

SALT LAKE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
1651 PEACEFUL CIRCLE, SOUTH JORDAN, UTAH 84095
(801) 254-9208 Website www.slrfa.org
February 2, 2007

Our February dinner meeting will be held at the Cowboy Grub Restaurant on February 13, 2007. As always an RSVP is helpful to let the restaurant be prepared. Call Dale Lund at (801) 557-2411 (cell ph.) or Gene Campbell at 254-9208. (Dale wants us to use his cell phone number for now as his daughter is often on line taking classes over the internet from the University Of Utah, which ties up his home phone.) The “Cowboy” is at 2350 South Foothill Drive (rear). Social at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be from their menu. Members and friends are all welcome and encouraged to be there.

Marty Peterson is planning to be at the dinner to fill us in on current information from the State Legislature. (See notes by Marty in this letter.) As many of you know, Marty is an expert on our pension system and it will serve you well to hear what he has to say.

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Our December Christmas party was well attended and everyone seemed to have a great time. The Relief Association, through Gina Bell, provided beautiful poinsettias for those attending. We can always make room for more so come on out to some of our get-togethers. Don't think of all the reasons why you can't make it; just think of one reason why you can. Everyone is welcomed with open arms. Our agenda is good food, companionship, and often information that is pertinent to all of us as retirees.

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Barry Bonham informs us there will be a Spring Dinner sponsored by the Relief Association on March 21 and 22 at the Red Lion Hotel. Those wanting to attend will be required to RSVP. Barry's number is 706-2904. He works on B Platoon at #9 Station. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. Menu will be catered barbeque. Hours – social at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. After dinner they will have a band for dancing.

Barry hasn't arranged a golf tournament yet but it is planned for May. More information will be posted in our April letter.

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Recently retired and soon to be retired: Coralie Wilkes, Wayne Edginton, Brad Larsen, Ray Robbs, C.J. Lawrence, Cathy Cooper and Rick Soltis. If you are on Ray Schelble's email list he posts these events. Also check our website for such information.

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We had just dropped the December letter at the post office feeling good that we had no recent deaths to report when we received notice of at least three deaths later that day. The following members and relatives have passed on since then:

Lorie Jacobs, born November 27, 1940, wife of Duane Jacobs died on Oct. 3, 2006. Preceded in death by her parents and son, James. Survived by Duane and seven children; Stephany, Mark, Kerry, Lincoln, Jennifer, Tammy and Shawn.

LaVerl T. Southworth, age 68, husband of Norma Mary-Ann Southworth, died on November 21, 2006. Verl served on the SLC fire department for 25 years. He is survived by his wife Norma and children, Carrie, Craig and Cindy.

David Harold Hoehner, son of Julia and the late Harold Hoehner died on November 23, 2006. David was born on July 28, 1955. He is survived by his mother and sisters Ann and Kathy.

LaMar “Crock” Crocker, age 79, died on November 25, 2006. He served on the fire department for 27 years; many of those years as a captain at headquarters, Station #1. He is survived by his wife Aenona (Noni) and his sons Gary and Kevin.

Lloyd Douglas Brooks, 1933 – 2006, died on December 5, 2006. “Brooksie” and his wife, Adrian raised four children, Timothy, Susan, Robin and James. He was preceded in death by Timothy and Susan.

Joseph Donald Hill, Jr., age 67, husband of Judy Hill, died on December 27 2006. Don retired from the SLC Fire Department after 30 years of service. He served as an officer of the Firefighters Credit Union for many years.

Michael Lynn Livingston, 1973 – 2007, died on January 27, 2007. Michael is the son of M. Lynn and Sharon Livingston. Michael was 33 years of age. He is survived by his parents Lynn and Sharon, his children Hayden, Hunter, and Marcus.

Jay Russell (Russ) Anderson died on January 28, 2007 in Lynnwood, Washington at the age of 85. Russ is the father of Roy Anderson (wife Sharron). He served on the SLC Fire Department from Sept. 1, 1946 to 1970. His obituary will appear in the Salt Lake Tribune Thursday February 8th. Graveside service at Wasatch. Lawn 2/10/07, 1:30 p.m.

Our sincere condolences go out to the spouses and families of these who have passed on.

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The board of our association will sometimes miss an obituary. If we do so please bring it to our attention and we will put it in the next letter. You can notify Ray Schelble on our website or by phone at (801) 272-0145 or Gene Campbell at (801) 254-9208.

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For those of you who have Internet accounts with Networld.com, there have been some problems lately getting the Local 1645/SLRFA email notices delivered to you. Ray reports that a spam filter is rejecting the messages and he's trying to resolve it.

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Local 1645 has been investigating a program in New York that has been reporting success treating FDNY firefighters for a variety of illnesses and physical problems after the 911 events. The Utah Attorney General's office is exploring the possibility of bringing the program to Utah this year to see if it can help our firefighters and drug task force police officers, particularly those of us who are experiencing some chronic illnesses. It reportedly includes three to six weeks of rigorous diet control and exercise.

This program is being considered to try to address problems faced by our firefighters and police officers during the time a two-year occupational disease study of Utah firefighters and police is being conducted. Nothing is certain and information is a bit sketchy right now. We'll let you know more as it becomes available.

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SLRFA Supports Third Annual Utah Fire Caucus

The Utah Fire Caucus convened at noon on January 29, 2007, to present some awards and enjoy a few hours of tasty food and good conversation. Over 70 Utah legislators packed the luncheon at the Utah Capitol and got a chance to meet the firefighters who serve in their districts.

Fire Caucus co-chairs for 2007 are Senator Curtis Bramble, Representative David Clark, Senator Patricia Jones and Representative Brad King. Awards were presented to outgoing Fire Caucus co-chair Senator Patrice Arent and Senator Ed Mayne for his longtime service to Utah's firefighters. SLCFD Battalion Chief Reinhard Kauffmann and his son, SLC Firefighter Jeff Kauffmann, received awards from Co-chair Brad King for working together at a haz-mat incident last year to rescue several downed SLC firefighters.

Firefighters came to Salt Lake from across the state to help. Formed in 2004, the Utah Fire Caucus is an organization of Utah legislators that promotes communication with firefighters and helps educate legislators about fire service issues.

The Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations (Joint Council), a Utah organization that includes labor, fire chiefs and a variety of Utah fire service organizations, works closely with Fire Caucus members. Funding for the luncheon was provided by donations from friends of the fire service, and included a **\$500 donation from the SLRFA**. The luncheon organizers expressed their great appreciation for our organization's involvement.

Information on the Utah Fire Caucus can be found at www.utahfirecaucus.org and the Joint Council can be found at www.firecouncil.com. *(See photo below)*

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One way retirees can help out is to let your state senators or representatives know you appreciate their participation in the Utah Fire Caucus, or if they are not members ask them why. Members of the Fire Caucus and contact information for legislators can be found at www.utahfirecaucus.org/members.htm. Remember, whenever you communicate

with your legislator do it respectfully, keep it short and in letters and emails always include your full name and address in the message.

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The Condor Flies Again

For years The Condor was something you didn't want to have perched at your station. All that traveling over the years took a toll on the old bird, and right around the Olympics was sent from Station 7 to a local taxidermist for a makeover. It wasn't seen for about five years. A few months ago SLCFD Captain Dan Sorensen took it upon himself to track it down. All that was left was the perch and the head. With a lot of help from retired firefighter Nick Nichols, who made the original bird almost 40 years ago, Dan got the old bird back together. It was put back in service at Station 1 on January 9, 2007, (*see photo below*) and is now perched at Station 7 again. You can read the whole story in the next issue of Backdraft magazine.

That's the good news. Unfortunately, the book entries only date back to about 1985 or so, and everything older than that is missing. We ask that anyone with any information on where these older entries may be, or who may have copies of any or all of them, please let us know so the guys on the job can revive this great tradition. If you have any information contact Ray Schelble (801-272-0145) or one of the other SLRFA board members. Thanks, Dan, for all your work.

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Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution By Marty Peterson

There is a lot of pressure both nationally and within Utah to move public employees from defined benefit retirement plans to defined contribution. Firefighters currently have a defined benefit pension, which provides a defined amount of retirement income. Since 1983, our firefighters earn 2.5% of final average salary for each year of service for the first 20 years, and 2% of final average salary for the next 10 years. So a firefighter retiring with 30 years of service has earned a defined benefit of 70% of final average salary. Some other factors can be added to the benefit but this is a simplified explanation. A defined contribution pension can be varied and flexible. A set contribution is deposited into an employee's account — usually a 401 (k) — and the employee is responsible to manage the funds over his/her career. So, an arrangement is made to deposit a defined amount, say 8% of wages monthly into a 401(k) and then the employee decides how to manage (invest and withdraw) the funds based on current law and tax restrictions. There are other factors to consider in this, too but not in a simplified explanation. Many in private industry are going to these types of plans and there is pressure in the Utah legislature to do that for the state's public employees.

PHOTOS



Firefighters and Utah legislators give a standing ovation after Reinhard Kauffman and his son, Jeff Kauffman received their award at the Utah Fire Caucus luncheon.



Nick Nichols tells the Condor story to SLCFD crews at a ceremony January 9, 2007, at Station 1. (Jay Dyal Photo)