



# SALT LAKE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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



October 5, 2009

## Retired Firefighters' Dinner Meeting Tuesday, October 13, 2009

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

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

**R.S.V.P. by 5:00 PM Sunday, 10/11/09**  
to George Sumner (801) 582-0467 or (801) 831-5010.

This meeting will feature an update on Utah Retirement System.

Marty Peterson will fill us in on the options being considered to keep the system's books balanced in the current economic downturn.

We especially want to encourage our new members to come out and share friendship, conversation and common interests with us.

## 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.
- **SL Retired Firefighter Association Christmas Party.** December 8, 2009. Cowboy Grub. Social 6:30. Dinner 7:00.

## One Firefighter's Junk is Another's Treasure (Silent Auction of Fire Service Memorabilia at the Christmas Party)

The Board of Directors, for a number of reasons, is considering a silent auction of Fire Service memorabilia at the Christmas party December 8 at Cowboy Grub. First, it will be a fun thing. Second, it will provide the opportunity for members to buy some Christmas gifts. Third, the revenue will be used to keep down the cost of the dinner for members who attend.

So far, this is just an idea. We need to find out whether we actually have stuff to auction off and whether Cowboy Grub can give us some space to set it up. The next newsletter will provide the final details.

Meanwhile, if you have any extra fire service memorabilia in good condition

you can donate it to the Retired Firefighter Association for the auction. We want to plan ahead, rather than just have stuff show up at the Christmas party, so donors are

asked to contact George Sumner ([gasumner@q.com](mailto:gasumner@q.com), 801-582-0467) before November 20, 2009.

## Thanks for sending your Email Addresses

Thanks to those of you who have opted to receive their correspondence by email, we have reduced our postage costs by 50% over the past year.

The SLCFD Relief Association generously pays our newsletter postage. However, the Relief Association's portfolio has lost value just like everyone else's, so we are trying to minimize costs by limiting our use of US Postal Service.

If we have your email address you will receive correspondence by email. Your newsletter arrives sooner and in color. Also, you get other correspondence that is not sent at all by USPS such as notices of funerals, promotions, retirements and other events of interest.

To get on the email list, please send an email to [gasumner@q.com](mailto:gasumner@q.com), [tkhose@msn.com](mailto:tkhose@msn.com) or [rschelble@qwest.net](mailto:rschelble@qwest.net).

## Good Times at the Summer Party

About 40 people showed up for a buffet, music and good times at the August 29 summer party.



"The Right Combonation," with Gene Campbell on drums, provided live music for the third year in a row.



Catered by Golden Corral, the food was plentiful, hot and good.



## Utah Retirement System (URS) Update

Marty Peterson will give us an in-person up-to-date briefing at the October meeting. Meanwhile, here is a copy of a September 22, 2009 open letter from IAFF 1645 President Jack Tidrow.

“To All,

“There has been a lot of discussion over the last 2-3 months regarding the URS and the status of our pensions. The media has generated some of the talk, and the rumor mill has provided the rest. As usual, some components are true and some are not.

“First off, Marty Peterson is still the fire fighter representative on the URS Pension Membership Council, and is our first line of defense. The role of members on the council is to present employee views/concerns to the pension board and the URS executive director. Marty has served us well in that role over the past 10 years. Others that assist Marty on a year round basis with retirement issues are PFFU President Jim Judd, PFFU Sec/Treas Mike Fredrickson, myself, Tony Allred, Ryan Mellor and Jeremy Robertson of the UFA. Tony and I sit on the Salt Lake City Benefits Committee, which has focused almost all its attention since 1 July on the possible scenarios that may unfold at the state legislative level regarding pension plans. There is concern on possible changes that would have negative effects to employees, employers, and the URS funding status.

“Some facts: The URS investments took a 20% hit over the last year due to the wall street near meltdown. Even with that huge hit, the URS is still 84% funded. (Yes, we were 104% funded a year ago.) Huge hit. However most state pensions around the country would kill to ever be 84% funded. Our system is consistently one of the top 5-6 public pensions in the nation - if not the best. (Actually ours was rated #1 prior to the stock market falling.)

“The Utah Legislature feels compelled to address some of the funding mechanisms to the pension system to keep it in good shape. They don’t necessarily know best on this - but they think they do. They (legislators) **HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING YET TO CHANGE OUR PENSION.** Will they? Maybe. There is a good chance there will be changes of some kind. That may or may not include contribution changes. Everyone involved (Leg., cities, labor, etc) do agree that there should be no reduction in pension benefits.

“The legislature met in interim committee on 9 Sep., and will meet again in early Nov. Two of their own committee members are very much in our corner and voiced their opinions that employees should not bear the cost of any additional contributions. Hopefully they can convince their peers on the committee.

“So we are taking this issue very seriously...however have not hit the panic button yet. We are continually suggesting to legislators and other organizations not to panic yet either. Our system has been successful for decades so there is no need to make big changes because of one down year in the market. Hopefully they will continue to listen. We anticipate there will be no decision at the Nov. interim either...but we will have to finish dealing with this during the regular leg. session in January.

“Keep hanging in there. We will advise as anything actually happens. For more information, please refer to the following: Marty’s article in the most recent Backdraft magazine (Aug), your quarterly Viewpoint newsletter from the URS, or visit [www.urs.org](http://www.urs.org).”

Fraternally,  
Jack Tidrow, President  
IAFF Local 1645

## **In Memorium**

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

**Gary Conrad Litzo**, who served 27 years with Salt Lake County Fire Department, September 27, 2009.

## **Transitions**

### **Retirement:**

September 30, 2009 Don Berry, Fire Chief, UFA

### **Resignation:**

September 25, 2009 Tom Shannon, Fire Chief, SLCFD

### **Promotions:**

September 25, 2009 R. Kurt Cook, Fire Chief, SLCFD

September 30, 2009 Michael Jensen, Fire Chief, UFA