



SALT LAKE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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



August 21, 2008

Retired Firefighters' Summer Party Saturday, September 6, 2008.



**A Picnic in the Park at
3600 South 2000 East, SLC**

Park opens at 4:00pm. Dinner at 5:00pm.

The menu will be buffet style fried chicken and/or pot roast with all the fixin's.
Cost is only \$15.00 per person. Pay when you arrive.

Come early to socialize and enjoy live before-dinner music by
"The Right Combonation," featuring Gene Campbell on drums.

Please R.S.V.P. by 5:00 PM Sunday, 9/7/08
to Dale Lund (801) 466-1110 or (810) 557-2411
or George Sumner (801) 582-0467 or (801) 831-5010.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Informal "meeting" of retired firefighters, Golden Corral, 3399 W 3500 South.** 11:30AM, the second Tuesday of every month. All retired firefighters are welcome.
- **Next meeting of Salt Lake Retired Firefighter Association.** Tuesday, October 14, 2008. Cowboy Grub Restaurant, 2350 ½ South Foothill Drive (rear), SLC. Social Hour 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm.
- **Salt Lake Retired Firefighter Association Christmas Party.** Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Cowboy Grub Restaurant, 2350 ½ South Foothill Drive (rear), SLC. Social Hour 6:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm.

If You Haven't Yet Responded to the Firefighter Presumptive Disease Study, Please Read This

First, thanks to all the retirees who already completed this survey. The survey is extremely important to the future of Utah firefighters and our families. The firefighter and police presumptive disease study was funded by the 2006 Utah legislature to study whether certain diseases should be presumed to be job related for firefighters and police officers and therefore automatically covered by workers' compensation insurance. University of Utah/Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational & Environmental Health (RMC) is conducting the study.

To date, RMC does not have enough responses to make a statistically significant sample. Too few active and retired firefighters from all the full-time paid fire departments in Utah have responded to the study. In order to get a bigger sample, RMC has extended their deadline. We really need every full-time firefighter who worked any time after 1980 to respond. Surviving spouses of deceased firefighters who served during this time are also asked to fill out a survey. Retirees play a big part in this!

Following are some of the reasons firefighters have given for not taking the survey, and the researchers' answers.

- **It isn't important enough to take the time to do it:**
Your participation could help you, your family and all full-time Utah firefighters. Although it is difficult to measure the potential impact of the study, without enough people participating the study will not have the chance to make a difference.
- **It doesn't apply to me as I haven't really been exposed or I do not have any physical problems:**

The study needs a complete group or there is no way to come up with any conclusions.

- **Concerns about privacy:**
Privacy is a TOP concern, and the researchers emphasize that there is nothing they take more seriously than protecting participants' identity and information. They stress that the study was NOT involved in the security issue where personal information was stolen from the U of U. RMC has never had a breach of security regarding any studies. The reason social security numbers are needed is because it is the best, and pretty much only, way that the Utah Cancer Registry can positively match up individual cancers in their database. Since cancer is the primary focus of this study, that identifier is very important. If individuals still feel uncomfortable giving their SSN, they can give just the last 4 digits or not give the number at all, if absolutely necessary.

If you have not received a letter or no longer have the letter you received, please contact Toni Chambers (801-581-4800, or toll free at 1-800-444-8683, extension 14800) and she can assist you. You can complete the study online or by telephone. It only takes about 30 minutes or less to do the online survey, and where allowed please add all the comments you can think of. Please, act on this immediately and share this information with others who should know about it.

To take the survey online (requires a study ID number you can get by calling the number above):
<https://secure.uuhsc.utah.edu/rmcoeh/consent/>

Voting on New Officers will Take Place at the Summer Party

There will be a very brief business meeting during the summer party on September 9, in order to vote on the new officers. There aren't any hard-fought political battles to be won or lost, there is only one nominee for each position.

POSITION	INCUMBENT	NEW NOMINEE
President	Dale Lund	Rick Soltis
1 st Vice President	Rick Soltis	Norm Anderson
2 nd Vice President	Barry Bonham	Barry Bonham
Trustee	Gene Campbell	Gene Campbell
Trustee	Varnell Parkinson	Andy Gomez
Trustee	Ray Schelble	Ray Schelble
Trustee	Brent Darger	Brent Darger
Trustee (Alternate)	Bob Pendleton	Bob Pendleton
Secretary/Treasurer	George Sumner	George Sumner



Please take the time to give your personal thanks to Dale Lund (pictured on the left) and Varnell “Parky” Parkinson (pictured on the right), who are stepping down. They have served a long time and have done a great job keeping our association humming along smoothly.



SLCFD Yearbook Portraits

The Salt Lake City Fire Department is in the process of putting together a new version of the department yearbook. Mike Harp is coordinating the effort, and wants to include as many retirees as possible.

If you had your portrait taken at the Ivins get-together, we already have it (See Dale’s and Parky’s, above). For those retirees who have not yet had a portrait taken, Mike has set up the following times:

August 25, 26, 28 — 9:30 to 11:30a.m. Station 1 (211 South 500 East) and 1:00 to 3:00p.m. at Station 11 (581 North 2360 West, on the east side of the airport)

September 9, 10, and 11 — 9:30 to 11:30a.m. Station 1 and 1:00 to 3:00p.m. at Station 11

Ray Schelble is helping coordinate for the SLRFA. If you have any questions or problems, contact Ray at 801-272-0145 or email at rschelble@qwest.net or info@slrfa.org

Newly Retired Firefighter Helps Out Around the Home

The new retiree had time weighing heavily on his hands, so he decided to help out with the domestic chores his wife usually took care of. “Honey,” he yelled from the laundry room, “What setting should I use on the washer for a load of T-shirts.”

“Read what it says on your T-shirt.” His wife replied, rolling her eyes.

The retiree yelled back, “It says, ‘Firefighters Still Make House Calls.’”

In Memorium

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

- Roseltha Ann Parrish Gruendell, wife of retired Salt Lake City firefighter, the late Albert Gruendell, died June 22, 2008.
- Thomas Moth Iversen, son of retired Salt Lake City firefighter Monroe Iversen and brother of Salt Lake City firefighter Leonard Iversen, died July 12, 2008.
- Vern L. Gillespie, Jr, retired Salt Lake City firefighter, died July 17, 2008.
- David Andrew Barrett, retired Salt Lake City firefighter, died July 30, 2008.

Transitions

Promotions

June 15, 2008

Mark Carson, Battalion Chief, SLCFD
Devin Villa, Deputy Chief, SLCFD

Retirements

May 30, 2008

Kevin Adams, Captain, SLCFD

June 28, 2008

Dan Andrus, Deputy Chief, SLCFD
John Hansen, Firefighter, SLCFD



You May be Eligible for a Discount Golf Pass for Salt Lake City Municipal Courses

Salt Lake City retirees may be eligible for a free “SLC Frequent Player Golf Discount Card,” good for a 30% discount on green fees and range balls. Spouses and dependents who are covered by one of SLC’s medical plans may purchase the discount card for an annual fee of \$25.00 plus tax. You need to call ahead

(801) 485-7730 to make an appointment. Applications are filled out and pictures taken for the ID card by appointment at Forest Dale Clubhouse, 2375 South 900 East.

Pension Reform Receives National Attention

(Excerpt of a book review by Todd Sutton in the UPEA Newsletter, July 2008.)

The cover of Roger Lowenstein’s latest book, *While America Aged*, shows a shovel next to a man who has his head in a newly dug hole in the ground. In the book, Lowenstein examines the dire circumstances that plague pension systems in both the private and public sector.

Fortunately, Utah’s public employee pension system is an exception to the trends Lowenstein points out. While private systems are changing from defined benefit to defined contribution systems and public systems like San Diego and New York are

re-negotiating benefits because they are under funded, Utah’s system is funded between 0.90 and 0.95 for every dollar of projected liability.

Utah’s pension system is a fiscally sound benefit that compares favorably to other public employee systems, especially in light of recent reforms Lowenstein discusses.

Nevertheless, we must still remain vigilant. Bills in the 2007 and 2008 Utah Legislative Sessions would have undermined this benefit.