



THE THIRD RAIL

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Spring 2011

by *Kenny Stuart*

We Are Under Attack

As Seattle Fire Fighters we show up to the station each shift ready to respond and serve and mentally prepared for the emergencies we may face. Our families all understand, as do we, the inherent dangers that exist in responding to house fires, car fires, warehouse fires, boat fires, car accidents, gas leaks, or medical emergencies, just to name a few. We jump on the rigs when the bells hit without a second thought, with speed, with confidence, and with a deep commitment to help the citizens we serve. We accept the risks that come with each incident because we have seen the heartbreaking



Local 27 in full force. *photo credit: Dave Peery*

outcomes of tragedy and have had the profound experience of making a difference and saving a life. Local 27 believes that in return for our service, the risks, and the sacrifices, there exists a social contract which should ensure fire fighters are afforded the safest working environment possible; fire fighters who are injured or killed in the line of duty are taken care of by the city; and after a career of service, fire fighters should

receive an appropriate pension. Unfortunately all across America, including here in Washington State, this social contract is being undermined and attacked as government budgets are tightened, unions and government workers are being vilified, and the critical service fire fighters provide is being questioned. For example:

- Some Washington State legislators have supported legislation that would include significant benefit cuts for workers who become injured or permanently disabled on the job. These cuts have nothing to do with the state budget crisis. The workers' compensation system is separate, and employers' costs in Washington state are LOWER than they are in 35 other states. But powerful corporate lobbying groups are demanding benefit cuts anyway so they can save more money on their workers' comp premiums.

- The Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties have initiated legislation (HB 1377) supported by representatives from Kitsap County and the cities of Spokane, Des Moines and Longview. This legislation would seriously undermine interest arbitration in a direct attack against fire fighters and other public employees.



Capital Building, Olympia. *photo credit: Dave Peery*

- Washington State SB 5405 would restrict collective bargaining for ferry workers during the 2011-13 biennium.
- Washington State HB 1511 would restrict ferry workers from bargaining over multiple issues, imposing arbitrary limits on what can be negotiated for overtime pay, comp time, vacation leave, and much more. It also contains several of the harmful provisions of Sen. Haugen's SB 5405.
- Washington SB 5728 was introduced to allow the legislature to nullify contracts and circumvent the collective bargaining process.
- Sen. Joe Zarelli, R-Ridgefield continues to advocate a shift away from defined benefit plans (like LEOFF 2), which guarantee retirees a fixed payment every month, and toward very undesirable defined contribution plans in which employees manage their investments on their own and assume all of the risk.
- Republican Wisconsin Governor, Scott Walker,

cont'd on page 3

Eight Rescued From Ballard House Fire

Engine 18-C and Ladder 8-C were first on the scene at a Ballard fire on December 31, 2010. They laddered the building in seconds, and removed six of the trapped civilians by ladder. The two other civilians had gone to the other side of the roof and jumped into the waiting arms of Lt. Max Vela and a SPD member who had gone to that side of the building seeking access. Ladder-8's Captain Dana Caldart and his crew executed a near flawless rescue effort with the entire rescue completed in less than 4 minutes from time of arrival.

The other arriving units were E-21, 35, 20, M-5, B-4, B-6 M-18 Aid 2, Air-9, Staff 10, Safety 2 and Deputy 1. These companies took on the extinguishment task and were aided later by second alarm companies.



photo credit: MyBallard.com



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In This Issue:

Dave's Universe	Page 2
President's Report.....	Page 2
We Are Under Attack "continued".....	Page 3
Line of Duty Deaths	Page 3
Overwhelming Response	Page 4
St. Patrick's Day Parade/ Station 38 Open House Success	Page 4
Firefighter Recognition Night	Page 4
Seattle's Bravest Charity News	Page 5
Ergomania 2011/ The Sand Dollar	Page 5
Fire Levy Project- 2010 Year in Review.....	Page 6
2011 Election Season Begins.....	Page 6
EASE	Page 6
20th Annual Firefighter Stairclimb	Page 6
Limit Your Exposures	Page 8
WSCFF/IAFF 2011 Leg Conference.....	Page 8

Miscellaneous Musings from Dave's Universe

An Editorial Opinion!
BY DAVE PEERY



Doing the research to establish an updated and more accurate list of fallen fire fighters proved to be an interesting and challenging job. It appears the criteria for Line of Duty Death has vacillated a bit over the years without a clearly established definition to use as a guide. Working with **Galen Thomaier**, retired fire fighter, head of The Last Resort Fire Department and Official Historian of The Seattle Fire Department, and **Captain Tom Walsh**, L-12-A, we came up with a few additional names currently not listed as Line of Duty Deaths which we firmly agree meet any reasonable guidelines for inclusion.

One member, **Victor Manhart**, driver of #2 Combination Wagon, was electrocuted in his station (14's) on **September 26th, 1905** while trying to reset a weighted chain across the horse stall to keep horses in place. The trip had dropped when a "stray tap" triggered the release of the chain. Sadly, the release appeared to be caused by a wind-blown high-voltage wire coming in contact with the trip circuit. When Victor reached down and grabbed the stall chain to reset it the high voltage raced through his hand on its way to ground causing his death. This is plainly a line-of-duty death from just about anyone's point of view. According to the records, Victor was a relatively new fire fighter with less than a year on the job. The next "missing" name is **Leo P. Hertel**, a Truck 4

fire fighter who was sent to guard a downed power line by himself after a wind-storm downed several lines across the city. It was **December 24th, 1922**, Christmas Eve day; it was a cold, windy and rainy. Leo was told to guard the wire, to prevent it from injuring any passers-by until the line could be repaired by city Light. Leo stood by in the cold, windy weather until he finally decided to try to capture the wire with a dry rope and a long dry wooden board. While attempting to tie the rope to the wire it arced, jumped off the ground and struck his arm. Despite efforts to revive him he did not survive.

Another "missing" name is an Engine 2 fire fighter, **Wilho Koski**. I've visited his gravesite at Evergreen Washelli. Wilho (whose last name was actually Kalliokoski) was an immigrant from Finland who joined the SFD in 1921. Wilho took and passed the entrance test for fireman in 1917 but joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War I in Europe. During the era that encompassed WW I, there was pressure to include immigrants in the draft because there was a belief that non-citizen immigrants should be available for the draft rather than escaping military duty simply because they were not yet citizens.

Wilho joined SFD after the war was over and acted as a Seattle fire fighter for about eight years before succumbing to the effects of a particularly nasty fire. The record is somewhat vague; The Chief of the Seattle Fire De-

partment in 1929, George M. Mantor, simply notes that Wilho died in the hospital on **August 12th, 1929** from "ulcers of the stomach and colon aggravated at the Rialto Block fire". The Rialto Block fire occurred in May of 1929, a few months before his exposure and subsequent death.

I discovered the above circumstance wasn't all that unusual. Few of the firefighters actually died from immediate injuries. Most men lived from a few hours to a few months before succumbing to their injuries. For instance, **Captain Horace Roberts** of Engine 18 died almost two years after the date of his injury.

Doing the research to establish an updated and more accurate list of fallen firefighters proved to be an interesting and challenging job....

The next "missing" name is that of a Battalion 1 Chief, **Oscar H. Ebbinghouse**. Chief Ebbinghouse died on **February 28, 1939** of a heart attack while recuperating from a broken ankle; he incurred this injury at home while rushing to the aid of his adopted daughter whose dress had caught fire from a furnace in their home. At Chief Ebbinghouse' funeral Fire Chief Fitzpatrick said, "Though he died at home, he has died in active service. His last illness was due entirely to his fire fighting service."

The list is nearing completion and will be reviewed by SFD, Local 27, and Last Resort representatives for accuracy before becoming official and having new names added to the list at the Pioneer Square memorial site.

President's Report

by *Kenny Stuart*

Brothers and Sisters,

As we continue to enjoy, or endure, the Seattle winter, our thoughts are with **Captain Don Devera** and his family as he recovers from his tragic accident. The outpouring of support from members of the department thus far has been tremendous and as he faces the challenges ahead I know our fire department family will continue to play a large role. Andre McGann and Joe Lombardo have been tirelessly helping Don and his family with assistance from the members of Station 16. In a tremendous show of support, Battalion 6 and many other members of the Department raised over \$7,000 at the Seattle's Bravest Charity event at The Rock Bottom Brewery. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Jeff Birt and his family as he faces a battle with cancer. Too many of our members have found themselves fighting this deadly disease. The risks of fire fighting used to be limited more to injuries such as burns and traumatic injuries but we have been experiencing a very troubling trend of fire fighters developing occupationally related diseases such as cancer, heart problems, and infectious diseases. Local 27 will continue to work to protect you and we will be there when tragedy strikes.

I am proud that almost 20 Seattle Fire Fighters braved the freezing temperatures and snow to rally in Olympia to support our union brothers and sisters in Wisconsin as they battle their union-busting governor. With only a day's notice we joined hundreds of union fire fighters and other workers and stood together at our Capitol to stand up against this direct assault on unions, workers, and the middle class. We are at a turning point in

America because this economic recession has provided the fuel to ignite a campaign against labor unions and the power that we have built to represent working men and women in America. This is about politics and elections, not about budget gaps and concessions. Government workers across the country have already demonstrated their willingness to help and their commitment to their agency. Unions everywhere have stepped up and made concessions to their part to address budget shortfalls. Seattle Fire Fighters led the way here in King County by taking a pay cut to help the City deal with declining revenues and to protect public safety. Even here in Washington we are not immune to attacks. Four bills were introduced this session to take away collective bargaining rights from workers. We should not be fooled by the deliberate attempt to blame workers for the economic mess when we all know that Wall Street is to blame. Our pension, our healthcare, and our benefits that we receive as fire fighters did not break the bank. And while there must be some belt-tightening to address the consequences of a widely spread housing bubble, irresponsible lending, and bank deregulation we must not let those who want to destroy labor unions win. Stay tuned for ways that you can support Wisconsin workers and American workers everywhere.

I want to again recognize and thank all of the **Local 27 members** who are serving, or have served, in **Iraq and Afghanistan**, for their service and sacrifice for our country. Please go to the IAFF Honor Roll webpage to see a list of all IAFF members serving our country: <http://www.iaff.org/honor/roll.asp>. It is all too easy to forget that there is a war being waged and many of our brothers and sisters are away from their families in a foreign land enduring hardships and facing constant threats. Our thoughts are with them too.

Local 27 held a Shift Breakfast following D Shift on February 28th at McCoy's Firehouse to get fire fighters together with free food as bait and to celebrate Local 27's 93rd Birthday. It was a well attended and memorable event. Chief Dean and Chief Hepburn stopped by to visit and Suzan and Nancy from the Trust Office were also there to meet members and answer any questions about our health plan. We will be sponsoring a shift breakfast for each shift in 2011 so look for the announcement and we'll see you there.

And finally, I want to thank the Local 27 staff for all of their hard work and welcome Joanna Iverson, our newest employee. She will join Gino, Collette, and Loriann as a great addition to an exceptional team. We rely heavily on our wonderful staff and could not provide the members of Local 27 with the high level of service and representation that we do without them. Come by the Union sometime and thank them. Take care.

SAFE CALL NOW

"Saving the lives of those who protect us"

Safe Call Now offers confidential assistance aimed at reducing suicide and substance abuse. It includes a 24-hour toll-free help number and a website to connect troubled officers and fire fighters to counselors, mental health specialists, support staff and other experts who can both coach them and provide additional resources for treatment and help.

www.safecallnow.org
(206) 459-3020



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cont'd from page 1 has proposed an anti-union budget bill that strips collective bargaining rights away from workers to bust unions. The bill requires workers to cover more of their healthcare premiums and pension contributions; it requires unions to conduct annual, costly votes to maintain the union; and it eliminates the right of unions to have union dues deducted from paychecks.

- New Jersey Governor, Chris Christie, said he doesn't mind breaking promises to pensioners to close a \$10.5 billion budget deficit -- even if they sue. "I have bigger issues than who sues me," said Christie, 48, a Republican and former federal prosecutor.
- In Ohio a Senate bill has been introduced that will:
 - Eliminate collective bargaining for state employees and employees of higher education institutions
 - Require employees to pay at least 20% of their healthcare costs
 - Limit bargaining for local government employees
 - Eliminate binding arbitration for police and fire
- The Montana House of Representatives Republican majority has approved a bill which is a direct assault on Montana's professional firefighters. The bill seeks to allow large municipalities in the state to have an all volunteer fire fighting force. The measure passed in the House with a 60-40 vote, with all Democrats opposing the measure. This bill is the latest in a string of attacks on firefighters from Montana Republicans. The first came last summer when Congressman Dennis Rehberg sued the Billings Fire Department for fighting his fire.
- Tulsa, Oklahoma Mayor, Dewey Bartlett, issued a new executive order clarifying that city employees cannot actively participate in local political campaigns in any capacity that identifies them as a City of Tulsa employee. The order specifically addresses employees of the Tulsa Fire Department, who through their Firefighters Union Local 176, campaigned for city council candidates in recent elections.
- Former U.S. House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, a Republican and potential 2012 presidential candidate, has proposed allowing states to restructure their finances in bankruptcy-like proceedings giving them more leverage in bargaining with employees over wages and pensions.
- More than 20 states considered changes to pension plans last year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.
- Newly-elected Florida Governor, Rick Scott, has followed Governor Christie's lead, blaming public employees for that state's problems. He conveniently neglected to mention that his state's pension fund for fire fighters is 90 percent funded.
- Republican lawmakers in Washington, D.C. have included the complete elimination of funding for the SAFER grant program in the 2011 fiscal budget (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) which will reduce public safety and endanger the jobs of thousands of fire fighters across the country.
- ICMA (The International City/County Management Association) is actively promoting dangerous changes to fire departments nationwide. For example, Leonard Matarese, director of Research and Public Safety Programs at ICMA is encouraging communities to embrace joint police and fire services for



photo credit: Janett Wingett

supposed efficiencies in fire response services. Matarese is critical of fire departments whose personnel largely "sit around and wait" for work, as he put it. "It's a huge resource that's not being used wisely," Matarese says of fire departments in general. He is also critical of the method of attack for most fire departments. Matarese said a July 4th fire at his Buffalo home inflicted about \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of damage, but the firefighters' response added "hundreds of thousands of dollars" in water damage. "I'm still living in a hotel," he says. Matarese said some fire departments are purchasing "quick-attack" fire vehicles that differ from the traditional fire trucks that respond to blazes. The new vehicles carry about 10 gallons of water and can meet fires with more haste, putting blazes out faster with less water, he said. "We feel this is the future of fire fighting in the United States," he said. "This is not a secret to fire departments. The fire service simply has not embraced it."

- Anti-worker legislation has also moved forward in Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Georgia and other states;

We are under attack by politicians and organizations which are using public employees and fire fighters as scapegoats and blaming our pensions and even the fire service for the Great Recession caused by Wall Street. This is nothing more than an opportunistic shakedown by big money interests who aim to use the recession to advance an anti-union agenda and line their pockets. We all know that a 10 gallon quick attack fire engine is an irresponsible and ridiculous idea; however, in these challenging economic times there are many charlatans selling a variety of cost-saving ideas for government, even deadly ones, that only sound reasonable now in the midst of an economic recession and with a narrative that vilifies public employees. This is not the attitude of the majority of Americans. According to a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll 62% of Americans oppose efforts to strip unionized government workers of their rights to collectively bargain, especially as way to deal with state budget deficits.

Make no mistake, this attack on fire fighters, police officers, labor unions, and the middle class has just begun. If we are not vigilant and aggressive, our safety, financial security, and public safety will be put at great risk. However, it will not stop with fire fighters; many middle class Americans will see their financial future erode if we stand by idly. Our children will face a less prosperous future and a lower standard of living than us. Yes, there is an economic crisis and Seattle Fire Fighters have stepped up to share the burden. We understand that many citizens are hurting financially. But we must not allow this crisis to be used to make dangerous and inappropriate wholesale changes to the fire service, to our own safety and security, and to working families, union and non-union, across the country. If we do, it will be the first step of many which will significantly alter the prosperity and quality of life for millions of Americans.

We should not buy into the premise the only solution to our failing economy is having public employees share the pain, but rather, we should work towards solutions which restore prosperity to the middle class.

Local 27 has a successful political action program aimed at maintaining strong relationships with elected officials and ensuring that the reputation of fire fighters and the mission of the fire department are preserved. We are labor leaders, and part of city government, and we have a vested interest in the success and viability of all Seattle. We will continue to work with our elected officials to make sure Seattle is a place where citizens are safe, fire fighters and paramedics are properly prepared and equipped, and working class folks are respected and treated fairly. It is our duty to do so.



*Many labor leaders addressed the crowd.
photo credit: Dave Peery*

IAFF Line of Duty Deaths

- **Paramedic Lieutenant William A. Brady, Jr., Local 68, Norfolk, VA** - Brother Brady, 47, passed away on Tuesday, December 14, 2010 from rectal cancer.
- **Fire Fighter/Paramedic Chad L. Null, Local 1438, Sullivan, IN** - Brother Null, 33, passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2010 of a heart attack after returning from an EMS run. He was the local union president.
- **Captain Terry Gee, Local 522, Sacramento, CA** - Brother Gee, 54, passed away on Monday, December 20, 2010 from occupational cancer.
- **Fire Fighter Edward J. Stringer, Local 2, Chicago, IL** - Brother Stringer, 47, passed away on Wednesday morning, December 22, 2010 from a wall collapse during a fire at an abandoned commercial building.
- **Fire Fighter/ EMT Corey D. Ankum, Local 2, Chicago, IL** - Brother Ankum, 34, passed away on Wednesday morning, December 22, 2010 from a wall collapse during a fire at an abandoned commercial building.
- **Fire Fighter Matthew E. Durham, Local 2950, Woodinville, WA** - Brother Durham, 45, passed away on Thursday, December 30, 2010 from occupational cancer.
- **Captain Scott R. Carnevale, Local 689, Alameda, CA** - Brother Carnevale, 42, passed away on Monday, January 3, 2011 from esophageal cancer.
- **Fire Fighter Michael G. Urban, Local 1652, Framingham, MA** - Brother Urban, 57, passed away on Friday, January 7, 2011 from lung cancer.
- **Fire Apparatus Operator Richard E. Paul, Local 42, Kansas City, MO** - Brother Paul, 54, passed away on Friday, January 7, 2011 from a heart attack while on duty.
- **Battalion Chief Steven F. Auch, Local 416, Indianapolis, IN** - Brother Auch, 56, passed away on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 of a heart attack after completing his shift.
- **Fire Fighter/Paramedic Glenn L. Allen, Local 112, Los Angeles, CA** - Brother Allen, 61, passed away on Friday, February 18, 2011 from injuries sustained in a ceiling collapse that occurred in Hollywood Hills on Wednesday, February 16, 2011.
- **Battalion Chief James Thomas Banting, Local 2494, Alberta, Canada** - Brother Banting, 55, passed away on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from complications associated with colon cancer.

Overwhelming Response

by Dave Churchill

On Thursday, March 10, at the Rock Bottom Brewery, Seattle Fire Fighters showed up in droves to support their brother, Don Devera.

The event, sponsored by Seattle's Bravest Charity in an ongoing collaboration with Rock Bottom, kicked off the Brewery's annual *Tapping of the Fire Chief Ale*. As in previous years, the Brewery donated a percentage of the Ale's sales to SBC.



Shiloh Devera (Don's wife), Captain Don Devera & son, Zach

This year, SBC donated the proceeds to the Don Devera Fund. Also, a raffle was set up and prizes were drawn; the results, beer percentage and raffle, netted the Fund

\$4,302. Further generosity was shown by an anonymous donor's generous gift of \$2,000. In addition, the fifty/fifty raffle grand prize of \$735 was won by Erik Lawyer, who unselfishly gave his entire winnings back to the Fund, making the grand total for the evening, and for Don, \$7,037.

Thanks to everyone who participated, and especially those who helped

set up the event: Hill Almond, Kenny Stuart, Joanna Iversen, Yan Mathison, Station Sixteen Personnel, and Andre McGann. The 6th Battalion really stepped up and made the event a huge success. An additional thanks goes to the Seattle Firefighters Pipes and Drums, The Rock Bot-



Paramedic Andre McGann, B-3-C with Captain Don Devera

tom Brewery, Fairmont Olympic Hotel, McCormick and Schmick's, and McCoy's Firehouse.

I can't say enough about our willingness to step up and help out our brother when he needs it the most. Even more than the money collected was the feeling of support generated that night. The entire bar/restaurant was wall to wall with fire fighters, their families, SFD brass, civilian personnel, and friends. We were there for one reason: to support Don. This support was felt on a level too deep for words to express.

The word that comes closest is love. It's what holds us together as a team and a family. It's what keeps us moving forward no matter what tragedy may befall us. Thanks to all of you.



Tim Smedberg, Joey Lombardo, Darren Hanson, Capt. Devera & Mark Coons

photo credit: Kathy Fies, daughter of the late Blackie Fies, E-25

Station 38 Open House Success

by Dave Churchill

Despite the cold, rainy weather on Saturday, March 12, huge numbers of people arrived at the newly completed Thirty-Eights to celebrate its opening.

SFD and Local 27 worked together to treat throngs of neighbors to coffee, cake, juice, face painting, transfer tattoos, fire education info, and a tour of the new station.

Thanks to all who made this Neighborhood Event possible!

38's New Address:
4004 NE 55th Street
Seattle, WA 98105



photo credit: Dave Churchill

St. Patrick's Day Parade

by Dave Peery

The 39th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Saturday, March 12th, 2011.



Ready to march behind banner holders

County Jail's Honor Guard). When they reached the official reviewing stand they took their seats to observe the other participants as they passed.

This year our Seattle Pipes and Drums and Honor Guard were near the front of the parade, but behind the SeaFair Pirates. It's nice to be near the front, but the Pirates have a canon mounted on their float which produces an enormous noise and cloud of smoke each time they set it off. The weather was bad enough that even the seagulls were

The parade began at 4th and Jefferson and ended at the Westlake Mall. Mayor McGinn and dignitaries led the parade (behind King



Our uniformed fire fighters march behind the Pipes & Drums

taking a break on the ground. The morning saw a fair amount of rain so our guys and gals warmed up before the parade in the apparatus bay at Station 10. There were fewer participants this year due to the weather, but there were still quite a few fire fighters marching behind the Pipes and Drums, both from Seattle ranks as well as other area departments. Engine 2 followed behind with a full crew and many guests. There were many pipe bands in the parade (as usual) and many local Irish groups who joined in the revelry for the day.

While the parade itself ended at the Westlake Mall, many participants took advantage of free monorail rides to the Seattle Center where there are additional events scheduled including lectures, art exhibits, traditional Irish dancing demonstrations, children's contests, food, beverages, and Celtic/Irish products for sale. The closing ceremonies were held at 2 P.M.



Group photo at the Westlake Mall

Plan on participating next year and join the rest of us for the day's events!

photo credit: Dave Peery

Fire Fighter Recognition Night

The Lake City Elks club hosted their annual Fire Fighter Recognition Night on Tuesday, February 22nd. The award recipients were:

Lifetime Achievement: Assistant Chief Susan P. Rosenthal, Administration
Chief of the Year: Deputy Chief Michael E. Walsh, Deputy One, A-Shift
Officer of the Year: Lt. Brian A. Maier, Ladder 6, C-Shift
Firefighter of the Year: Gilbert A. Mastri, Engine 8, B-Shift
Community Service: Julius F. Gibson, Engine 28, B-Shift
Customer Service: Paul J. Kiminki, Commissary
Civilian Employee: Lisa J. Van Horn, Public Education Manager, FMO

Don't forget, April 15th is the date for the Seattle Fire Department Annual Award Night. The members listed above will be officially recognized during the ceremony as well as members who received promotions during 2010. In addition, there will be special recognition of The Seattle Fire Buff's and The Last Resort Fire Department. The event will be held at Seattle City Hall, in the Bertha Knight Landes Room, 600, 4th Ave. (entrance on 5th Ave. between Cherry and James Street). All employees and their families are invited to attend.



photo credit: Dave Peery

Seattle's Bravest Charity

News & Scholarship Applications

In the past few months we have suffered terrible tragedy within the SFD, as well as in other departments.

SBC is always here, on guard, ready to help. We were formed as a result of terrible tragedy because we saw the need to help at the time; we will continue to carry on the spirit of vigilance to help others in need.

It's time once again to announce the M. Kenneth Hoefner Scholarship Awards....

Ron Dunkley, of Langley Fire Department, British Columbia, lost a brave fight for his life after suffering horrible injuries when he was run over by a train here in Seattle. Many SFD members stepped up to help Ron's family, and we all thank you for that help. The family will remember SFD's efforts for a long time to come. SBC covered some of the costs the family incurred while here in Seattle.

SFD's own Don Devera, a widely beloved fire officer,

suffered grave injuries while snowboarding. SBC is ready to assist Don and his family with whatever they need. Please keep them in your thoughts.

Other highlights of recent giving include: an Idaho fire-fighter's family travel expenses while staying in Seattle for their child's surgery to help alleviate some serious birth defects; Walter Kilgore Honor Guard uniform expenses; memorial travel expenses for members traveling to Chicago for LODD services; and one of our own member's expenses while suffering from significant health problems.

It's time once again to announce the M. Kenneth Hoefner Scholarship Awards. For those unfamiliar with the generosity of our recently retired member, Kenny Hoefner, please allow me to enlighten you. Mr. Hoefner created the Scholarship Fund some ten years ago, exclusively with Microsoft stock. He has donated again and again over the years, and, true to form, just recently with another \$263,686. Thank you, Kenny! The total balance of his Fund, as of this writing, is \$768,000. We intend to oversee, and marshal these monies, so that they will last in perpetuity. Please take the time to send Kenny a thank you note when you get the chance. The application period

for this year's scholarship awards will begin on April 1 and last until July 1. You may download the application form from the Local 27 website. Just go to SBC, and click on the 'Scholarship' tab. Good luck to all!

Big thanks are in order to Jon Goins, recently retired from the SBC board. Jon spent six years on the board, giving generously of his time, serving as a Director and as the Secretary/Treasurer. Please give your thanks to Jon when you see him. His volunteerism is wholly appreciated. Also, please thank our newest volunteer, Melissa Woolsey, who takes Jon's place on the board. We welcome her, and appreciate her willingness to give.

Also, please consider donating through our Monthly Payroll Deduction Program to help keep all of these excellent programs alive. You can donate at: <http://www.iaff27.org/sbc>. Just go to "How to Help," click "read more," and find #3, City of Seattle Payroll Deductions. We hope to reach our goal of \$5,000 per month soon!

Thanks for caring,

David Churchill, President
Seattle's Bravest Charity

Ergomania 2011

by James Hillard

Team Seattle turned in another strong performance at the Northwest's premier indoor rowing event. The 14-member team represented 8 age/weight categories and turned in 4 podium finishes in the grueling 2K event. We also placed third in the Masters' Team Challenge with a time of 3:26. While some are slowing down to enjoy the view, our team continues to place high, especially in the upper age categories. The rowing community continues to be impressed with our level of fitness. Kudos to all members of Team Seattle for another inspiring display of intestinal fortitude!

NWErgomania	2/5/2011	SFD	Results
Name	2K Time	Place	Category
Collins, Brady	7:29.4	4	M40-49LT
Darrah, Colin	6:47.2	3	M40-49
Donnelly, Colin	6:41.9	4	M30-39
Haapakoski, Sue	9:27.8	8	F50-59
Helm, James	8:00.9	5	M60-60
Hiemstra, Eise	7:20.3	1	F40-49
Hilliard, James	7:22.8	7	M40-49
Matthews, Todd	7:14.3	5	M40-49
Phelps, Mason	6:25.3	2	M30-39
Quiles, Chris	8:09.8	10	M50-59
Rincon, Jhon	7:46.8	7	M30-39
Ronhaar, Dean	7:13.2	7	M50-59
Taylor, Tim	7:15.1	6	M30-39
Wade, Dan	7:24.9	3	M60-69LT

WEBSITE:
www.iaff27.org
E-MAIL:
info@iaff27.org



First Alarm!

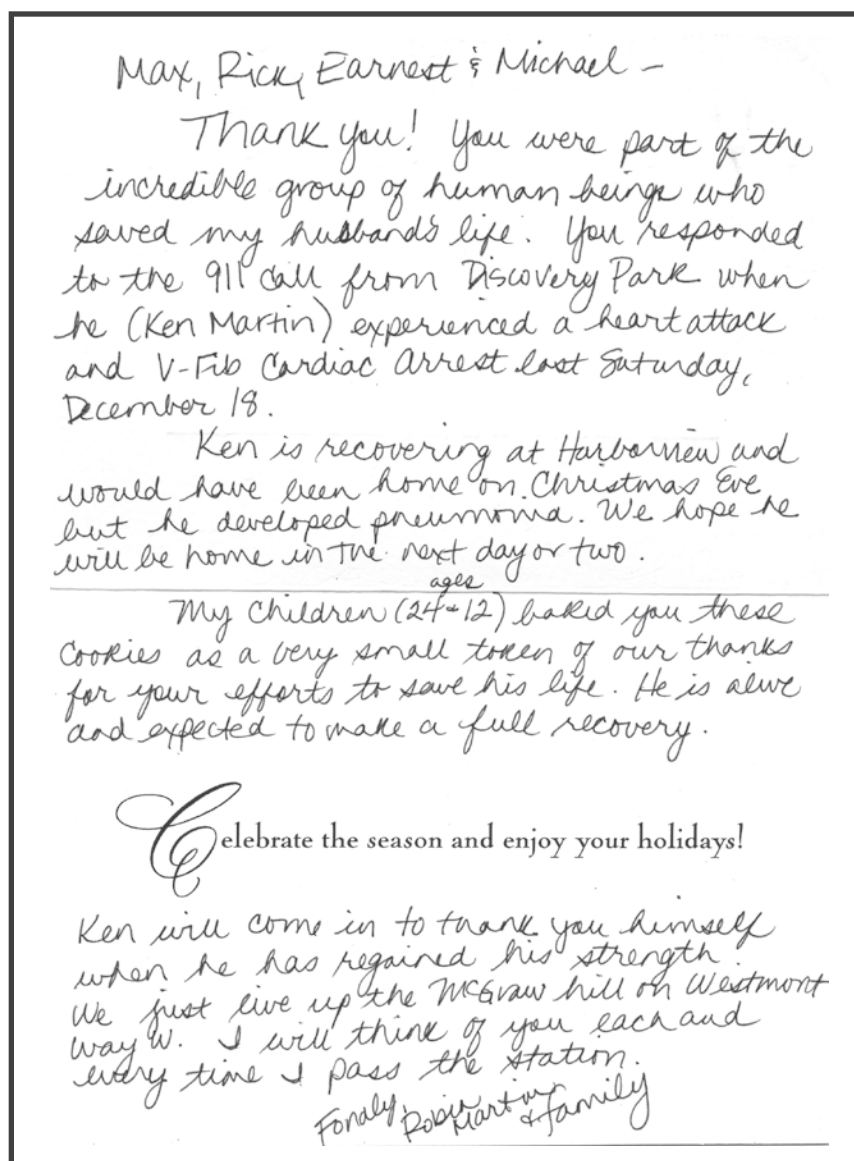
Tiffany Colman (E37B) & Kelly Brusa (B3D) welcome **Taytum Roie Colman-Brusa** into the world.

Born December 21, 2010
weighing 6 lbs, 4 oz

Every one is healthy and happy and loving the honeymoon stage!!!

The Sand Dollar

by Lt. Max Vela



The thank you letter addressed to Lt. Max Vela, Rick Murakami, Earnest Young, and Michael Coates.

I am grateful for all of the people that support us in doing our work. We have a great administration and supportive services such as Paramedics, Hazardous Material teams, Confined Space and Technical Rescue teams, Marine teams, Medic II, Fire Marshals, Fire Investigators, Dispatchers, Mechanics, Station Maintenance... the list goes on and on.

This team came together on this particular incident: Engine 41 was dispatched to a Med-7 response to a patient that was unconscious and unresponsive at Magnolia Discovery Park. As you know, that is a huge area. An individual called in from his cell phone reporting a man down and unconscious somewhere on a walking/jogging trail. We found him on an off the beaten and unknown path not only because of the communication between our dispatchers and the cell phone call, but also because of my driver's experience and knowledge of the district. When we arrived, we found citizen CPR in progress, and the patient was without a pulse, pale, pasty, and cyanotic — total cardiac arrest. After performing CPR and administering a shock with our external defibrillator, he regained his pulse and color. With the quick arrival of Engine 20, our second-engine in, and our paramedics, we put him on a backboard, started an IV, intubated, and transported him to the hospital. Our EMT and paramedic experience and knowledge allowed us to perform our duties like they were second nature.

To tie these two stories together, I know that because of the quick response and team work of these organizations, we made a difference to that one man's life, i.e. the sand dollar.

*Story and letter printed with permission of family

Before I explain the reason for this letter, I would like to tell you a story. This story is one that I told my family over Christmas dinner and it has always meant a lot to me:

There was an old man who was walking down a beach during a particularly low tide. He was picking up sand dollar after sand dollar and throwing them one by one back into the ocean. A young man approached him and asked him what he was doing? He replied, "I'm saving these sand dollars, of course." The young man went on to say, "You're not going to make a difference. There are thousands--so many of them that you simply will not make a difference." The old man wisely looked at the young man, picked one up, and threw it back into the ocean and said, "It made a difference to that one."

A woman and her 12-year-old son came into Station 41 a couple of days ago with a plate of cookies and the letter that I've attached to this email. Her voice quivered and she was teary-eyed as she thanked us for saving her husband's life. I am grateful to be a part of this organization that provides a positive and uplifting service without limits. I am proud to be a part of this team.

Fire Levy Project Updates

by Chris Gilbert

to reach this goal due to the small site and turning radius.

Here's what's happening with the Fire Levy:

Fireboats-

Project to retrofit the *Chief Seattle* has now received all of the \$5.6 million in grant funds that were awarded. Design phase is complete and will go out to bid soon.

Station 6-

Project for new station at M. L. King Jr. Way S. & S. Jackson Street is in construction documents phase. Project will go out to bid within the next couple of months.

Station 8-

Other locations were looked at, but in the end it was decided that remaining at the current location provided the best response times to the area. This project is in pre-design phase and will result in a seismic upgrade with an expanded apparatus bay. The goal is to be able to fit a tillered apparatus; however, there are some challenges

Station 13-

Project will result in an addition to the back of the station. Battalion 5 will remain post-remodel. During project Engine 13 will continue to occupy station. Battalion 5 will temporarily move to Station 30 once their new station is completed. Project will go out to bid within the next couple of months.

Station 14-

Remodel of existing station will include the addition of an apparatus bay on the north side. Waiting to find out results of application for additional dive grant funding, which would allow for additional scope. Eleven bids were submitted for this project, which will use GC/CM (General Contractor/Construction Management) process, instead of traditional design, bid, build process.

Station 16-

Seismic upgrade will go out to bid in the next couple of months.

Station 20-

New, two bay stations will be built at 15 Ave W. & W. Armour Street. Design commission meeting will be held in April. The plans call for enough living space to accommodate the addition of an aid or medic unit in the future.

Station 27-

Seismic upgrade will result in the loss of one of the three existing bays to accommodate deconstruction and storage area.

Station 28-

If funding is available, will re-visit the original plan to house the USAR & MMST Trailers at the station in the detached outbuilding at the end of the levy.

Station 30-

Project is nearly complete and will be moving into new station at the end of March.

Station 38-

Station is now complete and move in took place on February 15th. The Station 38 Open House was held on March 12th and was well attended.

EASE

by Dallas Baker

EASE (Employee Assistance for Seattle Employees) was founded by Junko Whitaker of City Light based on

able to work, EASE provided the crucial assistance city employees desperately needed.

2010 was capped off with an open house in the Bertha

Landes room at City Hall, emceed by SPD's Nick Metz and with guest of honor, Council member Bruce Harrell. The open house was a fundraiser with delicious baked goods and various donated items for sale with all the proceeds going to EASE. Local 27 would like to encourage Seattle Fire Fighters to contribute to EASE; donations are tax deductible contributions to this tax exempt non-profit organization. Contributions can be made through payroll deductions and direct payments to EASE by going to www.seattle.gov/EASE. Last year Lt. Sisley, Lt. Lindstrom, Capt. Castro with the help of the staff at headquarters raised \$840 by putting on breakfast fundraisers throughout the year. Be sure to participate in the numerous online charity auctions; when the department sends out notifications, Local 27 encourages you to participate to support your fellow city employees.

the concept that it is an organization by Seattle employees for Seattle employees. EASE is self supporting and funded by employee donations that demonstrate genuine acts of caring toward fellow city employees. This principle is reflected in their mission statement, which is to provide support and financial assistance to city of Seattle employees and/or their immediate family in times of great need. EASE has been providing valuable assistance to city employees since 2008 by providing emergency financial support for shelter, medical expenses, funerals and other emergencies. Whether it is the COBRA payments for a widow and son after an unexpected death of a city employee or out of pocket medical costs for a City Light employee diagnosed with cancer and un-



Chief Dean and EASE Open House Keynote Speaker, Councilmember Bruce Harrell with Dallas Baker, Local 27 Benefits Officer

2011 Election Season Begins

by Kenny Stuart

Currently, the Local 27 Political Action Committee is preparing for the upcoming election season. Five Seattle City Council seats are up and all of the incumbents are running for re-election. All five of the incumbents: Tim Burgess, Tom Rasmussen, Jean Godden, Bruce Harrell, and Sally Clark have been good friends to fire fighters. They have reached out to Local 27 before making critical decisions regarding the fire department to ask for our perspective and have taken tough positions to protect

public safety and fire fighters. They have supported City of Seattle employees and worker's rights. They have been responsible leaders during tough economic times and have prioritized public safety while maintaining other important public services. In the midst of attacks on public employees across the country, the Seattle City Council unanimously passed Resolution 31271 which honors and supports public employees. The Resolution specifically states the Council's support for the rights of public employees to organize and bargain collectively, as well as the Council's opposition against restricting or

eliminating collective bargaining in the state of Washington. The Resolution clearly demonstrates the value of Local 27's political action program. We have developed a great working relationship with these city leaders and have found many ways to work together to accomplish the mission of the City of Seattle and the fire department. Our early endorsements of these candidates reflect our loyalty and commitment to those who stand with us. As the campaigns develop, Local 27 will need your help to support these friends. Follow the campaigns on the Local 27 website and look for ways to help. As always, your participation is vital to our continued success.

20th Annual Firefighter Stairclimb

by James Hillard



March 6, 2011

The 20th Annual Firefighter Stairclimb is in the books. It was a job well done by the 20 finishers of Team Seattle. Top Seattle finisher was Jon Carwin at 13:50. Climbing the second tallest high rise on the West Coast in full gear is a lesson in humility for anyone who attempts it. This year 1500+ firefighters nearly crashed the registration website for a dose of that humility, and a chance to support a great cause. Registration sold out 10

hours after opening, catching everyone off-guard and leaving Seattle with a smaller than usual team.

The event also continues to shatter fundraising records – on pace this year to raise over \$800,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Donations are accepted through

March 31. At this writing, Team Seattle is 3/4 of the way to its fundraising goal. Lead fundraisers this year are Matt Runte, Mike Bollinger, and Ken Whitehair who together raised over half of the team total. Thanks to the SFP&D for another awesome performance and to all the volunteers who make this event possible.



Jon Carwin at the top

If you are reading this before March 31, there is still time to donate. Go to: http://www.lswa.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=33627&pg=team&fr_id=1161, make a donation and be part of the team! Look for an early notice this fall for 2012 registration dates. Goals for Team Seattle 2012: more members, more donations, better times.

Team Seattle 2011		
1.	Jon Carwin	13:50
2.	Bobby Crawford	15:00
3.	Dan Peterson	15:32
4.	Michael Dulas	16:18
5.	Chris Martin	16:39
6.	James Hilliard	17:05
7.	Tim O'Mahony	17:46
8.	Kenneth Whitehair	17:54
9.	Greg Reichlin	18:05
10.	Matthew Runte	18:09
11.	Josh Gibbs	18:12
12.	Dan Nelson	20:02
13.	Todd Langdalen	20:24
14.	Kyle Green	22:41
15.	Adam Hadley	23:24
16.	Sean Plattner	23:34
17.	Mike Bollinger	26:23
18.	Leonardo Castaneda	26:57
19.	Michael Sulak	27:34
20.	Charles Turner	32:15

photo credit: Dave Peery

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Limit Your Exposures

by Dallas Baker

As Seattle Fire Fighters we know it is inevitable in the course of our job that we will be exposed to IDLH atmospheres, communicable diseases and numerous other hazardous exposures throughout a shift. We accept the risk because we know how to protect ourselves; we use our SCBA for respiratory protection, our turnout gear protects us against most contaminants in a fire (not all), we use gloves, glasses, masks and gowns on EMS responses and we decon as well as we can to minimize our exposures in the stations.

For too many years we had fire fighters living in stations with diesel exhaust being discharged freely into the apparatus bay and subsequently flowing into our beaneries, bunk rooms, and into our lungs. We have also attended too many funerals of our brothers and sisters whom have died prematurely as a result of diesel contaminant-related cancers. Now we have the Nederman exhaust extraction system but the Nederman only works if we use it. Whether you have a drive through apparatus bay or not, it is vitally important to reconnect the Nederman each and every time as soon as the rig enters the apparatus bay.

We know the risk of cancer from this type of exposure is cumulative so keeping exposures to a minimum is our best defense against more fire fighters being stricken with these cancers.

We need the same zero tolerance approach when we fight fires. We need to remain diligent about wearing our SCBA's at small fires and during overhaul operations. Using a four gas detector to determine whether or not you wear an SCBA does not safe guard you from all harmful cancer causing exposures. There are far too many very very harmful contaminants in the post fire environment for me to list here but don't be fooled by the cool light smoke; the fumes and particulates of today's combustibles are extremely carcinogenic. We have presumptive legislation that covers just a few of the cancers fire fighters get as a result of these exposures but that is a small consolation for someone fighting for their life.

I honestly believe that we are one of the best in the nation in our diligence for proper PPE on EMS responses but we need to remain committed to maintain our standard and

continue to look for even better compliance. One area in which I think the department can make improvements is in our equipment maintenance and decontamination. Whether it is boot scrubbers, professional bunking gear cleaning, or better decontamination of our living quarters, there is room for improvement to reduce the exposures to which we are regularly exposed.

Overall, we must be aggressive and proactive in limiting our exposure to these job related hazards. We cannot rely on the department alone to protect us. Local 27 is striving for a safer, healthier fire fighter career, followed by a long and healthy retirement. While Local 27 is doing all we can for fire fighter safety, you must also take responsibility for your safety. Keep each other diligent at limiting exposures, be the one that connects the Nederman when returning from that late night response, and be the one that wears your SCBA during that little dryer or kitchen fire. Don't roll the dice on these seemingly innocuous exposures; they are anything but innocuous.

WSCFF/IAFF 2011 Legislative Conferences

by Theresa A. Purtell



Fire fighters are facing significant challenges at the state, federal, and local levels. Lawmakers are facing a 4.7 Billion dollar shortfall in the state budget. The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters Annual Legislative Conference took place January 31st and February 1st, 2011 in Olympia, WA. It brought together fire fighters representing locals throughout the state. The conference provided WSCFF members the opportunity to strengthen relationships with elected officials and to lobby on priority legislation. Working to protect past gains and advance the cause of fire fighters was our primary purpose. Below are the bills on which we focused our attention:

- Our first task was working to assure adoption of pension rates as recommended by the LEOFF2 Board. The LEOFF2 Retirement Board adopted a six year plan

to keep LEOFF2 fully funded, while recovering from historical losses, without raising contribution rates.

- Two other "agency bills" from the LEOFF2 Plan Board which required our attention were House Bill 1444 and Senate Bill 5353 – these bills would remove the penalty for re-marriage of a surviving LEOFF Plan 2 spouse. Workers compensation does not allow a spouse of a LEOFF2 member killed in the line of duty to remarry without it affecting benefits. This bill is currently in Senate Ways and Means and will likely die there.
- House Bill 1445 and Senate Bill 5354 - The Presumptive Occupational Disease Law Enforcement Officers and Fire fighters. The recent death of Federal Way Police Officer, Brian Walsh, (who suffered a heart attack while on duty during an emergency response) exposed a troubling gap in worker's compensation and LEOFF2 coverage for public safety employees. His death was not considered "Line of Duty." Heart attacks or strokes that happen while a member is engaged in unusually stressful or strenuous work activity would be presumed to be "duty related" with passage of this bill, unless medical evidence was shown it was not duty related. The bill received a public hearing February 22nd, 2011 in Ways and Means. WSCFF is still working to keep this bill moving.
- House Bill 1476, Senate Bill 5381, "Simple Majority for Fire Levies": this bill has not received a hearing and is likely dead.
- Successful lobbying helped defeat House Bill 1377 which WSCFF and Local 27 opposed. It would have affected arbitration, which today provides a level playing field. House Bill 1377 would have significantly tipped the scale toward

the employer. Some of the verbiage that we strongly opposed was, "ability of the employer to pay." Public Employer Relations Committee has not received any complaints about arbitration or arbitrators. It delivers even distribution of rulings in favor of both labor and employers.

Uniformed personnel have not created the economic difficulties now being faced by cities or fire districts nor have we declined to address the needs of local government employers.

The following members were in Olympia lobbying on behalf of Local 27: Theresa Purtell, Ken Stuart, Dallas Baker, Dennis Karl, Aaron Karls, Greg Shoemake, Dave Churchill, Dave Faires, Mike Russell, and Leo Casteneda.

The 2011 IAFF A. K. Whitehead Legislative Conference on March 13-17, 2011 in Washington, D.C., Will provide the same opportunities with Federal elected officials, while lobbying on priority legislation. The following issues will be addressed:

- Public Sector Pensions- The IAFF opposes efforts to force states to dismantle fire fighter pension plans or enable states to avoid their responsibilities to their employees and retirees by declaring bankruptcy.
- SAFER and FIRE Grants- The IAFF supports level funding for SAFER and FIRE grants, and extending fire waivers. Providing sufficient funding for SAFER and FIRE is more critical than ever. As the economic downturn persists, local fire departments are forced to cut services and staffing, as well as postpone purchases of critically needed equipment, apparatus, and training. Seattle received the benefit of these grants through equipment/apparatus purchases and training.
- Federal Fire Fighter Presumptive Disability- The IAFF supports the Federal Firefighter Fairness Act and encourages members of congress to co-sponsor the legislation.
- Tax Exemption for Employer Provided Healthcare- The IAFF opposes the taxation of employer-provided healthcare benefits. Fire fighters have accepted lower wages in exchange for benefit coverage. Taxing health benefits will only make things worse for fire fighters by adding thousands of dollars in additional taxes.
- Mandatory Social Security Coverage- The IAFF opposes mandatory social security coverage for non-covered public sector employees. The social security benefits of people who also receive a pension from non-social security covered employment are significantly reduced.

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Chief Youngs' truck is for sale. The details are below. Please contact Marie Youngs with any questions: 253-921-0362

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Local 27 Calendar

April

- 7th- West Seattle MDA Lock Up
- 14th- Station Rep/Reg. Bus. Meeting (D shift), 9am, L27
- 15th- SFD Awards Ceremony

May

- 5th-7th- Fire Ops
- 12th- Station Rep / Reg. Bus. Meeting (D shift), 9am, L27
- 30th -Local 27 offices closed in observance of the holiday

June

- 2nd- MDA Space Needle Lock Up
- 9th- Station Rep / Reg. Bus. Meeting (D shift), 9am, L27

Happy 93rd Birthday IAFF Local 27!

First chartered on February 28th, 1918 IAFF Local 27 is still going strong! The original Certification of Affiliation hangs on the wall of our office. It is a little older and faded but is still very much appreciated by all of us whom have benefited from Local 27 over the years.