

SALT LAKE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

1651 Peaceful Circle, South Jordan, Utah 84095

(801) 254-9208 www.slrfa.org

April 3, 2007

IVINS PARTY SATURDAY, APRIL 21st

You and your partner are invited to our annual spring party in Ivins, Utah.

It will be hosted at Harold and Judy Turner's house at
375 North 200 West in Ivins.

Social at 3:00 p.m. – Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

Cost will be based on expenses – approx. \$10.00 to \$12.00 per person.

**RSVP is helpful. Call Dale Lund at (801) 466-1110 or
Harold Turner at (435) 673-2262**

If you are coming from the north, exit on St. George Boulevard -- go right on St. George Boulevard to Bluff Street. Turn right. On Bluff go straight through the intersection at Sunset to the road to Ivins on the left hand side of the street.

Dale Lund and Gene Campbell were recently invited (by Bob Pendleton, County retiree) to an informal luncheon at the Golden Corral to meet with several retired firefighters from the Salt Lake County Fire Department, which is now the Unified Fire Authority. They have been making an effort to form a retired association of their own and wanted input from our association. They were aware that two members of their department had joined our group some time ago and wanted to know more about us. We told them that our current goal is to expand our membership valley wide and they would be more than welcome to join us. As we have said many times "there is power in numbers."

Consequently, the following fellows joined our association: Frank A. Brown, James T. Burke, Don R. Fullmer, Harold J. Newbold, Robert L. Pendleton, Robert L. Swenson, Robert W. Timmerman, James J. Ungricht and Robert A. Wall.

Also joining us from the Salt Lake City Fire Dept. are new members, Cathy Cooper, Ray Robbs, C. J. Lawrence, Andy Gomez and Roger Halterman. Rick Soltis (already a member and our Vice President) also signed up for payroll deduction. To all of these new members a hearty welcome aboard. It brings our paying membership to a record high.

Bob Pendleton, who headed up our meeting at the Golden Corral, attended our recent board meeting. We asked at that time if he or someone else from the County retired fire fighters can keep us informed of news from their department for inclusion in our news letters. Hopefully someone will respond and we can get their information out. The county guys tell us that since Salt Lake County F. D. doesn't keep records of their retirees they have a difficult time locating and contacting them.

At our board meeting Bob mentioned that several of county retired firefighters meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at noon to have lunch and to socialize and that any of our group will be made welcome if they wish to join them. They meet at the Golden Corral at 3399 West 3500 South.

Salt Lake City Firemen's Relief Association notes:

The "Spring Fling" sponsored by the Relief Association on March 21 and 22 at the Red Lion turned out to be a fun event. A table of eight retirees on the March 22nd event was given recognition and enjoyed a nice buffet dinner and dance, along with the active firefighters.

The following events are available to past members of the Relief Association:

Golf Tournament at Davis Park Golf Course – May 15 & 16. \$10.00 green fees plus \$10.00 prize money. Tee times to be assigned. Notify Barry Bonham by May 10, or pay fees ahead of time at the Firefighters Credit Union (acct. #3043 G). 124 West 1400 South, Salt Lake City, Ut.

Lagoon Day July 10 & 11. Tickets are two for the price of one. If prepaid catered lunch is desired it must be paid for one week in advance at the Firefighters Credit Union (acct. 3043 L).

Annual steak fries will be held on August 7 & 8 at Terraces Campground in Millcreek Canyon. Catered by Miers Catering. Ribeye Steak -- \$10.00 per person.

The second golf tournament will be held on September 17 and 18 at Wasatch State Park (by Midway, Ut.). The course has allowed a "shotgun start" at 9:30 a.m. Fees will be \$20.00 to play and \$10.00 for prizes. Let Barry know if you are going to attend or pay fees at the Firefighters credit Union in advance (acct. #3043 G).

Utah State Firemen's Association convention will be held in Layton, Utah on June 14, 15 & 16. Delegates from Salt Lake City Fire Dept. are wanted. Those desiring to be delegates should send a letter of request to Gina Bell at the Training Division, 1600 Industrial Road, S.L.C. Utah 84104 by April 30th. She will get them to Craig Beckstrom, the current Relief Assn Representative to the SLRFA.

In Remembrance: Helen R. Fairclough died on March 18, 2007 in Salt Lake City. She is the widow of the late Dan Fairclough, retired firefighter who passed away several years ago.

Fern Simons Dimond Philpot, 87, died on March 2, 2007. She is the mother of Judy Hill and the grandmother of Salt Lake City firefighter Cary Hill.

Our condolences to Judy, Cary and their families and to the Fairclough family.

Congratulations to Clinton Barker are in order. Clint wrote an interesting article that appeared in the February 26, 2007, Tribune and Deseret News MediaOne supplement.

The supplement featured stories from veterans of the Pacific during World War II.

The article told of his involvement in the war from the time of his enlistment in the Marine Corp in November 1942 through the battle of Okinawa in 1945. Out of 65 men in his group only 8 came home. Thanks to Gary Reif for bringing this to our attention. It is good to know of some of the silent heroes in our midst who have served our country so well.

Thanks to Ray Schelble for the following information.

Out to pasture: Don't mess with state employee pensions

Salt Lake Tribune Editorial

February 21, 2007

Utah's public employee pension plan is a thoroughbred; a rock-solid, high-performing \$17 billion fund that will carry retirees through the homestretch of their lives. But the state Legislature is treating it like the old gray mare. If approved, House Bill 377, which would give state employees the option of withdrawing from the pension fund in favor of a 401(k) plan, would be the first step toward sending the traditional pension plan program to the glue factory.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. John Dougall, R-American Fork, is being billed as essential for recruiting and keeping talented employees, young, entrepreneurial types who want to make their own investments and control their own destinies. That's horse manure. A safe, secure, guaranteed pension fund has always been one of the plums of working for John Q. Public. It's a recruiting tool, and a retention tool, not a deterrent.

Utah's public employees have a pension system that rewards longevity, commitment and dedication by requiring employees to contribute for four years before they become vested. If a 401(k) plan becomes an option, it will attract short-timers and transients, people who are looking to take the money and run instead of paying their dues and acquiring the institutional knowledge necessary to make public agencies work, and work efficiently.

Do you want a revolving door at the police department, and the fire department, and the teacher's lounge? We don't.

We also worry that some public employees will reach for the stars and fall on their faces. If they forsake the safe, traditional guaranteed pension and their investments backfire, they could one day become wards of the state, instead of retired state employees. And we wonder if the bill's supporters are sincere about their reasons for putting a 401(k) plan into the mix. Is anyone clamoring for a choice of plans? Not a single public employee testified in favor of the bill.

What's really at work here is an attack by a conservative Legislature on a long-standing employee benefit. It's an attempt to follow the lead of private industry and reap a long-term savings in employee benefits instead of making a long-term investment in a stable of competent public employees.

Dougall's bill should be put out to pasture.

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The Outcome of HB 377

In the end, HB 377 *was* put out to pasture by the 2007 legislature. A greatly changed version of the bill eventually passed the Utah House of Representatives, but did not make it to a vote in the Senate. There is general concern that this issue will be around for the long haul, and that some reincarnation will be back in a future legislative session. As we have already been told, there is a strong movement in the Utah Legislature to change our state retirement system, including the Firefighters Retirement System.

Organizations such as the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations and the Professional Fire Fighters of Utah, which includes our IAFF locals in the state, are doing their best to look out for our interests on Capitol Hill. But they can only do so much.

As retirees, if we think our pension is important we would be well advised to pay more attention. The people we vote for can make a big difference. HB377 shows we have elected representatives out there who are not looking out for firefighters, and who want to "fix" a rock-solid system that isn't broken.

**Where's
The Book?**



As mentioned in the last SLRFA newsletter, the book entries for the Condor only date back to about 1985 or so, but the bird dates back to the late 1960s. The old book and all of the entries are still 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 share in this great tradition. The book can be returned anonymously, or the pages can be photocopied or, better still, scanned in and preserved electronically. The SLRFA can deal with what needs to be done. We'd just like to have back this valuable and colorful piece of Salt Lake City Fire Department history. Thanks to Jay Dyal for this photo of our rejuvenated bird.