

# BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICER

LOCAL 964

--STAFF--

STEPHAN G. FUGATE -- TOM NOSEK

*By and For the Professional Fire Officer*

IN UNION

THERE IS STRENGTH

Volume , Issue

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## From the Desk of the President

*By Stephan G. Fugate*

### NO Confidence? NO doubt!

Looking back and reading over our last newsletter, it's hard to imagine that things could have gotten any worse for OUR Department, but I suppose my imagination just isn't creative enough to have anticipated where we are today.

Since that writing, we have acquiesced to the urging of our Chief and conducted a more comprehensive "Vote of No Confidence" with very predictable results, filed a "Verified Unfair Labor Practice Complaint", and met with Mayor Dixon to make our position ABSOLUTELY clear, all to no avail.

With regard to the mail-in Vote of No Confidence, 321 ballots were mailed to the homes of all of our active members with a rather short window of opportunity to mark and return. Of the 321 ballots distributed, 245 were returned for a seventy-six percent rate of return. Of the 245 ballots returned, 231 members clearly indicated their SUPPORT of the Union's position of No Confidence and fourteen REJECTED the Union's position.

Of the ballots returned, a ninety-four percent rate of support is nothing short of staggering but there's a more compelling way to slice the numbers. With 231 members of the total active membership of 321 expressing NO CONFIDENCE that equates to SEVEN in TEN of **EVERY** officer in the Department even counting those seventy-six who

chose not to vote! That's not only staggering, it's embarrassing!

We were fortunate enough to have the active support and participation of our International in the conduct of the vote as well as the subsequent press-conference where the results were formally announced. With the direct involvement of the IAFF comes the transparency of its activities at the local level wherein the details become common knowledge at the national level. Word of this action in Baltimore and the rather dramatic results has spread far and wide and though it may be of little consolation in the short-term, rest assured that our Chief's "reputation" is now well known.

With the Vote of No Confidence on the record, the Union Locals took what is indeed an unprecedented next step in filing a "Verified Unfair Labor Practice Complaint" with the Office of The Labor Commissioner as well as a Class-Action Grievance of the same form. Never having filed such a complaint before, the process for hearing and adjudication is somewhat unclear, though we believe that a "third party" arbitration or mediation service will be impaneled to handle the matter. The Grievance process on the same complaint is clearly spelled-out in our MOU, also possibly culminating in arbitration though it's doubtful that there will be two such processes.

The initial reaction to the filing of the Unfair Labor Practice Claim was a late-day meeting with Mayor Dixon on Friday, May 25 with (in my opinion) a less than satisfactory result. While there seems to be a genuine understanding of the issues and concerns expressed by the Union Locals on behalf of our members, there is clearly more concern

for the "politics" of a remedy than the effect. I strongly disagree with the premise that "no change" is preferable to and/or less damaging than the status quo, but then I'm not a campaign manager.

If anyone doubts that "staying the course" simply guarantees a continued downward spiral for OUR Department, consider how we got to where we are. This Chief has made his disdain for the Unions very clear and that his ultimate goal is to "break" the Unions any way he can. He now seems to have the complicit support and endorsement of the Mayor in that regard so the lines are now very clearly drawn.

### Promotional Policies

I have, quite frankly, lost track of the "gimme" promotions that have become the preferred form of advancement for this Chief, but they have now crossed the line of the unrepresented "at will" positions to those that we represent and have a VERY clear promotional policy thereof. I suppose a natural reaction to the seven in ten level of NO CONFIDENCE is to enhance the ranks of those beholden to the Chief for their jobs, but that's precisely why the merit-based policy that we have is there.

This Chief's penchant for blatant cronyism is a cancer on OUR Department. We've now witnessed the tragic consequences of his "loyalty over competence" mantra and one has to wonder if and where it might end. Among the "sacred-cow" provisions of our MOU is Article 25, Promotional System, which has very effectively eliminated all of the "isms" that had for too long plagued our

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## From the President's Desk....

*...continued from page 1*

profession in general and OUR Department, in particular Article 25, eliminates the nepotism, favoritism and racism that for too long governed promotions and advancement.

Article 25 makes the playing-field level and the only "tipping of the scales" that now occurs is outside of the scope of Article 25. We can't control the nefarious motivations of whatever happens with appointed positions outside of the scope of Article 25, but we damned well intend to protect those that are.

### ALS Certification

As many of you might know, there have been four grievances filed (two by 734 and two by 964) on the matter of compulsory maintenance of ALS certification as a condition of employment. The arbitration process for that issue will take place on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. at the Department of Human Resources and we would expect to have a ruling by sometime in early to mid July.

For the record, at issue is whether or not members who were either hired with or attained ALS certification as part of their initial training can be compelled to maintain said certification as a condition of employment OR be permitted to "downgrade" their certification to BLS standards given that their acquired rank or position. Members aggrieved are those rated members (P.O., EVD, etc.) of Local 734 and those members of 964 NOT assigned to the Medical Bureau.

We'll not presume to make our case herein, but we firmly believe that our position will prevail and that members who CHOSE to maintain their ALS certification and continue to receive whatever annual stipend being paid may continue to do so but those who chose NOT to will not be compelled to do so and, therefore, NOT receive any payment thereof. The amount of that stipend depends upon the outcome of the next subject and, once again, we believe that the Union position will prevail there as well.

### Arbitration

As previously reported, the dates are set for contract arbitration and the

Unions are continuing the preparation with the guidance of legal counsel and support of the IAFF. As I write, the location has not yet been established though the dates are firm starting on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and continuing through July 1 if necessary. It is our intent to continue the process daily, once begun, so as not to allow a delay in proceedings and a possible gap in continuity. We firmly believe that the panel of arbitrators will function best by intensive, continuing deliberations, and though it promises to be an exhaustive process, our members deserve nothing less.

In preparation for arbitration, the Unions have made significant requests for information through legal counsel and have received something less than compliance. It's important to note that ALL of the information we have requested is of a nature of public record and there should be NO resistance or hesitation in responding. We find it somewhat amazing that The Examiner could gain access to payroll information for EVERY member of OUR Department in an instant but that the bargaining units for those same employees are forced to jump through hoops to get so much as an acknowledgement of our requests. In any event, the Unions will persist and will be prepared for arbitration on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Summer is HERE

Hard as it may be to believe, all of the "stuff" going on does NOT deter me from enjoying myself and celebrating those things in life that make life worth living. Though spring kind-of slipped by all be unnoticed, summer seems to have already arrived in late May (just in time for the new BGE rates), and it looks as though it will indeed be a long, hot summer.

I have previously compared the seasonal changes to the stages in life and though I don't claim any credit for originality in that observation, it's something I do think about all the time. I have also observed that our membership has become noticeably younger in recent years, and it pleases me to know that so many of you will be enjoying the season with your families and friends. Like the years of our lives, our summers are somewhat limited particularly those you can share

entirely with our children.... don't let one get by you.

By the way, might I suggest the Fire Officers' Annual Picnic as one of those "don't miss" events this summer? Scheduled for Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at Cascade Lake in Hampstead, Maryland, it promises to be well worth the time and effort. Details can be found on the Events page of our web site and elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Box 414

*by Walt Lemmon*

Box 414 lost a true friend with the passing of Chief John (Jack) Frazier. We are very appreciative of the donations given to Box 414 in his memory. He will be missed.

The month of May was a very active month for us. We were privileged to be a part of the combined Memorial Service and Medals Day. The Coffee Wagon was a part of the Class 19 Graduation.

We responded to several multiple alarms of fire: the 3rd alarm warehouse on Grundy St, the 2nd alarm on Foster St. that was at the same time, the overturned tanker at Hanover St. and I-95 had both wagons in service, the 3rd alarm warehouse on Parksley Ave. and the 2nd alarm on Cecil Ave. that took the lives of 7 people. Our members put in many hours of service.

Utility 415 has been replaced with a new Chevy Suburban. It will be called Car 415. We are improving our services to the members of the Fire Department.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

***Nominations for Secretary-Treasurer and (1) Trustee will be accepted at the September meeting -- both offices are for a 3-year term.***

## From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

By Michael Waldner

I am updating and repeating some of my article from last issue due to the fact that the more things change the more they seem to stay the same. On that note, as of the composing of this article I will not be moving to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. That wholesale transfer of nearly every permanently assigned Battalion Chief is on hold and being reconsidered. I still thank all the members that I currently work with on C shift for all of their help over my career as a BC. Rest assured, we will continue to work well together for my remaining couple of years on the job.

I must congratulate Bob Jordan for another successful Golf tournament to benefit the Union. I was out of town and sorely missed this great outing on a beautiful day. I will be looking forward to next year's event.

I must thank Bob again, this time for putting together another great annual golf event in Ocean City that was held last month also. I can attest first hand to the beautiful weather and courses, as I was lucky enough to again attend this event. He hosted over 100 golfers, over the 3, and up to 5 days, depending on your reservation. That is a monumental task and we all appreciate his hard work on this project. A great job was done and we are all looking forward to next year. You don't actually have to be a good golfer to enjoy this event, so call and make a reservation for next year and join in the fun. Bob can shoot for 150 participants and re-break his attendance record.

Congratulations are also in order for the job done by Tom Nosek and his helpers for another fine Retiree Dinner Dance. Everything went off without a hitch and all who attended had a great time. Attendance was up a little, but we really need to make an effort to support and honor our friends and brothers and sisters who have served so proudly over the years. If each honoree's company/Battalion could manage to sell a table or two of tickets this event would return

to its former glory and go a long way to giving these members the send off they deserve. It is a chance for coworkers and their wives to bond together in a social atmosphere and remember the good times shared over the years.

Congratulations also to those honored at the Retirees Dinner. Thanks to all of you for the long years of service that made this one of the best Fire Departments in the country. You will be sorely missed, and the Department will never be the same without you guys. Stay in touch, read the website, and come back for our monthly meetings. Remember, now that you're on a fixed income, that \$2 entry fee makes the beer and snacks worth listening to the meeting agenda. Good luck and best wishes for a long and relaxing retirement!

As stated in the last newsletter, I have been successful in restarting the Fitness Assessment Program that was conducted in 1987 through the Human Performance Lab at Union Memorial. If you were around then, you will recall that all members of the Department were put through blood screening, physical assessment as well as a treadmill/breathing tests and received a spiral booklet with comparison results to the general population so as to view your general conditioning. There was much helpful info to advise you on how to improve your health and conditioning. Unfortunately, the Department chose not to continue this program after the initial consultation.

Union Memorial has revived this program through the Local at no charge to the membership. We have chosen to conduct this program on your time instead of involving the Department as in the past. Assessments will be by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Fitness/Rehab Center and will include the same types of screening and testing. This program is now offered to **ALL** interested members, **active and retired**. The results will be available only to you or a Doctor you designate. That is why we are promoting this program to you on your time, unlike in 1987 when we did it as a company unit on shift work time.

As advertised on our website, Phase 1 of this program was begun on Tuesdays and Thursdays (only days available) in June for the members who

have already had the heart/lung scans. Many active members have been through in June and can attest that the stress test part is now done on a stationary bike and takes only about 10 minutes for a six mile ride. The improved technology since 1987 makes this program easier and quicker to attain the same results.

For those of you who may not be privy to the computer and the website, we are announcing here that we are ready to start Phase 2, which will include retirees and access to the heart/lung scans at the same appointment as the Physical Assessment and blood work. ***There will still be a fee of approximately \$150 for the scans.*** The Assessment part will remain free of charge. Appointments, still on Tuesdays and Thursdays, made after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible for both the scans and the Assessment. We had to wait until July for staffing to be arranged for the scan portion of the appointment. The entire program including the heart/lung scan will take about 1.25 hours of your time and will be done on designated days assigned to us. It will be worth it just to get all the rest of our members through the heart/lung scans. We have had much success and participation due to the confidentiality of the heart/lung scans and we intend to continue in that mode with this venture to ensure that trust level. Please take advantage of it. You are never too young or too old to monitor your health. ***Again, this is open to active and retired members.***

Below are the directions, instructions and contact information to schedule appointments for the Assessment and heart/lung scans. Remember to schedule after July 1 if you want both.

### **FITNESS ASSESSMENT PRETEST INSTRUCTIONS**

Guidelines recommended for the most accurate test results:

- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. Sneakers preferred.
- Avoid food, tobacco, and caffeine for at least 3-4 hours before testing.
- Abstain from alcohol consumption within 48 hours of the assessment.

·Avoid moderate or vigorous physical activity within 12 hours of the assessment.

·Ingest no diuretic agents, including caffeine, prior to the assessment.

·Get an adequate amount of sleep (6 to 8 hours) the night before the test.

·Drink plenty of fluids over the 24-hour period preceding the test to ensure normal hydration prior to the testing.

### **Directions to Fitness Center**

Park in garage A (1<sup>st</sup> garage on your left) and take elevator to main lobby. Walk across bridge to security desk. Sign-in at desk. Go to 33<sup>rd</sup> Street Building which is straight ahead down the hallway past the pharmacy and to your left. Walk down the ramp past the Conference Center. Elevators will be on your left. Take elevator to 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and turn left and proceed down the hallway to the Fitness Center. You will receive a voucher to cover the parking fee.

### **For questions regarding the test and scheduling, contact:**

**Rebecca Winch at 410-554-2563.**

As always, I will mention again about the Community Outreach Program (for parents/spouses/siblings etc.) conducted by Union Memorial Hospital offering the heart/lung scans only on Saturdays to the general public at **the rate of \$75 each**. The phone # is **1-877-744-3278**. Getting both for a combined \$150 is a great bargain. There was a mailing that I received from Upper Chesapeake Hospital that offered a heart scan only for a \$799 fee. The Union Memorial program is much more reasonable and should not be ignored. The wait is not as bad as it had been due to the opening of another scan program at Franklin Square taking some of the crush off the schedule at Union. If Union Memorial is not convenient for you, contact Franklin Square Hospital (sister to Union Memorial in the same Health group). They have a scan machine and are doing heart scans and will expand to lung scans soon through its own Community Outreach Program. Check with

them on pricing, but it should be similar. **The number for Franklin Square is 443-777-7900.**

The softball season is in full swing on Monday nights in the Parkville area for the Firehouse Tavern team. Our games are at Villa Cresta and White Oak Schools starting at 6:00 PM. We could still use more players as vacations and Daddy duties will deplete availabilities now that schools are letting out for the summer. Anyone interested in playing should contact me at any of the numbers listed below to reserve a roster spot. Monday is hot wing night at Firehouse. We can always use new players.

Also, I am recruiting for the annual IAFF/MDA fall Tournament in Bowie on September 7, 8, & 9. This roster can only include members over 40 or turning 40 years old this year. This is a great chance to interact with Fire Fighters from all over the USA and Canada. Ask anyone who has ever participated, and they will tell you it is not to be missed under any circumstances. Contact me if you are eligible and interested in playing or just going down with us.

***Stay safe, attend a meeting and remember this is your Union. I can be contacted to answer any questions or try to help with any problems at (C) 410-908-2179, (H) 410-879-4545, or (W) 443-984-1737 or email at [captald@aol.com](mailto:captald@aol.com).***

BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICERS  
IAFF LOCAL 964

### ***"NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK"***

**ABERDEEN IRONBIRDS  
VS  
VERMONT LAKE MONSTERS**

AUGUST 3, 2007  
Game time is 7:05 pm  
Ripken stadium - Aberdeen, Md

Tickets are \$14, which includes free parking, scorecard and baseball cap.

For tickets, contact Tom Nosek,  
T3 , C shift or cell 410 499 5441

### **From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President**

*By Mike Campbell*

Quite honestly, I did not want to begin my article in this fashion, but with all that has transpired recently, as this Administration so eloquently puts it. **"IT IS, WHAT IT IS"**! So here goes! The Fire Officers and the Fire Fighters Unions participated in a mail out to the membership on a Vote of NO Confidence in Chief Goodwin and the results were overwhelmingly against the Chief. The Fire Officers mailed out 321 ballots and received back 245 ballots, which is **76%** of the membership and the tally was 231 ballots for the vote of no confidence and 14 ballots in favor of the job the Chief is doing. That is a **95% Vote of NO Confidence** in Chief Goodwin's leadership! It is plain to me that the Active Fire Officers firmly disapprove of this Chief and his leadership of our Dept. Both Unions also filed an Unfair Labor Practice which entails a myriad of infractions, either of our Memorandum of Understanding or through the very words coming from the Chief. Chief Goodwin has made it well known that he intends to "destroy the Unions and bankrupt them" along with stating that he will "ignore the Unions and have our attorneys contact the City Solicitor if we have any problems". Recently, Chief Goodwin gave an edict to his Command Staff that no one other than the Presidents of both Locals could contact him or any of his designees with any Union business. This is an absolute violation of our MOU and also hinders our members because now instead of myself handling your payroll or personnel issues I have to contact Steve and have him do it along with his many other duties. The Chief admitted that he wanted to tie the hands of Steve and the Union. This is absurd and needs to be corrected. We are working on this very issue as I type. This truly shows that Chief Goodwin does not have your best interest at heart and in attempting to punish the Union, is in effect punishing those that put their lives on the line on a daily basis. Chief Goodwin asked me into his office recently to talk about the Dept. and to get some things off of my

chest, so to speak. I did and he did, but in the end I just don't think he gets it. It is my belief that Chief Goodwin thinks of himself as a CEO and is running this Dept. with those thoughts in mind and couldn't give a damn about the men and women that he dutifully was entrusted to lead. He has mentioned that we are a business and has dropped the names of a couple of local businessmen who began their own companies and who have given him advice. Therein lays a problem. Chief, you are not a CEO! You did not start up your own business and as much as you don't like it, the Unions are an integral part of the BCFD and you knew that going in. And just when you thought in couldn't get worse, the Fire Dept. puts out an Operational Memo stating that members can no longer wear leather boots or leather helmets **even if they have already been approved!** This is almost comical except that our members paid their hard earned money on these items based upon the approval by the Dept., and to make matters worse, the Command Staff has shown up at fires recently with leather boots on along with the members of the Safety Office and the Fire Academy staff and **Chief Goodwin wonders why morale is low!!** I am currently working on this and hopefully the FD should have this resolved by the time you receive this Newsletter. As many of you know, I was thrown out of a meeting called by Chief Goodwin with the Battalion Chiefs for in essence raising my hand to rebut one of the Chief's false statements. Since then, myself, along with Mike Waldner have been ordered to not attend the two other meetings that the Chief has called. This is just another way for the Chief to make sure that no one can challenge his statements and also to divide and conquer which is what this is really about. The Chief has made attempts recently to divide our membership by way of rank and race claiming that the Unions turned down a 13% raise in favor of Arbitration. I was at every Negotiations session and certainly don't recall that offer from the City! I am willing to subject myself to a lie detector test and urinalysis on that one! Chief Goodwin and his Administration even went to a new low by claiming that a

member of 734's Executive Board sent a racist e-mail. These were trumped up charges and thankfully this repulsive charade fell apart. The Chief has also made many references to our overtime and that we can't continue to function as a Dept. with this burden instead of defending his people and demanding that City Hall increase the staff and salaries of the Dept. like Commissioner Hamm has done for the Police. Even with all of these trials and tribulations, our members continue to give the citizens of Baltimore their money's worth, such as Cecil Ave, where there were dramatic acts of heroism on board for everyone to see! I am proud to serve alongside the members of the BCFD knowing that these are the truest professionals in the business! So this is what is going on around you on a daily basis and I for one can assure that I will not stand idly by or be intimidated nor will I cave under this B.S.! The Unions are in it for the long haul and will be around much longer than this Administration!

I attended the Deferred Comp. meeting on 5/22/07. The Legg Mason Value Trust fund has been on the watch list for the past three quarters and if there aren't significant improvements in the next quarter the Committee has considered looking at another fund to take its place in the portfolio. The Legg Mason's Partners Large Cap Growth Fund along with the Mainstay Small Cap Fund are also on the watch list. The Committee will be looking closely at these as well. The Committee is looking into a Counseling and advice program for retirees. This will provide another means to distribute your Deferred Comp. monies at retirement. I will provide more on this later. Members who are under the age of 50 can deposit up to \$15,500 and those over the age of 50 can deposit up to \$20,500 annually into Deferred Comp. This can be extremely beneficial when retiring and cashing in your vacation days. You can take the money (tax deferred) and deposit it into your account as long as you don't exceed the limits above. If you have any questions, you can contact them @800-905-1833 or go to their website. The next meeting of the Deferred Comp. committee is scheduled for August 28, 2007. The City is implementing a new Payroll/Human Resources system. When the sys-

tem is complete all City employees will be paid on Fridays. This will not change our pay period. It will still run from Wednesday until Tuesday. We will begin seeing the Friday pay on July 20<sup>th</sup>. One change to us is that instead of the 3 pays we were expecting in July it will now be 3 pays in August, 8/3, 8/17 & 8/31. If you have deductions from within Balto. City institutions, such as the Credit Union, you should not have to do a thing but if you have other deductions such as a mortgage with an outside institution you will have to notify them of the date change.

Please keep Steve Canter and his wife Jenny in your prayers. Lieut. Gil Brooks had a mild MI. Please keep Gil and his family in your prayers as well. Summer is fast approaching and I hope that everyone has a **Safe and Enjoyable Summer** and we will see you in September for the resumption of our meetings on 9/5/07. This will be on a Wednesday due to the Labor Day holiday. This will also be the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Please keep abreast by logging on the Fire Officers website at [www.iafflocal964.org](http://www.iafflocal964.org).

### Health Care

It has been a slow couple of months as far as Health Care goes, so I would like to reissue this bit of info. on your behalf! Please be advised that, upon retirement, if you are covered by an out-of-State Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plan (either PPN or Traditional) you no longer have Dental Coverage as part of your benefit package. You will need to seek out your own dental coverage and will **NOT** be reimbursed for such expenses. If you remain in Maryland, however, you will still have access to The Dental Network. Once you reach the age of 65 years and qualify for Medicare you are converted to BC/BS Traditional coverage and are no longer eligible for dental coverage. The Dental Network, along with the city's Dental Plan, offers other plans that include more services and dentists at an increased premium. Go to their website, [www.thedentalnet.org](http://www.thedentalnet.org). For out-of-state members, the IAFF-FC now offers a separate dental plan. You can get more information by visiting the IAFF website, [www.iaff.org](http://www.iaff.org) and clicking on the IAFF Financial Corp. icon or by calling 1-866-423-3757.

### Safety and Health

The Safety & Health meeting was held on 4/19/07. Items discussed with the Committee are the following: Upcoming roof work will begin on E-2, E-36, E-51, EMS quarters (old E-26), E-13 & T-15. Apparatus floors were repaired at E-31 and E-53's quarters. Engine 36 just had a new kitchen put in and E-53 will be getting a new drop ceiling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The Dept. is currently looking at funding to purchase the Ward Diesel systems for all first line apparatus. The City approved the immediate purchase of two rear mount ladder trucks from PIERCE and there are four PIERCE TILLERS on order that should be delivered by the fall. We were informed that face pieces have been found extremely dirty during inspections. This is a no brainer. It is for your benefit to keep them clean. The traffic lights outside the quarters of E-8, E-55 and E-4 are being rehabbed to allow the FD to maintain them. E-41, E-43, E-21, T-15 and Oldtown have major communication problems and are being looked at. If you have any Plymovent issues please contact Jim Bellamy and I. Make sure that you e-mail the Safety Office at ([FDSO@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:FDSO@baltimorecity.gov)) if you have any safety related issues. The next Safety & Health meeting will be 6/21/07.

### President's Club

The upcoming Mayoral race is fast approaching and we need to be involved if we are to effect the changes that I feel are needed to see the Fire Dept. become a priority in the City. With that said, we need more members contributing to our PAC Fund. Currently we have 108 members who are contributing to our PAC Fund. Of those, we have 105 President Club members. The PAC Fund is our most important tool to have the **local** politicians listens to our concerns. If you contribute \$4.00 or more a pay you are automatically included in the Presidents Club. Thanks to those who have contributed and to those who haven't, contact me if you need a dues deduction card. The Presidents Club shirts should be ordered in June and I will notify everyone when they come in.

As always, keep your Beneficiaries up to date and don't hesitate to call or e-mail me at any time.

Cell – 443-629-0216  
Work -- 410-396-5773  
E-mail: [captain16@hotmail.com](mailto:captain16@hotmail.com)

### Worlds to twirl by...

The percentage you're paying is too high priced  
While you're living beyond all your means,  
And the man in the suit has just bought a new car  
From the profit he's made on your dreams.  
But today you just read that the man was shot dead  
By a gun that didn't make any noise,  
But it wasn't the bullet that laid him to rest  
Was the low spark of high-heeled boys!

*Traffic*

### From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

*By Bob Jordan*

### John L. Seiss Benefit Golf Tournament

I want to thank everyone who came out to work on what I think was a beautiful day to play golf and have a great time.

We had 116 golfers and even though I still do not have the final figures, I think we made as much as last year's tournament did.

Special thanks go out to the two people that keep me straight, and that is Bryan Hoffman and Mike Campbell. Bryan handled the raffle and Mike handled getting the volunteers to work the par threes all day. Thanks guys.

I want to thank all the members who gave up their time to come out and work the par three's as this is not an interesting job, but one that has to be done. Thank you very much for your support.

I want to also thank all the Corporate Sponsors, the Platinum Sponsors, and the Food on the Course Sponsors, gift certificate sponsors, and of course

all the tee and ad sponsors. I will be getting a special "thank you" which will go out to all of them by mail.

I am pretty sure that this will be the last time I chair this tournament, but I will be there to help the next chair person with this endeavor to the best of my ability. Since taking over as chairman, I have had a lot of people helping me along the way and have made some good friends thru our sponsors. Thank you to everyone who has helped me make this a success over the years.

### Building Update

Well it looks like we will not be back in for our June meetings, as things have gone a little slower than expected, due to some inspections by the city and permits being issued but things seem to be moving in the right direction. We are having our Executive Board and Board of Directors meeting, in June, back in our own conference room. The conference room now has glass windows on each side to add more light into the room. The AC units are working great on the second floor offices and the hall, and they are putting in the plumbing for the bar area. The front of the bar has been completed and the bar equipment has been ordered. The top of the bar is also on order, and the new ceiling tiles have been installed in all the offices and the board room.

With no union meeting in July and August, we should be ready for the unveiling of the remodeled Union Hall and offices for the meetings in September.

If you have been by the hall lately, you will see that the old "Fake Firehouse" doors have been removed and the new floor-to-top glass windows and door in each side has replaced them. They are set in where the original fire house doors use to be. They look great and I have had a lot of compliments from the community on how good they look. The new windows should also be in this week (first of June) and they are ready to bust out the bricked up windows when they arrive. The Daily Grind, on the first floor, has all their equipment ordered and should be in within two weeks along with their cabinetry. I am not sure what the planned opening date is as of this writing but will keep you informed on the web site.

### Motorcycle Tags

We are ever close to having 25 members to get started on issue of tags for our organization. If you want tags, I need to have your CURRENT tag number, so please e-mail me your name and TAG NUMBER either to my home e-mail at [K9118@aol.com](mailto:K9118@aol.com) or the office at [bfo964@aol.com](mailto:bfo964@aol.com).

### From the Desk of the Recording Secretary

*By Tom Nosek*

By the time you read this newsletter the Summer recess from Union Meetings will be upon us. However, our Union activities will continue to be busy. Our contract arbitration will begin June 24, the Mayoral election will be heating up and we still have several grievances to be heard. Hopefully we will have the LODD investigations released on both FF Allen Roberts and Fire Cadet Racheal Wilson this Summer.

The fourth annual retiree dinner/dance on April 21 was a success and the retirees, their families and guests enjoyed an evening to remember. The VEBA raffle trip to Boston was won by Nancy Robinson, sister of 964 member Ken Robinson. The raffle raised \$3065 !!! THANKS to all who made the effort to participate.

The annual summer picnic will be held Sunday, July 15 from 11am to 7pm at Cascade Lake in Hampstead, Md. (see flyer). The second annual "night at the ballpark" will be August 3, in Aberdeen Md. (see flyer)

Please take time to enjoy your family this Summer. The kids seem to grow up too fast, my daughters are now 19, 15 and 12 and it just seems like yesterday that they were born. Take the time to go crabbing, attend a ball game, roast marshmallows, get a snowball, tell them that you love them!!! With the recent deaths of Allen and Racheal, we must remember that our job is dangerous- both left young children without a parent!!!

See you at the picnic and 'night at the ballpark "

### SICK AND INJURED

-Lt. Gil Brooks, E-42 had a heart attack. He is at home recuperating and plans to return to work in about six weeks.

-Lt. Mike Evans, E-45 had a cancerous tumor removed; however, one kidney had to be removed. Doctors feel confident Mike will heal completely and they got the cancer. Mike is home resting and can't wait to return to work.

Keep these guys in your prayers. Also remember to pray for the safe return of all members of the BCFD who are serving our country.

### Tim Byrd's Remembrance

**July 14, 2007 1-5 p.m.**  
**Knights of Columbus Hall,**  
**4301 Klosterman Avenue**  
**(8400 block Bel Air Rd.)**

**RSVP by June 23**  
**Lou or Terri Lambdin**  
**410-665-8869 or**  
**TLDreamin@aol.com**  
(please put Tim in the subject line)

## *Baltimore Fire Officers*

### *IAFF LOCAL 964*

# *Annual Family Picnic*

*Sunday, July 15, 2007*

*11-7 pm*

*Cascade Lake -- Hampstead MD.*

*Six acre lake, covered pavilion, with in-ground pool, lifeguards, soccer fields, horseshoes, basketball, kiddie pool, swimming also at lake, paddle boats, catch and release fishing, fishing tournament with prizes, games all day, arcade at pavilion.*

*Menu: hot dogs, hamburgers, corn, wings, watermelon, ice cream, soda, beer and more!!*

Directions: from Balto. I 695 to Exit 19 to I 795 to Rt 30 N to Hampstead, left on Rt 482, right on Snydersburg Rd. Cascade Lake is at 3000 Snydersburg Rd, on the right.

[www.cascadelake.com](http://www.cascadelake.com)

# Tired and Retired

by Bob Hatoff

A funny thing happened on the way to this column. For years I've been writing absurd articles to point out the absurdities taking place in the Fire Dept. Over the years I've received calls, letters and comments from people I've met. Most of them were pretty much the same. They enjoyed what I wrote or were amused by it. Things have drastically changed recently. People have said they're ashamed to be associated with the Fire Dept. Not one person has mentioned being amused. Men like myself, who have devoted most of their adult lives to the Fire Dept., are in a state of shock. They find it inconceivable that the Chief of the Fire Dept. no longer speaks to or has any communications with the unions. The Chief who expresses great concern with safety, does not attend the safety meetings or send a representative. His solution for recent deaths and injuries is a game of musical chiefs. This will not fix the problems, when in truth it is the cause of them. Meanwhile the top heavy leadership of the department continues to fight among themselves to hold onto their magic wand promotions. Any dissenter who tries to use common sense, is quickly told their services are no longer needed and to hit the road.

The bottom line is this. Like the rest of you, I too am dismayed and disillusioned. It's impossible to put a positive

spin on this incredible turn of events. So I will no longer write on the subject until something good happens. I'll continue to suffer in my depression, as I watch men who I've always admired and considered friends, ruin the dept. as they drown in their own self importance. Let's just hope when the broom finally sweeps them away with the rest of the trash, someone will find real chiefs and leaders to return our department to its former glory!

Note to Mayor Dixon: If you should read this and have about 15 minutes to spare, I'd be glad to show you a way out of this quagmire.

As I wrote previously, I need to hear from you to get items to report--even moreso now that I'm off my main subject. Happily you have been responding. I heard from George Ray, who is 77 and wants to say hello to all the old farts out there. George and his wife, Betty, celebrated their 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 5-19-07. They were married in the old cathedral downtown. Congratulations George and Betty and I hope you enjoy many more!

Jimmy Evans called to say he just hit the big 60. I told him I wasn't happy to hear about it, because I worked with his father for many years and didn't like the idea of his son being that old.

Finally Art Gordon called to say he had just reached 65. He also said that Hugo Warns was his first Captain. So Hugo that makes 2 people who remember you, me and Art.

Now readers keep those birthdays and anniversaries coming in, so I don't have to make up stuff to write about. I would also like to start a list of everyone who remembers Hugo Warns. There must be more than 2 of us.

I hope you all can enjoy this summer and find time to get away on vacation. As always you can reach me at 1805 Greencastle Dr, Balto., MD. 21237 or 410-866-3235. I'm thinking about getting away myself, but everyone keeps suggesting mental health facilities!

# Sick and Injured List

Mel Kaufman is home mending after breaking his hip.

Joe McDonald had a cancerous kidney removed. He's doing good and is thinking about a vacation on Anna Marie Island after reading my last column.

George McKnight had a benign tumor removed from his left arm. The arm looks terrible, but George is as handsome as ever.

Rick DeTorie recently lost his wife and has had to go into assisted living.

Don Taylor has had a reoccurrence of his cancer and is back on chemo. He's in good spirits, but is suffering from the side effects of the chemo.

## THE BALTIMORE FIRE OFFICERS

Local No. 964

Meetings -- 1st & 3rd Monday

1030 S. Linwood Avenue

Baltimore, MD. 21224

PHONE: 410-276-6964

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