

7TH DISTRICT RAG

Volume 1, Issue 1
FALL 2005



FROM THE DESK

Greetings from the desk of the IAFF 7th District. I hope you enjoy the first edition of the "7th District Rag". I plan to publish this newsletter two or three times a year.

It has been a year since you have honored me with the position of IAFF 7th DVP. I have been blessed with cooperation from the state leaders of Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Washington. As well, locals have opened their doors and welcomed me into their business—many times to offer assistance, but many times in a fraternal fashion. The IAFF Executive Board has treated my arrival with respect and the IAFF staff has been more than cooperative in helping me provide the highest level

of service to the affiliates of the 7th District.

I would like to share some of the activities from this office over the past year: Chartered the Alaska State Professional Fire Fighters Association; presented in host locals through out the district nine mini-education seminars; partnered three state educational seminars; organized 10 new locals; attended four IAFF executive board meetings, four state conventions, four IAFF events, two AFL-CIO/WSLC events, three line-of-duty remembrances, nine state e-board meetings, 10 union meetings (not counting those of my home local); served as partisan in three locals; worked through two

contract mediations; settled on doorstep one arbitration; and filled the boot for MDA.

It is an adventuresome opportunity that I have chosen to seize. Thank you for the chance to serve. I am enjoying the prospects that every day and every challenge bring as they contributes to my personal development, and translate to my becoming an optimum resource for you.

Log onto my web site for more information and links at www.rickywalsh.com

www.alaskapffa.org

www.wscff.org

www.pffi.org

www.mscoff.org

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Special points of interest:

- IAFF 7th District Calendar
- MERP recognized as a much-desired benefit.
- Mini-Education Seminars successful.
- Alaska State Association moving ahead.
- 7th District Rag on-line.

JAKE RIGGS REINSTATED BY PERC

Local 4203 President Jake Riggs has been ordered reinstated by PERC. The decision has been long-awaited since the hearing in December of 2004.

Jake was terminated from his employment at the Port

of Walla Walla in July of 2004 after forming a union and commencing negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement. Port Executive Director Jim Kuntz cited a short fall in revenues as the reason for Jake's termination.

PERC stated in its decision that the testimony by Mr. Kuntz was not credible and found the Port guilty of anti-union animus, bargaining in bad faith, and other ULP's. Alex Skalbania and DVP Ricky Walsh presented the case. The Port has appealed.

GP SCHAITBERGER AND DVP WALSH PUT OUT THE CALL FOR FIREPAC ASSISTANCE

There are three months left in the 2005 FIREPAC season. The All-Call is going out again to all members of the 7th



District to make a contribution. The 7th district has been successful in the past in hitting the assigned goals of the IAFF. Of note is the state of Washington that has twice hit over \$100,000. The rest of the 7th, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana have posted contributions over 100% of their assigned goal. On behalf of the IAFF headquarters, I thank all of you.

This All-Call goes out to those who are not contributing—the members who are satisfied that the person riding apparatus next to them is carrying their water for them.

That 116K from Washington last year came out of the pockets of 775 members. That translates to over 6000 not contributing. In Montana 23 members' donations took them over the 100%, but again, this translates to 425 members who did not participate. In Idaho

144 members contributed leaving over 625 who did not. In Alaska, 21 members contributed, leaving more than 400 who did not.

Kudos to the District for outpacing the national average of between three and four percent of members contributing. And we can do better. The challenge is to the local leaders. Lets first work on this group. Our percentage will rise if at least every principal and e-board member will lead by example and give. You know who you are.

Additionally, I challenge all state officers to get your locals on dues check-off. Call me and I will explain how you can get around employer resistance if that is an issue. Let's help the GP meet his target and lets' keep the 7th District on top of the percentages.

IAFF STATE REPS HARD AT WORK

Your IAFF State Representatives are hard at work on your behalf in every state of the IAFF 7th District.

It goes without saying that we depend on the work these individuals do—consistently rising to the call and demonstrating self sacrifice.

The locals of the 7th District are faced with comparability when addressing issues and finding solutions. Bad contract language and less than fair agree-

ments have far-reaching affects on other locals when those contracts are brought in by employers for comparability.

Your IAFF State Reps are on guard to ensure that this does not occur. They are dispatched out



of the 7th District office to assist locals and act as negotiator, educator, and at times a mediator and always with the assigned goal of situation resolution without compromising the position of the local or comparable locals.

Your appointed State Reps are Dennis Lawson (WA), Lynn Miller (WA), Jeff Wainwright (WA), Rick Chaney (WA), Rick Peters (WA), Tom Greif (ID), Dennis Doan (ID), Dan Cottrell (MT), Keith Johnson (MT), and Joe Albrecht (AK).

MINI-EDUCATIONAL SERIES ARRIVES IN ALASKA

On July 18th, the 7th District Mini-Educational Series arrived in Alaska. Anchorage Local 1264 hosted the event at their temporary office in the teamsters hall.

Three classes were presented to Alaska Fire Fighters. The classes were, "Understanding Municipal Financial Analysis", "Building Coalitions", and "The Cadence of Leadership". The classes were well received by represen-

tatives of three locals and a potential new local.

"We are happy to see classes of quality from the IAFF delivered at a local level. It can be very expensive to travel outside of Alaska" stated Dominic Lozano, Vice President of the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association. DFRS Ron Davies, WSCFF President Kelly Fox, and 7th DVP Ricky J. Walsh delivered the classes. While on their trip, the three

instructors were treated to a float trip down the Kenai River. Local 1264 members Jeff Hoke and Mark Stevens guided the excursion. Fish were caught and the trio were treated to the beauty of the Alaska wilderness, which included bears and bald eagles in abundance.



MEDICAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT PLAN ACCEPTS IDAHO LOCALS

In a display of fraternalism, the WSCFF Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) board of trustees voted to



amend the trust plan to include locals from the state of Idaho. Idaho locals must follow similar qualifiers as Wash-

ington locals such as be an IAFF local and belong to the state organization, in this case the Professional Fire Fighters of Idaho (PFFI). This vote occurred at the April 21st board meeting, held in Wenatchee.

Immediately following this historic vote, Local 743, Pocatello, President Ron Davies brought this item to the bargaining table and successfully negotiated MERP language into their collective bargaining agreement. Subsequently, Local 743 voted unanimously to approve the tentative agreement, which included the MERP, an action that has never occurred before to Davies recollection. Davies stated to the MERP board, "it is with joy and excitement that we accept the opportunity to participate in such a

worthy and beneficial program to our members. We in Idaho recognize the power of numbers and appreciate the invitation to join a larger group such as the WSCFF."

Recently, Local 1821 President Greg Timinsky requested IAFF DVP Ricky J. Walsh to assist his local with contract resolution. During these discussions the MERP was presented by the local at the bargaining table. The result is a two year agreement ratified by the parties, that includes the MERP. "Opportunities like this need to be embraced when presented. Local 1821 appreciates the thoughtfulness and fraternal gesture by the WSCFF Brothers and Sisters. We surly are benefiting from the WSCFF vision", Timinsky said.

MONTANA EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SUCCESSFUL

Montana State Council of Fire Fighters held their annual educational seminar in Lewistown, Montana May 23-26. The assembled body were presented with two and one-half days of IAFF PEP style classes. Delivering the classes were IAFF DVP Ricky Walsh, and 17th District DFSR's Brian Hurley and Ron Davies. A host of topics from leadership training to collective bargaining held the

interest of the attendees. As well, Lewistown is located in prime brown trout area and there was time for some catch and release. Of course golf was certainly an option that was exercised by a few as well.

A special thank you to host Local 3429 President Keith Kacera for their hospitality and for treating the gathering to a fire and most of all not calling for assistance from the assem-

bled body.

MDA representatives were also on hand to make a presentation and to excite the troops for upcoming events sponsored by fire fighter locals.

MSCOFF President Todd Miller commented, "The classes are informative and there is much to learn regardless of where you are in your union education." Added Chass Perkins, MSCOFF VP and Local 8 member, "I look forward to this seminar as well the mini-education series. It is worth attending."

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SCHAITBERGER ADDRESSES WSCFF CONVENTION

IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger attended the 2005 WSCFF Convention, hosted by the five Tri-City area locals on June 22nd. This visit part of a whirlwind tour of numerous state and regional events by the GP. During his stay, GP Schaitberger visited Richland FD Station 71, home station of DVP Walsh and WSCFF 2nd District Representative Scott Brines (photo).

GP Schaitberger addressed the delegates assembled on the second day of the Convention. He strongly urged the delegates to continue their work and encourage member participation in all aspects of IAFF activities, particularly IAFF FIREPAC. Harold was also honored by the WSCFF with their Labor leader of the year award. The 2006 Convention will be hosted by Vancouver #452.



IAFF 7TH DISTRICT

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We are all in this together



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 23-26

**Redmond Safety Seminar,

November 2

**Mini-Ed Day—Coeur D' Alene, ID.

November 7-8

**Alaska State Convention

November 13-16

**IAFF Affiliate Leadership Training Seminar

November 21-22

**7th District Caucus—SeaTac, WA

December 9

**Mini-Ed Day—Issaquah, WA.

December 5-9

**IAFF E-Board, Washington, DC

KITTINGER REPORTS ON IAFF EMS ACTIVITIES

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

I was recently appointed to the IAFF Standing EMS Committee by 7th District IAFF Vice President Ricky Walsh. I am an active fire fighter/paramedic with the Bellingham Fire Department and serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of IAFF Local 106.

The committee met in Washington D.C. To discuss the IAFF's position on the National EMS Scope of Practice Model, and to continue our work on fire suppression and rescue indicators and performance measures.

National EMS Scope of Practice Model: The committee reviewed the IAFF's position statement on the National EMS Scope of Practice model. The scope of practice is a legal description of the distinction between licensed health-care providers and the lay public and between different licensed health-care providers. It describes the authority, vested by a state, in health professionals who practice within the state. Scope of practice also establishes which activities and procedures performed without a license represent illegal activity. The IAFF's position advocates two levels of EMS provider, the EMT-Basic and the Paramedic. This position is based on the fact that most fire departments are now training to the level of EMT- Basic. Therefore, this should be the minimum level of EMS response. This is not to say that first responder should be eliminated but should be grandfathered through attrition and that all new hires should be trained as EMT-Basics. The IAFF's position on Paramedics as the maximum level of pre-hospital training stems from the belief that paramedic level knowledge and skills are sufficient to meet the needs of the majority of pre-hospital medical emergencies. More advanced training is expensive and should be driven by community need and local medical direction. Finally, the IAFF's position advocates a bridge from the current EMT-Intermediate to the Paramedic level so that departments using EMT-Intermediates will not incur heavy expenses and long training times to retrain EMT-Intermediates as paramedics.

Fire suppression and rescue indicators and performance measures: The EMS Standing Committee was tasked with this work as a part of a larger Fire/EMS operational study proposed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The indicators and measures developed will also be forwarded to the Commission of Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) for consideration of adding them to a subsequent version of the accreditation manual, and to the NFPA 1710 Technical Committee to be used as the model indicator/measure list for the annual and quadrennial reports required by the standard.

The work experience in developing a similar performance measure system for EMS was the reason the EMS Standing Committee was chosen for this project. During our time in D.C. we completed the drafts for all measures/indicators for fire/rescue. Upon completion and review by the IAFF Executive Board, the members of the committee have been tasked with identifying 20 Locals/Departments within each IAFF district for practical application of the measurement tool. The approval and participation of your fire chief or administration is essential. Please feel free to contact Ricky or me with questions or interest in this project. The ultimate goal of this work is to create and get fire service buy-in as a tool to help us justify NFPA 1710 level staffing.

In closing, I would like to identify the work done by my predecessor on the EMS Standing Committee Ted Rail out of Spokane Local 29. It is evident that Ted was a well-respected contributor within the committee. Enjoy your retirement Ted.

Fraternally,

Rich Kittinger