use more rigs, newer equipment and the best new recruits, but I felt lucky to be from Seattle where we have four-person crews on engines already. Mostly, I felt very lucky to be allowed to experience a little of what we ask fire fighters to do every day, multiple times a day. I know I have a responsibility to hold up my end of the work of smart policy and budget decision making.

# Fire Fighters Are Needed...Lives Depend on Us

## MDA Fill the Boot

All crews are authorized by the Chief to participate on duty. Volunteers are still needed for morning shifts.

### Dates:

- Friday, July 10th D-shift (C-shift going off)
- Friday, August 7th A-shift (B shift going off).

### Time:

TBD by Station, preferably 2-3 hour morning and noon shifts.

### Location:

TBD by Station while within Fill the Boot guidelines.

### Facts:

- MDA helps sick kids in our community
- All money raised locally stays locally
- Fire fighters were involved with MDA's first fundraising efforts back in 1954 and fire fighters have proudly continued the tradition ever since
- Last year the IAFF (MDA's leading fundraising organization) raised over \$27 million
- Local 27 lead the state by collecting \$56,000 with 75 members, but raised \$8,000 less than the previous year because 50 fewer members volunteered than the previous year
- Anchorage Fire Fighters raised \$116,000 with 391 members.
- In order for Seattle Fire Fighters to become the region leader, we need half of our members to collect for 2.5 hours each.

### Why participate?

- 1.) Fill the Boot is a very successful, highly visible op-

portunity to give back to our community and demonstrate what fire fighters are made of.

- 2.) Your time is irreplaceable. Each fire fighter collects \$100 every hour he/she is in the street.

- 3.) No other fundraiser collects so much with so little effort.

- 4.) It is fun. And you know what makes it more fun? More fire fighters!

- 5.) Many people look forward to filling fire fighters' boots.

- 6.) We are proud to raise money for sick kids in our community.

- 7.) Cool t-shirts are given to those who participate.

See [www.iaff27.org](http://www.iaff27.org) for further information. Any questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to:

*Dennis Karl L5 C, 206-550-1418*

*Brandon Smith E32 D, 206-999-1466*

*Gene Goodner E31 A, 253-228-4463*



## 343 Fire Fighters Needed

Come join in Seattle's 1st Annual 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb. We need **343 fire fighters** to participate--each will wear a picture (while climbing the tower) of one of the NYC fire fighters who perished that day.

**Location:** Two Union Square  
**Date:** Saturday, September 12  
**Registration begins at 8am**  
**Stair climb begins at 9:30am**

**Minimum \$20 donation to participate.**  
**Proceeds will go to The NYC Widows and Orphans Fund.**

### Two options:

- # 1: climb the tower once = 55 floors
- # 2: climb the tower twice = 110 floors to simulate the Twin Towers

This is not a race and won't be timed but you can go whatever speed you'd like. Wear only shorts and Department T-shirt.

More details to follow.

To sign up, please contact Melissa Woolsey at [melissa.woolsey@seattle.gov](mailto:melissa.woolsey@seattle.gov).

**Sponsored by Seattle's Bravest Charity**

The Old Pequian  
and  
The Seattle Firefighter's Pipes & Drums  
present

THE 2ND ANNUAL

# PIG & PIPES

**Saturday, August 22nd  
from Noon to 6:00pm**

Join us at The Old Pequian Public House in Ballard for food, music and fun as we raise money to support our Seattle Firefighters.

\$20 door charge on day of event. Advance tickets available.  
Proceeds to benefit Seattle's Bravest Charity. Music provided by Seattle Firefighter's Pipes & Drums and The Raybone Experience. Side dishes provided by Tom Douglas Restaurants.

The Old Pequian  
1722 NW Market St., Seattle • 206-782-8886

## Seattle's Bravest Charity News

Seattle's Bravest Charity is still cooking along, always there and ready to assist Seattle Fire Fighters and others when needed.

Our scholarship program, thanks to recently retired Fire Fighter Kenny Hoefner, has accepted and is processing our next batch of scholarships. Winners will be announced in the next issue of the Third Rail.

We were happy to assist Lt. Colette McLennan in her recent time of trial, and are overjoyed to hear of her incredible journey toward recovery and her return to firefighting. Congratulations Colette! Many thanks are in order, first

to the members of Station 31 for their generous donation, and especially to Battalion Chief Tom Richardson, for his implementation of an 'Incident Command' type system as an organization tool to assist in her recovery.

Thanks are also due to those who have been working hard to increase our Monthly Payroll Deduction numbers. Daryl Whitley, E6A, was able to sign up almost everyone at Station 6. Local 27's Executive Secretary Dennis Karl, L5C, has made tremendous efforts to sign up everyone he runs into, and has made countless station visits. We are a little over half way to our primary goal of \$5,000/month, which averages to \$5/person. Please consider signing up.

It's making a huge difference in many deserving people's lives.

Finally, we would like to thank Captain Steve Baer, who has recently stepped down as President of Seattle's Bravest Charity. Steve did an outstanding job while in office, especially with improving our website and in coordinating events. If you see Steve around, please thank him sincerely. He deserves it.

Thanks for caring,  
David Churchill, E6A

# Chief Jack N. Richards Memorial Award

When Jack Richards died on March 3, 2008, his wife, Camille Monzon-Richards, thought only about how her late husband should never be forgotten for his nearly 35-year commitment to the Medic One Foundation. Since 1972, when he was appointed Chief of the Seattle Fire Department, Medic One became Jack's passion, his *raison d'être*. Camille made an initial gift of \$25,000 at his funeral for the sole purpose of honoring Jack Richards' dedication to the Foundation. Later, several meetings ensued with Dr. Leonard Cobb, Dr. Werner Samson and Dr. Michael Copass, along with other members of Jack and Camille's family and close friends from within the Seattle Fire Department family.



Finally, after months of deliberation and much thought, it was agreed upon by all that the purpose of the endowed fund would be to honor Jack Richards' inspirational leadership and commitment to excellence in pre-hospital emergency care. The fund will grant, once a year, a cash gift of \$1,500 to the most inspirational Medic One Paramedic Training Program student, as determined by the student's peers and instructors. If no paramedic student is found to meet the established criteria set forth by the

medical instructors for the training year, then the grant will not be awarded.

The initial cash gift of \$25,000 made by Camille is endowed to ensure that the principal remains intact in perpetuity. The official name of the endowment is the Chief Jack N. Richards Memorial Award for the Most Inspirational Paramedic Student Endowed Fund and became effective October 16, 2008. The Award will be presented annually at the December graduation of the Paramedic Training Program. The first recipient of the Award will be honored in December 2009.

Doctor Leonard Cobb, one of the founders of the Medic One Foundation and currently with the Medic One Support Group stated: "For me, the beauty of the Chief Jack N. Richards Award is that it acknowledges excellence in the selected student, and, at the same time, recognizes a Seattle Fire Department chief who accepted nothing but the very best from the Department and from himself. Jack Richards was a fantastic supporter of the Medic One Program, beginning in its infancy. I think he would have been pleased with the design of this award," he concluded.

Others praised Richards "as a chief who is best known for leading by his example," said James Fossos, a longtime friend and retired Seattle firefighter. "He was a unique fire chief because his management style was both progressive for that time and also participatory. He believed the citizens of Seattle deserved the best in fire protection and

EMS. He proved it by saving Medic One from going private. Jack Richards was the very best in what one would expect a fire chief to be: an individual of intelligence, grace under fire and completely loyal to his troops."

Doctor Michael Copass, director of the University of Washington Paramedic Training Program and the medical director of the Seattle Fire Department's Medic One said: "We are truly fortunate to hold in our memories the spirit of Chief Richards by awarding annually the most inspirational paramedic student in each class the Chief Jack N. Richards Memorial Award."

Camille believes that the Chief Jack N. Richards Memorial Award is "an excellent vehicle to honor Jack forever and his lifelong dedication to the Seattle Fire Department, the Medic One Foundation and the region's paramedics," she said. Camille is also grateful to the Board of the Medic One Foundation "for making this Award a reality for us who love Jack. Fire chiefs come and fire chiefs go. But this fire chief, Jack Richards, was recognized as emeritus by his peer, Chief Claude Harris, when it came to Medic One."

Additional gifts can be made to the fund by friends and supporters at any time to:

**Chief Jack N. Richards Memorial Award**  
**Medic One Foundation**  
 325 Ninth Avenue, MS 359747  
 Seattle, WA 98104-2420

## WSCFF Convention Update

by Theresa Purtell

The 2009 WSCFF Convention was held in Wenatchee from June 16-18. The convention ended with no raise in per capita. IAFF President Schaitberger was positive and uplifting as he spoke to the membership about the hard economic times. His message was clear as he spoke about the importance of political action and the need for all members to contribute.

President Schaitberger commended Local 27 for the work and support that was given to Providence, Rhode Island Fire Fighters Local 799, who have been without a contract for 7 years and have struggled in negotiations with their mayor. Local 27's message, which was to honor and support Local 799's picket line outside the hotel in Providence where the conference of Mayors was being held, was consistent as we spoke to Mayor Nickels. His inaction was telling. IAFF 7th District VP Ricky Walsh and WSCFF President Kelly Fox also commended Local 27 for the increase in membership contributions to the IAFF and WSCFF PAC funds.

We received an update of the WAC by Jay Havner and Paul Forester serving on the Washington State Fire Protection technical review board. For Local 27 it was refreshing to hear and receive accolades about our work and commitment to making a difference.

Local 27, through the WSCFF Safety Committee, was able to get Resolution 09-16 passed supporting "Safe Call Now" and a donation from the WSCFF Benevolent Fund.

Steve Nelson spoke about the Pension/LEOFF issues. LEOFF 2 was the the only state pension to not have contribution rates affected by the 2009 budget shortfalls. There are three bills that will be worked on and carried into next year's legislative session. They are HB 1547, which would increase the lump sum Line of Duty Death benefit, which hasn't been increased since 1993; HB 121, removing the L&I remarriage penalty; and HB 1679, providing access to catastrophic disability medical insurance under the LEOFF 2 plan. Steve acknowledged Local 27's work and support of the Catastrophic Bill.

Finally, the Seattle Fire Fighter Pipes and Drums once again made us proud as they performed at the opening ceremony and at the Tuesday night barbecue.

Thanks to the Local 27 members in attendance and serving on WSCFF committees: Dallas Baker, Dave Churchill, Kenny Stuart, Cody Scriver, Aaron Karls, Dennis Karl, Theresa Purtell, Annie Olson, Scott Helfrich, Jon Goins, and Dan Murray.

## Sue Rosenthal Promoted to Assistant Chief



The Local 27 Executive Board wishes to congratulate Sue Rosenthal on her May 14 promotion to Assistant Chief. Chief Rosenthal is the first woman in the Seattle Fire Department to reach this position. The members of Local 27 congratulate Chief Rosenthal on this significant accomplishment and look forward to working with her in her new position.

Chief Rosenthal entered the Seattle Fire Department in the recruit class of 1980, along with Local 27 Executive Board member and current Seattle Fire Fighter Theresa Purtell.

Said Purtell, "I'm thrilled that Sue has accomplished so much over the past 28 years. She's meant a lot to the women who follow in her footsteps."

Kenny Stuart, President of Local 27, also expressed his admiration and respect for Rosenthal's achievement. "The men and women of Local 27 are all proud of everything that Chief Rosenthal has accomplished and what her accomplishments mean to the Department."

## Fire Department Animal Shelter Rescue

On Sunday May 3, Seattle Fire received an automatic alarm from the Seattle Animal Shelter at 2061 15th Ave. West. Engines 20 and 41, Ladder 6 and Battalion Chief 6 were dispatched on the call. Upon arrival, Engine 20 found smoke issuing from the door of the shelter. Engine 20 upgraded the call to a full response which included an additional three Engine companies, one more Ladder company, and additional management, support, and medical personnel.

As Engine 20 made their initial fire attack they found thick smoke to the floor but light heat conditions. They quickly located and extinguished the fire which originated in a dryer, as Engine 41 assisted with water supply and

deployed a backup hose line. Ladder 6 set up ventilation using fans. All companies then proceeded to remove animals from the immediate and adjacent fire areas.

After all animals were removed from the fire area, members of all on scene companies did welfare checks on all animals that were exposed to the smoky environment. All of the birds, cats and dogs were found to be unharmed, other than being scared and needing a bit of comforting, which the fire fighters were happy to do. As one fire fighter put it, "It is not every day you get to make a multi-species rescue."

## First Alarm!



**Isaac Lentz**

Born April 27, 2009

Proud Parents: Rich and Alex Lentz

## Stop in at the Hi-Life for your Lifesavers Club Card!

The Hi-Life, located in Ballard, introduces the Lifesavers Club Card. They're offering a 20% discount off all food—breakfast, lunch and dinner—to those in lifesaving capacities: medical, fire, police and teachers. Lifesavers just need to stop in to the Hi-Life any time, with proof of employment, to pick up a card. The Hi-Life, housed in Ballard's historic Station 18, is at 5425 Russell Ave. NW, and menus can be viewed at [chowfoods.com](http://chowfoods.com).

## Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for their support of the Third Rail Newspaper and the Seattle Fire Fighters Union:

### 5 Alarm

Beacon Hill Dental Association; Boeing Employees Credit Union; Comforce Co; GGLO; Great Pacific Seafoods Inc; The Hearthstone; Martin Selig Real Estate; Prevail Credit Union; Presbyterian Retirement Communities NW; Steeler Inc; Total Terminals Inc; Washington Athletic Club; Yellow Cab; Andrew & Margaret Baer; Joshua Brager; Betty Christensen; Troy Coachman; Rod Gott; Wes & Denise Harris; Barbara B Huston

### 4 Alarm

All City Fence Co; Annex Theatre; Aramark Uniforms; Athenian Inn; Barnard Intellectual Property Law Inc; Billiard Hoang; Bobby T's Plumbing Inc; Brown Bear Car Wash; Clary's Transmission Parts; Dana's Housekeeping; DiMartino Associates Inc; Doyle's Automotive Service; Dr Robert Caplan; Ekaria; Frances Turean Attorney, Family Law; Hargis Engineers; Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites; Intracorp Real Estate LLC; Joe's Bar & Grill; Krisco Aquat-ech Pool & Spas; Kumon North America; Lava Lounge; MacPherson's Fruit & Produce; Madrona Grocery Outlet; Manson Construction Co; Nickerson & Associates; North Seattle Veterinary Clinic; Pan Pacific Hotel; Polyform Seattle; RHW Window & Door; Ripe Tomato Restaurant; Rosso Gardens; Seattle Best Teriyaki; SkoFlo Industries Inc; Smith McKenzie Rothwell & Barlow PS; Sullys Lounge; Technical Marketing Inc; Teris - Seattle; ThePlatform; University Inn LLC; Viking Automatic Sprinkler Co; Watertown Hotel LLC; Wilde Rover Irish Pub & Restaurant; Yamamoto Transport; Aaron Darwin

### 3 Alarm

Air Tec Co Inc; Anthousa; Apocalypse Tattoo & Headware; Aurora Family Grocery; Auto Shine Detail; Booty Land; Burgermaster; Conny Green; Content26 LLC; Exterior Research & Design LLC; Fiesta Mex Video; Giu's Market; Greenrubino Advertising; Herfy's Burger #9; Ikan II Auto & Truck Wrecking; Impressions Printing Inc; Industrial Plating Corporation; Johnny's Nails; Kanaga Island Fisheries Inc; Kozue Japanese Restaurant; La Panzarella LLC; Les Schwab Tire Centers; Luke's Pharmacy; Mammoth Stoneworks Inc; Maritime Pacific Brewing; Mr & Mrs Bradley P Thoreson; Northgate Buffet Inn; Northwest Auto Center; Ocean Alexander Marine Yacht Sales; PF Fishpole Hoists; Pharmacotherapy Research Inc; Purple Dot Café; Quinn's Pub LLC; Quizno's Subs; Real Food Co; Scott Galvanizing Co Inc; Seafood

Trading; Searchlight Systems Inc; Seattle Fudge; Spicy Wok; Szechuan Bistro; Tienda Latina El Quetal; Van Pelt Corbett & Associates; VW Asian Foods; West Coast Entertainment; Western Tow Boat Co; Yen Wor Garden;

Louise Almgren; Kevin & Janet Anderson; Maryanne Anderson; Catherine Banchemo; Maura Cannon; Jonathan P Cardona; Nancy Charpentier; Mr & Mrs Clyde Cherberg; Cheryl Comstock; Craig Douglas; Virginia Eckton; Liz Fortunato; Doreen Gilbert; Gary Griffis; Clay & Mary Heinzen; Jenny Hicks; Stephen B Hilbert; Patty Johnson; Jean Campbell Johnson; Teresita Koziel; Dorothy Laidig; Linda Lybeck; Yvonne MacGregor; Yoshi Mamiya; Maribel Martinez; David McCoy; Eric Mead; Lois Montgomery; Michael Ortlieb; Cheryl Overbey; Barbara Parke; Annette Parks; Meta Parris; Louise Pasche; Liisa Prehn; Barbara Russell; Richard B Schwartz; William & Ruth Stender; Angelyn Stielstra; Tina Williams; Charles Wilson

### 2 Alarm

A & G Dollar Store; American Elevator Corp; Anchor Marine Underwriters; Arch Ecology; ASAP Machine & Tool; Attorney's Information Bureau Inc; Ballard Natural Gas Service Inc; Beardpapas; Benla Service Co Inc; Cain Bolt & Gasket; Castillos Inc; Catherine Kuniyoshi MD; Chutney's On Queen Anne; Colley Business Services Inc; Conor Byrne's Pub; COSCO/China Ocean Shipping Co; Dale Kaneko @ Windermere Real Estate; Dander & Daughters Chem-Dry; Dependable Construction Supply; Doug Zimmerman Sales Co; Eco House; Emmanuel's Rug & Upholstery Cleaning; Escrowlink Ltd; Exomotion; Ferris Turney General Construction; Fleury & Company PS; Gardner Boat Repair; George & Dragon Pub; Gilmore Research Group; Go West LLC dba Catfish Corner; Harvard & Highland LLC; Hudson Bay Insulation; Jalisco Mexican Restaurant; Jane Johnson @ Windermere Real Estate; John McYnturff @ John L Scott Realty; JVL Inc Pre-Construction Services; Konko Church of Seattle; Latinos Travel Agency; Law Offices of Karen Willie; Life Learning Center & Preschool; Magnolia 76; Olympic Athletic Club; Pacific Marine Equipment LLC; Rocketdog Communications; Ruby Asian Dining; S & P Communication; Scanwest Auto Sport; 7-11 Food Stores; SGS Glass; Shell Mini Mart; Shy Giant Yogurt; Skeeter's Auto Rebuild Inc; Skyway Mart; Small Faces; Soo Creek Kennels; Subway on Western; Subway on 2nd Ave; The Design Collective; The Edge Creative; The Monkey Bridge Restaurant; Top Construction Inc; TR International; Tuk-

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- Firefighters can purchase HUD owned homes for 50% off the list price?
- I donate 20% of the profit from any SFD loan to The Catastrophic Fund?

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# Mark Jones Update

by Lieutenant Meg Jones

I want to take a moment from Mark and myself to say thank you again for your continued support and love.

This very long road began December 23, 2003, when I was notified that Mark was at Harborview Hospital with life-threatening injuries after an accident at Station 33.

Mark's journey has taken me down many paths and given me insight into what it means to be hurt as a fire fighter while at work in the City of Seattle.

Mark was under the impression that he would be taken care of by the City; after all, he was hurt while at work. What became clear was that the City's definition of "taking care of its own" has a very different meaning to those who sit in elected positions as well as appointed positions.

Here are just a few of the things I have learned along the way:

1) I did not know that after 364 days, Mark would lose his medical benefits if he could not get back to work.

2) I did not know that once you were considered "fixed and stable," L&I would close your claim even if you still needed treatment.

3) I did not know that Mark would not receive an award for his injuries from L&I, other than his pension which is less than what he made.

4.) I did not know that to get money to cover Mark's future, the City would tell us we had to sue the City, and then the City would turn around and blame Mark and his co-workers to try to defeat the suit.

5) I did not know that Mark would not qualify for most of the major insurance carriers in the state of Washington because of his "on the job" injuries and that he received "time loss benefits." However, Mark will fall into the Washington State high risk insurance pool.

6.) I did not know that while Mark continued under his Aetna policy (and even for the high-risk pool and most other separate policies) any treatment for Mark's injuries on the job are excluded.

7) I did not know that Mark would be turned down for Social Security Disability and Medicare five times since 2006. We are still currently working on getting into that system.

8) I did not know that I would not be able to get Mark on my insurance even though I am his legal guardian.

These are important details to know as a LEOFF 2 mem-

ber. This will affect you and your family if you are hurt or when you go to retire.

In my short 20 years in the department, I have watched the steps taken by our legislators.

After the 1995 Pang fire, we were successfully able to pass a bill that would medically cover the widows and orphans of our fallen members. In 2007, another bill was successfully passed which would allow our catastrophically injured members to receive a pension; however, it did not address the medical coverage.

In 2009, a campaign was taken up to try and get those catastrophically injured members in a state program called PEB, which would allow these members into a medical program that was affordable and effective. It was passed out of the House 97 to 0; however, it never made it out of the Senate.

The question that I am asked over and over by all of you is "What can I do?"

There is much for all of us to do in this battle.

Donate your time and money to the committees that are already set up to fight for your future. Make a phone call to your elected official and tell them your concerns. Come and be a part of a union that has helped get the people elected who make these very important decisions about your future. Come out and support all the fundraisers for these causes either in spirit or in sport.

Lastly, come and support Mark and his family when his trial begins in September of this year, barring there is not a fourth delay. I will post the details of the trial once I receive them.

Thanks and God bless you all.  
-Mark and Meg Jones

## 3rd Annual Mark Jones Softball Bash 2009

It's time once again to start getting your Battalion, Station, or Shift teams together! Family members are welcome to play and attend the event. The Mark Jones tournament will still benefit Mark and the Catastrophic Fund, so round up your teams and get some practice in.

**WHEN: Friday, July 17th "C" A8, 0800-1800**

**WHERE: Riverview Play Field**  
[http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park\\_detail.asp?ID=463](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=463)

**COST: \$40 per person**

Please make checks payable to "Seattle's Bravest Charity" (line item "Catastrophic Fund") or Cash on game day

**PLEASE SEND IN: Team Name, Number and Size of T-shirts**

This is a double elimination tournament, 2 game minimum. Food and beverage will be available at the fields. Extra t-shirts will be available for \$25 each. **Teams must submit rosters by July 3rd.**

**Please contact:**  
Andy Sapier, L10A  
(206) 715-2475

## Recruit Class 96 Union Orientation

In their first act of solidarity, all seventeen Probationary Fire Fighters from Recruit Class 96 and their families attended the Union Orientation at the Union Hall on Saturday, May 9th.

Local 27 welcomed and swore in our newest members while providing information about American unions and Local 27 history, what our Union does for our members, how the Union works, and what the member's role is. Themes of the event included: We serve the public professionally and with pride, we work as a team at all times; and the more involved you are, the better our Union works.



### 2009 Fire Fighter Family Picnic!

- Saturday, August 29th (C shift)
- 11am-4pm
- Woodland Park Zoo

Please register by August 14th by calling 206-285-1271, or email your name and number of attendees to [info@iaff27.org](mailto:info@iaff27.org)

## Calendar of Events

<b>July</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Regular Business Meeting (C shift) 9am, Local 27</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Station Representative's Breakfast (D shift)</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Regular Business Meeting (C shift) 9am, Local 27</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Station Representative's Breakfast (D shift)</b>
<b>Aug</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Fire Fighter Family Picnic, Woodland Park Zoo (C shift)</b>
<b>Sep</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Labor Day (Local 27 office closed)</b>
<b>Sep</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Regular Business Meeting (B shift) 9am, Local 27</b>
<b>Sep</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Station Representative's Breakfast (A shift)</b>