

# 7TH DISTRICT RAG

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE DVP

*This article dedicated to Rob McLaughlin and Dave Potter, 7th District LODD's.*

I want to open by thanking all of you for your comments and feedback to the "7th District Rag". I am now aware that it is being read and passed around the firehouses for all to read. Just a reminder that I send only one per local so posting on all the union boards does require the local to copy it; or, this publication can be printed right off the web site at [www.rickywalsh.com](http://www.rickywalsh.com).

Since my last writing I have had the honor to present the IAFF Martin Pierce Medal of Honor to the families of two of the 7th District's bravest who made the ultimate sacrifice. As you may or may

not know, this medal was established in 1990 to honor those within the IAFF who make the ultimate sacrifice in the course of completing their duties to their respective communities and reserved specifically for presentation to their families. I must say, that while it is an honor to be the presenter as part of my duties as IAFF 7th DVP, it is a moving and humbling experience to stand before the families of the fallen.

For those who have been witness to my attendance at these or other multiple fatalities in the US or Canada, you will have noted that I do so in full Class A uniform, as I still pull shifts in my home department, Richland station

73. I will continue to honor my Brothers and Sisters in this manner until I retire from active duty, as I believe it fitting to honor those fallen when called to attend. I have queried my own family that if I were to fall in the line-of-duty, would they want my life memorialized in this manner...to which they replied yes, and that causes my deeds and words when one of ours falls.

This brings me to the heart of this article. I want to commend those locals who found it a priority to send representation to Rob's and Dave's memorials, the celebration of their lives, their careers, and the recognition of their sacrifices. Both memorials were well attended,

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### Special points of interest:

- IAFF 7th District Calendar
- From the Desk of the DVP—Send representation, you would want and expect it and they deserve it!
- FIREOPS 101

## FIREOPS 101 COMING TO HAMMER

The HAMMER training center will be the site of the second FIREOPS 101 to be held in the 7th District October 26-27. This facility rests in the center of the district in Richland, Washington. "The facility is state of the art and stands up to any west of the Mississippi," states I-24 mem-

bers Steve Ingram and Scott Jones who coordinate training and scheduling. The tri-party collaboration of the IAFF 7th, WSCFF, and the WSFCA with assistance of the Tri-City locals makes this event possible and assures a successful event. "This is a tremendous opportunity for

locals to make believers of their policy makers", states WSCFF 4th District Rep Dennis Lawson. The event is first come-first serve to a maximum of 40. Contact IAFF DVP Ricky Walsh for information and to sign up. Event cost are \$250 per policy maker. Don't wait!

## 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT TOP STANDING CHALLENGED BY THE CREATIVITY OF LOCALS IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup>



For three years running members of the WSCFF have responded to the challenge of GP Schaitberger and sent more out of pocket cash to FIREPAC than any other state in the nation. As well, for two years straight the entire 7th district responded by giving more dollars per capita than any of the other 15 districts in the IAFF. Many locals individually have taken first in class when responding to the FIREPAC call. Of note, Local 2819, Kitsap Fire Fighters unseated long time FIREPAC king (Peoria, Ill. Local 50), in locals of 100-250 members. The work you have done has been viewed as a challenge by other locals, states, and districts within our great union and to be blunt, the 7th has been targeted.

Yes, they want our spot on the podium. It is rumored that locals and states from the IAFF 2nd District are putting out an all out effort to unseat the Rough Riding 7th District, and that is you. They have been warned that the membership of the 7th takes pride in owning the above titles and will not go down without a fight. That is why your DVP, Ricky Walsh, has once again put out an "ALL CALL" to the Rough Riding members of the 7th to dig deep. It is up to our local leadership to speak to each and every one of their members to give more than they did last year. "If you have given in the past, give a little more, even a CPI adjustment to your donation; and if you have never given before, now is the time to join in and give a hand", states Walsh.

For those who have not given before, start with a check for \$25. For those who gave last year, consider raising your contribution—and, no worries—you can send a second check. Lost that FIREPAC form? Go to [www.rickywalsh.com](http://www.rickywalsh.com) and print a copy off. Don't wait, print, write the check, and send today! Again, CALLING ALL MEMBERS of the 7TH!

## SCHAITBERGER ADDRESSES MONTANA FF'S IN HELENA

For the first time since taking office in 2000, GP Schaitberger trekked to Montana for a station visit and to address the MSCOPFF at their bi-annual state convention held in Helena.

The GP first flew into Great Falls where he addressed members of Local 8 and then enjoyed a station tour and a dinner of Rocky Mountain Elk steaks, salad and corn-on-the-cob. L-8 President Dave Van Son commented, "We are excited and honored to have the Gen-

eral President at our work site." L-8 had about 50 members on hand for the opportunity to interact with the GP.

Later that evening in Helena, the GP visited "The House", owned by the MSFA and is used for lobbying. The House is strategically located across from the State Capitol. Along with delivering an enthusiastic speech to the delegates at the convention, the GP was given audience to Montana's Governor Brian Schweitzer.



## TRI-PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS FIRE-OPS 101 IN KITSAP

A Tri-Partnership of the IAFF 7th District, the WSCFF, and the WSFCA successfully presented FIREOPS 101 on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Kitsap County Readiness Center. Policy makers and local leadership together participated in five events which simulated emergency scene activities that we as fire fighters and EMS providers encounter everyday.

Participants came from Washington, Montana, and Idaho and gained appre-

ciation for the technical expertise, strength and endurance needed for successful operations and the need for staffing. One council member made a commitment to additional manpower on his return home.

Attendees also experienced fellowship, physical and mental challenges and received a certificate and custom FIRE-OPS 101 helmet upon graduation.



## FIRST ANNUAL 7TH DIST. SHAD FISHING DERBY HELD

July 20, 2006 – Members of the IAFF 7th District competed in the First Columbia River Shad Fishing Tournament June 14 at the McNary Dam on the Columbia River, which runs along the Washington and Oregon border. The event was organized to establish camaraderie and opportunity among the many avid fisherman in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

"We had a great turnout this first year," says 7th District Vice President Ricky Walsh. Ten boats carrying two to six fisherman participated in the tournament. "We hope to expand it into a much larger event to benefit charity next year," he says. Next year's event will expand to a Friday arrival, Saturday fishing, weigh-in and bar-beque, and depart on Sunday. The camp site is being reserved at the time of this writing.



Prizes were given for the heaviest five shads. The top prize winner was Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) 2nd District Representative Scott Brines, whose fish weighed 3 pounds, 10 ounces. Assisting Scott, in his hauling in his catch, were his dad and uncle from Bend, Oregon

The event was coordinated by Richland, WA Local 1052 member Chris Roney (pictured to the left with IAFF 7th DVP Walsh), owner of Columbia Excursions, an outdoor boating company. Participants included members of Local 1052, Kennewick Local 1296, Pasco Local 1433, and Yakima Local 469.

Next year's event will benefit the "7th District Benevolent Foundation" existing for the benefit of 7th District fire fighters/EMS personnel and their families. Chris Roney can be contacted by calling 509-430-5790 for all Columbia River fishing adventures.

## JOE PATERNITI RUNS FOR IAFF BURN FOUNDATION

*Joe Paterniti, IAFF Local 46 E-Board member (Everett Fire Fighters), is training for the IAFF/Marine Corps marathon and will represent the 7th district.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the 7th District: I am running in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., on October 29, 2006. I am honored to have been selected as a member of the IAFF team. As a requirement of the IAFF Marathon Team, I must raise a minimum of \$1,000 for the IAFF Burn Foundation. My intention is to make all firefighters of the 7th District proud by finishing the race in a respectable time of less than 4 hours and raising far more than the minimum \$1,000 for the IAFF Burn Foundation. I am now asking any and all members of the 7th District and/or any Local of the 7th District to

make a donation to this effort and worthy cause.

I made a decision to run in this event and join the IAFF team because both the USMC and the IAFF mean a great deal to me. As a US Navy Corpsman, I have served with the Marines, most recently in Iraq as part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in 2003. I have been an IAFF member for 14 years and have served as a Local E-Board member, PAC sign shop manager, and a WSCFF Burn Foundation Trustee. I am proud of my contributions to the two noble families. It is my desire to contribute even more by participating in this marathon benefiting the IAFF Burn Foundation.

My wife Jolie (a Mukilteo FF/Medic) and I are traveling to D.C. at our own expense. She will not be running in the event due to a knee injury but will participate as a member of the IAFF Team support staff. We intend to create a web site, showing my training in progress as well the fundraising progress. The web site will also acknowledge those who are supporting me and the Burn Foundation with a contribution. I am humbled to be asking for your support and am grate full to any help you can grant me.

**Donations can be sent to Joe Paterniti, PO Box 616, Everett, WA 98206-0616**  
 \*\*I challenge all locals to match my contribution of \$100—7th DVP Walsh

## SANTA'S FIREFIGHTERS ORGANIZED—IAFF LOCAL 4505

North Pole, Alaska, the home of Santa Claus, his reindeer, and lets not forget Mrs. Claus, is also the home of one of the 7th District's newest locals. IAFF Local 4505 has been chartered by GP Schaitberger and welcomed into this great International. Located. Located NE of Fairbanks, it now becomes the most northern of all IAFF locals. Geoff Coon, has been elected as President of L-4505 and gives thanks to L-1324 President Dominic Lozano for his assistance in the organizing effort. "Organizing in

Alaska is challenging, and we will continue, for doing so strengthens this state organization and this great International Union," stated 7th DVP Walsh. AKPFFA President Mark Drygas was on hand to assist the swearing in of L-4505 members at their station.

Other new locals recently chartered are, Local 4504, Oak Harbor, WA and Local 4514, Walla Walla Fire District #4



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*We are all in this together*



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- August 27-September 1  
\*\*IAFF Bi-Annual Convention-  
Toronto, Canada
- September 8—Mini Ed Day  
\*\*Clark County, Washington
- September 15-17, FF Memorial  
\*\*Colorado Springs, Colorado
- October 2-3, 7th District Caucus  
\*\*Cour D' Alene, Idaho
- October 4-5, PFFI Ed Seminar  
\*\*Cour D' Alene, Idaho
- October 12—Mini Ed Day  
\*\*Great Falls, Montana
- October 26—27, FIREOPS 101  
\*\*Richland, Washington-HAMMER
- November 9—Mini Ed Day  
\*\*Cour D' Alene, Idaho

**GOVERNOR RACES IN ALASKA & IDAHO**

Governor races in Alaska and Idaho are on the forefront of 7th District political news this November. At stake for members of the AKPFFA is the return of a defined benefit pension system for firefighters and all public employees. Idaho is pursuing presumptive legislation that ultimately would need a friendly governor's signature.

Additionally, members in Montana are working hard to add one more democrat to the US Senate, being ingrained in the campaign of Jon Tester's challenge to Conrad Burns (R). In Washington State, the fight to keep friends of firefighters in state offices is being led by WSCFF President Kelly Fox and is well partnered with labor to keep US Senator Maria Cantwell in office.

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**FROM THE DESK** *(Continued from page 1)*

and the outpouring of sympathy for the families was not unlike other line-of-duty death gatherings you may have attended, with the exception that we were recognizing the sacrifice and celebrating a whole different person than the one you attended last. As I looked around the room, there were many faces I recognized, those whom I have shared these heartfelt moments with before. But, I must be honest with you, as I traveled home from each memorial, what stuck in my mind were the faces or names that I did not see in the room. And while there were many hundreds of fire fighters in each room, there were not 200 represented locals that reside within the 7th District attending.

Now I am aware of the many locals and members who traveled to New York to attend funerals of the fallen, and from discussions with my counterparts in the Northeast, it was much appreciated. In fact, so appreciated that Local 94, New York, was so grateful, that they started an account, funded by the members, to pay expenses of representatives of Local 94, to attend every Line-Of-Duty death in the US and Canada from that fateful day forward. I believe we, as District 7 locals, should do the same. The reasons are similar, and please do not take offense to the following. Losing 343 Brothers in one incident is tragic and should not be down played in any way, shape or form. But while tragic in raw numbers, this was 343 out a 15,000 person department and is no more tragic or devastating to a community than losing 1 member in a 9 person department., or 1 member in a 50 person department or 4 members in a 1000 person department. Logistically different, but the affect on the IAFF Local, fire department and community, is still shocking and emotional. The family, the Local, the department, and the community need the utmost in emotional support that, in part, is derived from the attendance to the memorial.

This is why in this article, I am requesting of each and every local in the IAFF 7th District, and all other local or state affiliates that may read the "7th District Rag", to establish a fund (through assessment if need be) that will be used solely for the assurance that your Local will be represented at ALL 7th District Line-of-Duty death memorials. I made the request of the fund (\$\$\$\$) assuming that all locals will consider this a priority and will find someone to travel, but assumptions being what they are, I will also request that each Local assemble names of members willing to represent your Local at these solemn but unfortunately, guaranteed events. I know that you share my hopes in that these funds will only gain interest and not be tapped; but reality is that eventually these monies will be spent. Giving my request consideration will assure you will be ready the next time the expected happens at the most unexpected time.

Brothers and Sisters, we take care of our own. Lets honor others in a manner we have come to expect. Until next time, stay safe,

Ricky J. Walsh