



SALT LAKE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

**1864 South Berkeley Street,
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
(801) 582-0467 www.slrfa.org**



February 1, 2008

Retired Firefighters' Dinner Meeting Tuesday, February 12, 2008.



**Cowboy Grub Restaurant, 2350 ½ South Foothill Drive (Rear)
Social Hour 6:30. Dinner 7:00.**

Our guest speakers, Ryan Mellor and Marty Peterson, will update us on the Utah Legislature's 2008 session. They both have all the latest information. Marty serves on the Retirement Board and Ryan is the Legislative Liaison for IAFF Local 1645 and the Secretary Treasurer of the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations.

Dinner will be from the restaurant menu which has a nice selection of options.

**R.S.V.P. by 5:00 PM Sunday, 12/9/07
to Dale Lund (801) 466-1110 or (810) 557-2411
or George Sumner (801) 582-0467 or (801) 831-5010.**

Our meetings are fun, friendly and informative. We especially want to encourage our new members to come out and share friendship, conversation and common interests with us.

Mark Your Calendar

Ivins Party, April 26, 2008

Utah State Firemen's Convention, June 12-14, 2008 (Hosted by "Wasatch Back FD's)

Retired Firefighters Meet for Lunch Once a Month

Our Board members have attended a few informal luncheon meetings held by retired members of Unified Fire Authority. The fifteen to twenty retired firefighters there made us welcome. We had a great time renewing friendships with colleagues we only saw occasionally at large fires or

inter-department training or at conventions or seminars.

The meetings begin at **11:30AM, the second Tuesday of every month, at Golden Corral, 3399 W 3500 South.** All retired firefighters are welcome.

There's Still Time to Participate in the Firefighter Study!

Many retired firefighters have already participated in the occupational disease study, but many still have not. The good news is that there is still time, according to Kurt Hegmann, MD, MPH, of the University of Utah's Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (RMCOEH). The RMCOEH is conducting the study, which was funded by the Utah legislature in 2006.

For the past months RMCOEH has been working with municipalities and fire departments in the state. "We are working with those agencies to send information to current and past firefighters to encourage them to enroll in the study and answer questions on a computer," says Dr. Hegmann. Study participants can also participate by telephone. "We then get information from the Utah Cancer Registry for all firefighters participating to get precise cancer diagnoses. We will then compare cancer rates to see if we can find evidence of increased risk for various types of cancers among the firefighters in Utah."

The study has not been without its problems. "The single biggest challenge is getting enough people to participate," says Dr. Hegmann. The SLRFA has been involved in locating retirees from Salt Lake City Fire, but has not been approached to help with retirees from other departments. He reports that some retirees have provided their information over the phone, and several have expressed appreciation to his

staff for working on the study.

All firefighters, retired firefighters in Utah who have worked full time as a firefighter for at least a year since 1980, are strongly urged to participate. Spouses of deceased firefighters who meet the above criteria are also encouraged to participate. If you have received a notice in the mail, please follow up on it. If you meet the above criteria and have not received a notice in the mail call RMCOEH at 801-581-4800 or toll free at 800-444-8683, extension 14800. Retirees on departments other than the SLCFD who have not received a letter should contact their department and push them to act on it. You can also contact Ray Schelble at 801-272-0145 or rschelble@qwest.net if you have any questions or problems.

In the case of SLCFD retirees, unfortunately, there are still quite a few we have not been able to locate. Please encourage anyone who has not received a letter to call. We probably have a letter for them but just haven't found them.

This is important stuff!! Make sure you are counted. Opportunities like this that can help those who come behind us do not come often.

A link to the firefighter study and more information on the Rocky Mountain Center is available on the web at <http://uuhsc.utah.edu/rmcoeh>

Future Newsletters will be Sent by email

If we have your email address, you are already getting the newsletter by email, but you get another one mailed the old fashioned way. Starting next month, only those members who do not have email will get the newsletter via US Postal Service. This will save the SLCFD Firemen's Relief Association the cost of postage, and it will save the Retired FF Association the cost of

printing and all the work folding and stuffing.

If you are getting the newsletter by email and still want a hard copy, let George Sumner know at tkhose@msn.com. If you want to add your email address to our list, let Ray Schelble know at rschelble@qwest.net.

Transitions

Promotion

Mark Morger, Captain, SLCFD

Retirements

November, 2007

Daniel Roarke McDermott,
SLCFD

December, 2007

Rick Ringwood, Captain, UFA
Dave Blank, Firefighter, SLCFD

January, 2008

Dorrell Henderson, Firefighter,
SLCFD

Larry Derrick, Firefighter,
SLCFD

Tom Kuhlmann, Deputy Chief,
Provo FD

New Hires

January, 2008, SLCFD

Richard Bullock

Amy Hellewell

Greg Holmes

Shannon Hoyt

Clint Lewis

Greg Miller

Ryan Snow

Jon Swahlen

Condor Book Mystery Solved

For the past several years, Captain Danny Sorensen at Salt Lake City Station 2 has been pulling together all the lore involved with the Condor. He located the remnants of the old bird and Nick Nichols rebuilt it. The only part missing was the book with the old citations in it. The SLRFA has been helping in the search for the book.

On December 24, 2007, Danny sent the following email:

Fellow Firefighters,

About a month ago I received word that Mike Harp had discovered, in the Relief Association house behind Station 6, what appeared to be the original book of The Royal Order of Condor. The book had not been there previously, and had mysteriously shown up.

I went to Station 6 and got the book. It indeed appears to be the original book. All that remains of the binder is the three-

ring spine and the back cover, which is not attached to the spine. One of the pages is marked "Front," and that story lists the first seven or eight events that lead up to that particular story, therefore giving us a very accurate first-history of the travels of the Condor. Several of the letters refer to the passing of the Condor Perch. Originally just the perch was sent around before the bird itself was built.

I have cataloged ninety-three (93) stories dated from 1967 to 1978. The earliest dated letter is August 3, 1967, although there are several before this date that were not dated. From 1978 there seems to be a void between this original book and the current book. More research will be needed to find out what is still missing. This is a tremendous find for us to have this early history and record of the travels of the Condor. You would be surprised how many times it was sent to the Alarm Office in the

early days.

I will be making copies of these early entries for inclusion in the back-up books, and the main book will be updated to include these originals.

I thought you would all be interested to know of this great find. I wish you all a

very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And I warn you, The Condor is watching you!

P.S. To Mike Harp, thank you for this great find!

IRS Publishes Instructions on HELPS Benefit

From the IAFF website

The IRS has published new instructions on how retired fire fighters can take advantage of the Healthcare Enhancement for Local Public Safety (HELPS) benefit on their 2007 tax returns.

Last year, the IAFF won an unprecedented congressional victory in the passage of the HELPS retiree health care benefit, a tax-free distribution of up to \$3,000 from retirement plans to help retirees pay for health insurance or long-term care insurance premiums. The IRS instructions for filing 2007 tax returns explains how to take advantage of this valuable benefit. The IRS will allow retired fire fighters to exclude from income distributions made

from eligible retirement plans up to \$3,000 annually to pay the premiums for accident or health insurance or long-term care insurance. The premiums can be for coverage for the retiree, spouse or dependents. The distribution must be made directly from the retirement plan to the insurance provider. Eligible retirement plans include qualified trusts, section 403(a) plans, section 403(b) annuities and section 457(b) plans.

Instructions can be found online at www.iaff.org/07News/PDF/HELPSinstructions.pdf or consult the person who prepares your taxes

In Memorium

Our condolences are extended to the survivors of our departed friends.

- Retired SLCFD Battalion Chief Avard Rogers died December 1, 2007. Avard served on SLCFD from 1939 to 1974.
- Dora M. Long died December 28, 2007. Dora is the wife of retired SLCFD Firefighter, the late Darwin Long, and the mother of retired SLCFD Firefighter Jeffrey Long.
- Arlan Lee Goudy, brother of retired SLCFD Firefighter Dennis Goudy, died January 2, 2008.
- Darlene Bohn Cantonwine died January 11, 2008. Darlene is the mother of retired SLCFD Firefighter Calvin Cantonwine and the sister of retired SLCFD Firefighters, the late Charles "Pep" Bohn and the late Alma Bohn.
- Val Dean Crawford died January 18, 2008. Val is the father of Valerie Greensides, who works in Unified Fire Authority logistics. Valerie is married to UFA Firefighter Michael Greensides.
- Marco Stohl Osterloh died January 29, 2008. Marco is the mother of Sydney Stoddard, wife of retired SLCFD Firefighter Gary Stoddard.