

# 7TH DISTRICT RAG

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE DVP

As we celebrate this holiday season, it occurs to me that our members tend to take for granted where our industry is today. In a short 25 years, the fire service as a whole has evolved from a career that few wanted, to a sought out profession that offers life long security. We in fire service have never had it better in the categories of equipment, apparatus, PPE's and resource data.

Like many of you, I can recall my first day at the Richland Fire Department...I went to the fitting room (an old sewer lift station) with the training officer who directed me to: pick the set of turnouts "that fit me best"; cross out the last name without an 'x' on it; and write mine

in with a marking pen. My name was the sixth name on the coat. My first day at the Hermiston Fire Department consisted of a fitting for turnouts and clothes, a station tour, paperwork, introductions, the warning ("don't mess up, Kid") and a directive to report at 8:00 a.m. the next day for my first 24-hour shift. That's right, no academy, no training, just dropped directly into the business.

Budgets were tight and we home-fabricated much of our equipment for the fire ground or EMS calls. The pay was low. What you did have was the security of a steady income, union representation, and, if you "minded your p's and q's," a pension.

Because of the efforts of dedicated IAFF Union leaders, things changed for the better. Today most of us are issued two sets of turnouts in the academy, unworn clothes, and regular apparatus replacement schedules. We now enjoy contract improvements such as hours reductions.

This was accomplished with unity and fraternalism and a recognition that together we could make a difference. The absence of knowledge and gratitude concerns me and I wonder of future local leaders actions, motives, and will.

I offer the following with the hope for all to be grateful for your bounty and lot in life...

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### Special points of interest:

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- From the Desk of the DVP, Yes we should be thankful!
- 7th District Library
- Disaster Relief Available

## SHELTON HAS YOUR BACK

When Dean Shelton is asked a question, he doesn't bluff his way through the response. With his vast experience, he may have the answer on hand. If not, he will know where to find it. Dean is one of many 7th District members elected to public office and serving this great

District. Dean serves as Commission Chair for SCFD #9. He also serves on the Fire Protection Policy Board by appointment of Governor Gregoire and is a trustee for the WSCFF. When not serving us, he serves the community of Marysville with Local 3219.



## FIREPAC—WHY NOT 100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION?



The question is to Local leaders: Why don't you give to FIREPAC? I have asked them one-on-one and I have yet to get a response! Could it be you disagree with the endorsements of the IAFF? Is it a lack of political education? Is it not in the family budget? Do you not like your elected IAFF leaders? If none of these, then what?

Soon you will get an envelope from General President Harold Schaitberger inviting you to participate in FIREPAC with a donation. Yes, a piece of your hard earned cash. For some of you it will be a repeat of many years of giving. Some have participated since the inception of FIREPAC. While for others it will be your first time. For you first timers, welcome aboard and I hope you see this as the first annual donation that you will make your entire active career and beyond. For those who will deposit this letter into the round file (and 8000 of you will), I would like to hear from you as to why you will not or cannot help the rest of us by carrying some of the load. As for candidate contributions, the money is given to those who support firefighter issues — 39% to Republicans and 61% to Democrats. If you need education, go to the IAFF website or email me. Family budgets...I am familiar with all wages in the Magnificent 7th and can guarantee that all FF's I am writing to can afford a modest twelve dollar annual donation (that is one dollar per month for truckees). If you don't like the GP or me, well, unlike firefighter issues, we will not always be here.

I am challenging all Local officers to lead by example. Contribute and advocate for members to follow your lead. If you cannot, I challenge you for the reason.

## 7TH DISTRICT FIRE-OPS 101, APRIL 10-11, 2008

The annual Magnificent 7th FIREOPS 101 will be held on April 11, 2008. As in the past you will be required to check in the evening of the 10th for orientation and fellowship with light hors d'oeuvres. Cost of the event is \$275 per policy maker.

FIREOPS 101 gives our Locals the opportunity to enlighten policy makers (mayors, commissioners, council members or legislators) about our trade and industry through hands-on experience of five disciplines encountered by our

members every day. During the course of the day, participants will attack a live fire and handle a ground monitor. They will extricate a victim from a mock auto accident. They will climb a 100' ladder and then proceed to actually cut a vent hole in a roof prop. They will participate in a mock resuscitation starting in the home and continuing in the back of a medic unit. They will search and find a victim in a smoke filled building with zero visibility. All this while acting as a member of a team, stressing the importance of staffing and training.

At the end of the day, policy makers participate in a graduation, receiving a certificate and helmet to proudly display in their offices. This while breaking bread with the entire assembly. It is your opportunity to expose your decision maker to your profession.

FIREOPS 101 is jointly sponsored by the office the 7th District, WSCFF, WSAFC, HAMMER, Puyallup Extrication Team, and Locals I-24, 1052, 1296, and 1433. For more information contact DVP Walsh via email or his cell phone.

## 7TH DISTRICT LIBRARY IS ONLINE & OPERATIONAL

If you have visited the Magnificent 7th District website lately you may have noticed a new item under member resources titled, "7th District Library". It debuted via a story on the website, November 13, 2007, and a book was immediately checked out using the instructions posted in the member resource section.

The 7th District Library was an idea, turned to a goal and then to reality of IAFF 7th DVP Ricky Walsh. Walsh

searched for books that would expand members' knowledge of the rich history of the Labor movement in the four states comprising the 7th district (Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and Washington). "While finding printed accounts of the Labor movement in general is tough, narrowing it down to the Northwest was easier than expected", stated Walsh.

Using the library is easy. Simply send an email to [kelly@iaff7thdistrict.org](mailto:kelly@iaff7thdistrict.org) stating

your desire to check out a book. It will be sent to the address listed and you have two weeks to read it and return it to the library. Along with the book, just enclose the postage amount on the envelope when you received the book.

There are currently 24 books in the library and that number is expected to grow as members donate books and others are found. To donate a book send it to DVP Walsh's PO box.

## 7TH DISTRICT CAUCUS ~ MISSOULA, OCTOBER 2-3, '07

The annual 7th district caucus was heralded a success by the state executive board members and appointed IAFF State Reps working out of the 7th District office who attended. Additionally, host Local representation was invited to attend and participate.

The event started on the evening of October first with a hospitality room hosted jointly by Locals 271 and 2457 during which time MSCOPFF e-board member Chass Perkins directed a Texas Hold 'em Tournament to benefit the Magnificent 7th District Benevolent Fund. Then the work began. On the second, a day-long exercise designed to generate thoughtful discussion and solutions to the disconnect between all levels of our Union leadership and our rank-and-file membership. With members in the room representing baby boomers, Gen X, Gen Y, and Gen Z, the discussion was certainly thoughtful and at times painful. The group was divided into eight groups with equal representation of generations and states. By the end of the day, solutions started to emerge with each state organization assembling and creating resolutions to be submitted to their next convention by their e-boards.

On the third, the members received presentations by Karni Adamson of DiMartino Associates, Inc. (MERP and disability) and David Billy from the IAFF (caucusing and FIREPAC/dues check-off). The day rounded out with reports from the state presidents and IAFF 7th DVP Ricky Walsh. Of course "good of the order" is always recognized as worthy and time was given.

"This was a leadership retreat that will enable our respective elected Union officials to better communicate with those they are charged to serve by their office or appointment," stated WSCFF VP Dennis Lawson. Alaska State President Mark Drygas commented, "This is the type of activity that will benefit all of our members for years to come."

See more on the caucus at [www.iaff7thdistrict.org](http://www.iaff7thdistrict.org) and register while you are there or inquire your elected state association board members of their involvement and how they can better serve you.

## VICTORY IN WALLA WALLA: JAKE RIGGS RETURNED TO THE JOB ~ PORT FF'S REMAIN IN LEOFF

As you can see by the picture, Jake Riggs is certainly mild manner in appearance, but this brother can be called nothing less than a giant dedicated to the principles of free speech and free association. The big news is that after 26 long months, Jake is going back to work as a fire fighter with full service credit time and back pay. The plight of Jake and his Brothers at the Port of Walla Walla FF's Local 4203 is finally resolved.

A settlement agreement was attained after the employer reached out to the Union asking to resolve all the disputed issues. This came after strong actions by the IAFF, WSCFF, and local Unions in the areas of port politics, state legislative action, favorable decisions by DRS and PERC, and public opinion.

The settlement put to rest the Port's appeals of PERC rulings that determined the employer engaged in unfair labor practices, DRS rulings that the Port FF's were properly enrolled in LEOFF, a personal lawsuit by Brother Riggs against the Port, and a local judge's injunction barring access to binding arbitration. Additionally, as part of the settlement, the Local and Port engaged in negotiations to allow the Port to contract the ARFF services to Walla Walla FD #4 where IAFF Local 4514 and Chief Rocky Eastman (former IAFF Local 404 member) have welcomed the Port FF's to their ranks.

Brother Riggs reported to duty on December first. All Port FF's will report to District 4 on January first.



## DISASTER RELIEF AVAILABLE FOR DISPLACED MEMBERS



December 2007 will be remembered by many as a time when they lost all material possessions. This occurring while they were on the job and serving their communities — actions repeated by IAFF members whenever disaster strikes.

In most instances insurance will replace some goods and possessions and eventually things may get back to normal for our members, but , that takes time.

The IAFF "Disaster Relief Fund" exists to assist our members if they are displaced by incidents such as fire, flood, or hurricane. The 7th District and WSCFF Benevolent Funds have also pledged to assist those in need. But we need to know who you are. If you are a displaced member or know of one, please contact DVP Walsh via email or his cell phone. Applications for all assistance will be sent electronically.

## IAFF 7TH DISTRICT

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*We are all in this together*



### 2007 DATES TO REMEMBER

January, 21-23, IAFF Human Rel.  
\*\* New Orleans, LA  
January 23-25, 2008 IAFF ALTS  
\*\* New Orleans, LA  
January 29-30, WSCFF Leg Conf.  
\*\* Olympia, WA  
January 30-31, AKPFFA Leg Conf.  
\*\* Juneau, AK  
February 25-27, PFFI State Conv.  
\*\* Boise, ID (and Leg Conf.)  
March 9-12, IAFF Leg Conf.  
\*\* Washington, DC  
April 10-11, 2008 FIREOPS 101  
\*\* Richland, Washington-HAMMER  
April 22-24, WSCFF Ed Seminar  
\*\* Lynnwood, WA

## FROM THE DESK of the DVP *(Continued from page 1)*

*If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like this:*

*There would be:  
57 Asians  
21 Europeans  
14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south  
8 Africans*

*52 would be female  
48 would be male*

*70 would be nonwhite  
30 would be white*

*70 would be non-Christian  
30 would be Christian*

*89 would be heterosexual  
11 would be homosexual*

*6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth  
and all 6 would be from the United States.*

*80 would live in substandard housing  
70 would be unable to read  
50 would suffer from malnutrition  
1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth  
1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education  
1 would own a computer*

*When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.  
The following is also something to ponder...*

*If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...  
you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.*

*If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ...  
you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.*

*If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...  
you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.*

*If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep...  
you are richer than 70% of this world.*

*If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish ...  
you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.*

*If your parents are still alive and married ...  
you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.*

*If you can read this message, you just exercised a blessing in that you received an education, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.*

*Work like you don't need the money.  
Love like you've never been hurt.  
Dance like nobody's watching.  
Sing like nobody's listening.  
Live During Your Time on This Earth.*