

Greetings from Hanify

Brothers and Sisters,

As you are probably aware, Brother Tom Miller, our former IAFF 8th District Vice President, was elected General Secretary Treasurer of the International Association of Firefighters. It is a great accomplishment and General Secretary Treasurer Miller is working hard in Washington on behalf of IAFF Firefighters. We are lucky to have him. Taking his place as 8th District Vice President is Paul Hufnagel from the Michigan Professional Firefighters Union. Brother Hufnagel has been a friend for many years and I am looking forward to continuing to work with him in his new position.



This winter the PFFUI once again hosted the IAFF Partners in Education Program in conjunction with our Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference on February 15th and 16th. This year's attendance was once again tremendous. Many thanks go to IAFF General President Schaitberger for sending us excellent instructors for the PEP classes. These classes cover a range of topics ranging from negotiating contracts to developing a political voice and provide an opportunity for Local officers to learn more about how to effectively lead their Locals.

The Thomas H. Miller Legislative Conference was also a success. Attendees heard about legal issues from our Attorney Jack Ruckelshaus; we honored Representative Scott Pelath from Michigan City for his efforts in the General Assembly and Senator Dennis Kruse from Auburn for his work as chairman of the Pensions and Labor Committee; and Dr. Larry DeBoer from Purdue gave a straightforward and understandable breakdown of how the tax caps work and what they really mean for property owners and local units of government.

The PFFUI also held a legislative reception for state legislators. Seventy two legislators came to the reception, where the Local leadership was able to connect with them and share some talking points about bills that were being heard during the General Assembly. I believe this is one of the most effective tools we have.

For a complete report on the 2010 General Assembly, please read Vice President Whited's report.

The 2010 PFFUI Convention is quickly approaching. This year's convention will be May 12-14 at the downtown Indianapolis Hilton. Any PFFUI member is welcome to attend with permission from their Local union leadership. If you have any questions, please contact your Local. At the convention we will discuss a number of important resolutions concerning the General Assembly and the day to day operations of the PFFUI, as well as hold elections for officer positions.

A number of departments across Indiana have submitted for SAFER Grants. We did a survey and have been working with the IAFF to ensure our departments get a fair hearing on these grants. We expect to have news within the next 30 days. Hopefully this will enable our members to get back in the firehouse serving the public and also to possibly replace some of the brothers and sisters that have been lost through attrition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Whited or myself on the progress of these grants.

Fraternally,
Tom Hanify



INDIANA
Professional Firefighters Newsletter

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Thomas H. Miller

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Vice-President Report

MIKE WHITED

Brothers and Sisters,

Now that the General Assembly is over and I have had time to reflect on what has transpired over the last three months, I feel, actually I know, that we as firefighters and EMS had a great year.

Before I explain the reasons, I would like to say why it's so important that the PFFUI has a collective voice at the General Assembly. This year's session was my first full year lobbying and it was an eye-opening experience. To get a bill passed you have to watch a bill nonstop in the process because it could be derailed at any time without any notice. We also have to be able to give testimony to a committee on the reasons why a bill is good or bad and we also have to be available to explain to a legislator the intent or impact a bill may have.

President Hanify and I started this session tracking 75 different bills. Some bills had a positive impact but many would have impacted us in a negative way. Getting a bill passed or stopping a harmful bill is not an easy task, and is accomplished after many years of building relationships and coalitions. We can thank Tom Miller, Brian Reed, Tom Hanify, Chuck Sosbe and Jim Ridley for paving this road with their decades of service at the Statehouse.

With this being a short session and a non-budget year, we did very well in the bills that we helped pass:

- We can now purchase service credit, out-of-state service credit, we will have the option of a partial lump sum payment at retirement and we removed the word "decrease" in the 77 fund retirement benefit.
- We now have job rights for EMS personal
- An active 77 fund member can now designate a beneficiary for the member's contributions
- A laid-off firefighter will have recall rights for five years.

I would like to comment on SB87 (job rights for EMS). This is a monumental bill and thanks to Senator Tallian it was passed in its first year. HB1194 also passed, thanks to Representative Tyler, so a firefighter on layoff will have recall rights extended to five years and a commitment to extend further if needed.

Equally as important is the list of bills we helped kill, including possible redirection of Public Safety LOIT, a bill doing away with fire territories, a bill doing away with the PERF advisory board, a bill prohibiting fire departments from charging fees and four different bills restricting our right to run for office. Our right to run for office will be back next



year, and we need all of you to speak to your legislators and tell them that we should be able to run for office. It's an important issue for all of us. You can see a full list of the bills on the PFFUI website under "Legislative Issues."

President Hanify and I are starting to plan for next year's session and one thing that has to be addressed is the revenue shortfalls to cities and towns from the property tax caps. We will have to look at alternatives to offset the revenue losses, because slashing public safety can't be the only answer.

We cannot take full credit for the outcome of this year's session. In fact, some of the credit goes to many of you for speaking to your legislators about our issues. We couldn't have been successful without you. Also, we would like to thank Leo Blackwell with the state FOP, the Association of Cities and Towns and the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, as we all worked together on some issues for a common goal.

In closing, I have enjoyed working for all of you as Vice President of the PFFUI and I would like to continue to serve you as your VP. I plan on seeking re-election in May and I would appreciate your support.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

MICHAEL PINKHAM

Brothers and Sisters,

Our 34th Annual State Convention should be just around the bend scheduled for the week of May 10th in Indianapolis and hopefully your Local will be represented there by delegates or proxies as we deliberate the resolutions which will guide us in the year ahead. It promises to be a very productive and educational meeting.

On Tuesday May 11th, the day immediately preceding the convention, we will host our 10th Annual Brian Reed Memorial Golf Tourney benefiting our Indiana Firefighters PAC. Your Local's participation through financial sponsorships of this event is very important to the political and legislative successes of the PFFUI. If your Local hasn't committed to at least a \$100 sign sponsorship please contact us and do so today.

Information on the convention and the golf outing have been distributed to Local Officers and are still available on our web site at www.pffui.com. While the deadlines for early registration have expired delegates will still be able to register in person at the convention hotel, the Hilton-Downtown Indianapolis, until noon the first day of the convention. It is important that your Local be represented at the convention and participate in the debates that will provide a path for our organization to follow in the next year.

Our financial strength remains solid as we enjoy modest growth in membership and thanks to your support of our programs. Hancock County Local 4787 affiliated with us earlier this year and we expect a couple more new affiliations in the coming months. Current per capita dues are \$3.94 per active member per month and \$1.97 per active-retired member per month and I do not expect any resolutions at this year's convention will cause that to increase. Forms are available to Local Treasurers on our web site.

Our Indiana Career Professional Firefighter Special Recognition License Plates remain available for both for vehicles and motorcycles. We encourage you and members of your family to obtain these plates demonstrating your pride in your career and in support of our organization. The tremendous success of this program enables our organization to fund many educational opportunities and other efforts to benefit affiliate leaders and keep our per capita rates among the lowest in the IAFF.

Locals with Political Action Committees should remember the Pre-Primary Report is due April 16th and Local Treasurers can contact me if they have any questions regarding report filings or PAC questions in general. I hope everyone reading this realizes how important our Local, State, and International PAC's are to the success of our efforts to protect and enhance firefighters' benefits with the elected officials governing our rights and working conditions. Please remember to support these PAC's, especially our Indiana Firefighters PAC.

Please remember to vote in the Primary Election in your community May 4th and support those candidates that support firefighters.

With spring upon us and summer around the corner many Locals are scheduling golf outings, motorcycle rides, and other activities. Please email us your Local's events and we will post them on our website at www.pffui.com along with our own scheduled events and those of the IAFF.

First District

ED LOMELI - VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI,

I think spring is finally here. In February, the PFFUI Executive Board put on another successful PEP (Partnership Education Program) in Indianapolis, with over 100 members from Locals throughout the state participating in the classes offered. Everyone was very pleased with the instructors from the IAFF and has expressed to the board their desire to expand the classes offered by the IAFF. After classes were done that evening, the PFFUI had a meet and greet with over seventy of our state legislators. They talked with their home city and town's union firefighters and EMS unions. There is not a better way to build our relationships and talk about issues that affect not only our Brothers and Sisters, but their families as well. It does a great deal of help when legislators see a familiar face from the district that they represent. President Tom Hanify and Vice President Mike Whited gave speaking points to all of the Locals to help their efforts in the State House.

In mid March President Tom Hanify, Vice President Mike Whited, 3rd District Vice President Mark Mastison, 5th District Vice President Tony Murray and I were in

Washington DC for the IAFF Legislative Conference. We met with our congressmen and our two senators up on capital hill, to talk about issues like collective bargaining, SAFER grants, reauthorization, job creation and recovery and many other issues. There were over nine hundred members of the IAFF representing their states. With this large number of members on Capital Hill, I was very impressed and proud to be a part of this great union.

In the last part of March, the 1st District had its annual meeting in LaPorte. In attendance were 12 out of the 17 locals that make up the 1st District. I wish that the news was positive from all the Locals, but that was not the case. Budget shortfalls affected almost every local. Some local cities are faced with layoffs and salary cuts of 5% and more. This is the hardest time I have witnessed in twenty years for our members. The IAFF recommends with these hard economic times that if your Local is being affected on this level, to have your Local look into the Safer Grant to help with the possibility of saving jobs. If your Local needs help, the PFFUI Executive Board will assist you with the information for your Local.

On a more personal note, on March 3rd Hammond Local 556 lost Brother Rick Kumiega, to a car accident that took his life suddenly while visiting with his father, a retired Hammond Firefighter up in Michigan. I am sure that his wife Stefanie, and his 2 young children, Allison and Teddy are greatly appreciative all of the Firefighters and Police officers that participated in his funeral. Rick, age 41, had nearly 20 years with the Hammond fire department and will be greatly missed by all.



Senator Dennis Kruse (Auburn/Fort Wayne) spoke at the PFFUI Legislative Conference.

The PFFUI recognized Senator Kruse for his hard work and support while he was serving as chairman of the Senate Pensions and Labor Committee.

Second District

RON MEIKLE - VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to the Brothers and Sisters of the PFFUI,

After what seemed to be an extremely long winter, spring has finally arrived. With the change of temperature, we find ourselves looking forward with renewed optimism to get firefighters back to work in all of the communities that have seen layoffs.

Rick Daily, President of Kokomo L396, called recently and informed the PFFUI that good news was on the horizon. Two more of the firefighters that had been laid off were called back to work! This is tremendous news for the families of our Brothers, Local 396 and the citizens of Kokomo. While we rejoice with these, our Sisters and Brothers, there are still close to a dozen firefighters that continue to wait for notification to return to the firehouse in Kokomo. Other Locals in the 2nd District fight each and every day to get back to safer staffing levels or maintain the current work force numbers. The struggle continues on.

I made contact with IAFF headquarters in Washington DC with the intention of tracking down information on the SAFER grants. The 2nd District has Locals that have applied for SAFER grant dollars and are anxiously waiting to hear if they will be selected to receive federal money to get firefighters back on the street. Through the information that was discovered, fire departments have begun receiving phone calls and emails from the DHS/FEMA Grants Management office. The e-mails ask a series of questions which essentially ascertain if the department is still interested in receiving the grant and what (if anything) has changed within the department with regards to staffing since their application was submitted. These inquiries may precede grant awards. It appears that the grants may not be awarded until the end of summer. Many families, friends, co-workers and citizens pray for good news.

The 2010 PEP Seminar was well attended and continues to be a rich resource of information to all of the local officers that attended. This is one of the best tools available to gather education that is relevant to each affiliate. Also, the Thomas Miller Legislative Conference was a huge success, as reflected in legislation that passed through and made its way to the Governors desk. Check out the PFFUI web site for details.

The 2nd District will be meeting for a caucus at 6pm on April 28 at 2021 Cedar Crest.

Items on the agenda will include resolutions for the upcoming State Convention, legislation updates from the General Assembly and Local issues that affect each of us.

There are many activities that take your time during this time of the year. Spend a few moments participating in the events that make us all stronger. FDIC, the Brian Reed Golf Memorial and the State Convention, or the International Convention in San Diego, are all very worthwhile events that build us individually and collectively. Your Local probably has events that elevate camaraderie and social networking too. The most important thing that you can do for your professional career is to participate. If we all stand around waiting for someone else to do the work, or worse yet complain about the job being done by the few who are trying, our organization will surely crumble. The load is light when shared by many. Offer your ideas or lend a hand to your Local officers. They would welcome the assistance. You might get more out of it than you think.

Third District

MARK A. MASTISON - VICE PRESIDENT

Brothers & Sisters of the PFFUI:

Greetings once again from the 3rd District. The majority of Locals in the PFFUI are gearing up for attendance at the annual convention in Indianapolis. This convention promises to be an interesting one, with the possibility of district elections and new faces at the conventions. Make sure your local is represented at the convention.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. This conference is held to allow firefighters the opportunity to lobby on Capitol Hill and convince Senators and Congressmen how a particular piece of legislation will affect firefighters across the country. The Indiana delegation was one of the best on the hill, meeting with both Indiana Senators and eight of the nine Indiana Congressmen. The Indiana Delegation consisted of firefighters from Indianapolis, Muncie, Carmel, Hammond and Evansville. All of the union brothers represented Indiana and the IAFF with an unbelievable amount of professionalism that went a long way in convincing these federal politicians what needed to be done on legislation in question. If you ever have the opportunity to attend this tremendous IAFF function, I would highly recommend it. This is a great way to see our government in action.

The 3rd District would like to congratulate Tom Miller on his recent election to IAFF Secretary-Treasurer. This election came after Vinnie Bollon resigned after 21 years in the position. There is no one in the IAFF more deserving than Tom Miller. His outstanding service to the PFFUI and 8th District of the IAFF laid the groundwork for his successful move to second in command of the IAFF.

The IAFF convention will be held in San Diego, CA in August of this year. This promises to be an interesting convention with recent legislation dealing with health care reform. Every local needs to be represented at this convention, either by proxy or in person. Please contact your District Vice President and let him know which way, so that the locals of the PFFUI are heard from.

As always, it is a pleasure serving on the PFFUI Executive Board. I look forward to seeing you in the future.

Fourth District

MIKE REEVES - VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings to my Brothers and Sisters from around the State,

As spring arrives, Local 416 is preparing for many great things in Indianapolis. We just love to show off our State Capitol and provide hospitality to all. We hosted the Big 10 Championship that was well attended by many from around the Midwest and Indianapolis hosted the NCAA Final Four Championship, which included our hometown Butler Bulldogs. With no rest for Local 416 members of the 4th District, FDIC will begin the week of April 19th with the conclusion of the conference being Local 416's Open House. This is one event we enjoy sharing with our thousands of friends, providing free food and beverage for all attendees.

We end spring with the 4th District welcoming the PFFUI's Convention here in Indianapolis. We have a lot planned to keep everyone busy. I am sure I can speak for Local 416 President Wayne Smith when I say we look forward to seeing everyone.

President Hanify will update everyone at the Convention about the legislative session and how it impacts our services both good and bad. We have seen how the lack of revenues are impacting all local units of government and the State of Indiana revenues have continued to be less than projected. No one wants to raise taxes and I am fearful that without some creative labor management ideas, things will not be good for some time to come.

The Franklin Township merger is official and will take effect July 1st, 2010. The talks are still ongoing with Lawrence Township but nothing is in concrete. There is a concern of a Lawrence Township fire station located in the City of Lawrence. The majority of emergency responses are in the City's jurisdiction but it is paid for with taxes from Lawrence Township taxpayers. What I can tell you is that the station needs to be staffed by full time professional firefighters. This is one of the arguments for consolidation in Marion County. No more lines defining who responds: The closest unit will respond on all emergencies.

I have been in contact with a Local in Tennessee that is looking at a potential merger. I have talked with the union president and have tried to give him good advice through the talks. This year we have been in contact with Locals in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. What Marion County is dealing with is happening all over the IAFF. As my friend Gary Coons has said, "Manage change before change manages you." True words and get ahead of it and get a seat at the table when it affects your membership.

Indianapolis District is preparing for contract negotiations. Local 416 Executive Committee will handle the negotiations with President Hanify being the lead negotiator. I am hopeful that with Tom's experience it will go well. I look forward to seeing everyone at convention and in the meantime if there is anything I can do, please let me know.



Congressman Ellsworth spoke about IAFF issues with L416 Secretary Ted Waldroup and PFFUI President Hanify. Congressman Ellsworth is currently running for the US Senate.



Representative Jacquie Clements meeting with Tony Murray and members of L4416 Westfield District. She is a great supported of Firefighter issues at the General Assembly. Representative Clements also has a son who is a member of the Pike Twp FD and L416. (L to R) L4416 DVP Dayne Cook, Representative Jacquie Clements, President Tony Murray, and Trustee Greg Shereley.

Photo by Mitch Hazelbaker



Five members from Local 4416 Westfield took part in the American Lung Association's "Fight for Air Climb" to raise donations and awareness for the mission of the association. The charity event took place at the Market Tower in Indianapolis where each participant climbed the 30 story building in full firefighter turn out.



1st District Vice President Ed Lomeli with Representative Scott Pelath from Michigan City. Representative Pelath was recognized at the PFFUI Legislative Conference for his position and understanding of the problems that the current tax caps are causing throughout the state of Indiana. He has continually spoken up on the behalf of what is right.

Fifth District

TONY MURRAY - VICE PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this article finds you well and looking forward to good things this summer. Since the last newsletter, PFFUI and our Local affiliates in the 5th District have been busy the past winter months. Now we are in the midst of primary election season where many of our Locals are working to elect or re-elect county officials and/or state legislators. President Hanify and VP Whited finished the legislative session as it came right down to the wire late in the night in mid-February. Despite all of the turmoil in the session, our members came out well with some enhancements to the pension program and no real damage suffered. Thanks to the hard work of the Executive Board during the session. Great thanks to our members who participated in at least one small rally and a great showing at the Legislative Conference and reception. The work continues through the spring, summer, and fall. Planning for the next session of the General Assembly will be underway soon, as we need to represent our interests in the summer study committees. There is also the important work of seeing that those who support our issues are re-elected.

Thank you to all of the Locals in the 5th District and around Indiana who answered the call to support then-candidate Paul Hufnagel for IAFF 8th District VP. Like many of our Local presidents, I had the opportunity to speak to DVP Hufnagel on a few occasions and found him to be someone that will continue to represent our concerns and provide service to our affiliates from the IAFF. Congratulations to Paul.

Around the 5th District, our Locals have been working to achieve better lives for their members despite the economic situation we seem to all be feeling in our local governments. Crawfordsville Local 4143 completed meet and confer with the mayor, even reducing it to writing, thus creating a contract that has been adopted by the membership. This is the first formal agreement for this Local. Formal action to adopt the agreement is still pending, as it continues to get tabled by the city council. President Lowe and his members are working to see a positive vote by the council soon. Crawfordsville recently learned that they were awarded a SAFER Grant to hire an additional eight firefighters this year. This will certainly enhance their staffing, thus creating safer working conditions while offering enhanced service to the community.

Franklin Local 3433 is also experiencing a similar situation with their first contract.

Franklin has a basic model contract that formalizes practices and benefits the members are receiving today. They are working to meet with the mayor and council in an effort to see final passage soon.

Connersville Local 2205 is also in the SAFER Grant application process and continues to remain hopeful that their award will be announced soon. Connersville has seen a drastic reduction in firefighters over the course of the last two decades. A SAFER grant would also mean additional staffing.

Greenfield Local 4747 will be holding a benefit motorcycle ride for member Chuck Rutledge on May 22nd. Brother Rutledge is in a fight for life after being diagnosed with a form of cancer. For more information, contact Jeff Dixon at 317-374-9462. The local is also hosting a golf outing on June 12th. Hamilton County Local 4416 has had a busy start to year. In March the Local held their annual St. Patty's party benefitting the bereavement fund and recently held their 1st annual Easter Egg Hunt for members' children. In February, the Local organized the career members of the Sheridan Fire Department, located in northwest Hamilton County. Nine members are off to a great start. The Local is also encouraging members statewide to consider Charlie White for Secretary of State. Charlie is a long time town council member in Fishers and has been a proven friend of the firefighters since being elected on the council.

It was my pleasure to present the new charter from the IAFF to the Hancock County Local 4787 on February 17th. The membership consists of two departments, Buck Creek and Sugar Creek. These departments were formerly organized with Indianapolis Metro Local 416. President Charlie Brown and Secretary-Treasurer Nick Baker have things well in hand and are doing a great job for the local in Hancock County.

Hendricks County Local 4406 will be hosting a Fire Ops 101 for elected and appointed officials from around the district on May 8th. This program is a great opportunity to build relationships with those who participate and are local decision makers as well as a great way to highlight the work that our members do by inviting the media to participate. I look forward to attending this great program.

Johnson County Local 4252 recently organized members of the Bargersville Fire Department. Their 23 career members voted in favor of joining the IAFF and Local 4252 in March. President Hart and his Executive Board have done a great job over the last year by uniting firefighters in the county

under the house of labor. I look forward to working with this new group. The Local is hosting their 2nd annual golf outing later this month.

Carmel Local 4444 held another great event on St. Patrick's Day complete with a Pumper Pull competition to benefit their bereavement fund.

Please visit www.PFFUI.com to learn more about events Locals are holding throughout the year. Rushville Local 1734 will host a classic car show in June to raise funds to purchase a fire safety trailer for the community.

In March, members from Local 4416 and 4444 joined others from the PFFUI at the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We had productive and successful meetings with members of Congress who represent house districts in Indiana as well as meetings with our state's senators. The IAFF provided informative sessions to help our members understand six legislative items that we carried to the meetings on Capitol Hill. All of the members and staff we met with were very receptive to our profession's issues. The IAFF and PFFUI will continue to follow the progress of these pieces of legislation as the session of Congress continues.

I am looking forward to a productive PFFUI Convention in Indianapolis May 12-14. Locals in the 5th District are certainly encouraged to send their delegates to represent at the convention. The business that is done sets the course for the PFFUI both short and long term. I also look forward to meeting with delegates and alternates from around the 5th and the state.

Please be well and contact me anytime if your local requires any services of assistance from the PFFUI. Have a great spring.

Sixth District

ROBERT LOVISCEK - VICE PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings from the 6th District. Over the past year I have had the pleasure of being your representative on the Executive Board and I intend to run for another term as your Vice President. I can honestly say that this has been both an enjoyable and challenging year and I learned much from the experience. I hope I have done a good and honorable job as your Vice President and I hope that the membership of the 6th District will nominate me to continue.

One thing I have noticed that continues to curse our union is communication, or the lack thereof, within our Local ranks. Many times problems arise unnecessarily and grow com-

pletely out of control because of our simple failure to properly communicate. Sometimes members feel left out because they do not get the word about an event or a meeting for example. Isolated and misinformed, it is sometimes easier to make something up around the coffee table and spread it than to find out the right information. It is the leadership's responsibility to make sure our membership is in the information loop and in our best interests to keep the rumor mill from spinning out of control. "If you want to know what is happening, come to a meeting." That is easy to say, but let's face facts, unless the issue hits the membership in their pockets, most will not show up to a meeting. Do I like this? The answer is a resounding, NO! However, we all must find other ways to get our members engaged in what the Local is doing. Use a website or Facebook page to pass information. Go to individual stations for sit down discussions. Sponsor an event that the membership can rally around. There is no excuse for your members to feel disconnected and uninformed. However, this not only a leadership problem: Members need to take responsibility also. Get to those meetings and become energized in the happenings of the Local. We are only as strong as our membership. Each and every one of you has something to contribute and the help is needed. I hope you take time to think about this.

My home Local, Bloomington Local 586, welcomes into its ranks Van Buren Township as its new Van Buren District. New District Vice President Toby Liff and the rest of the Van Buren professionals are excited to join the IAFF and I am confident that they will be an asset to



Congressman Baron Hill with Local 586 President Bob Loviscek and Vice President Neville Vaughn. They discussed his support for the national collective bargaining bill.

our state and local union. Local 586 will also be hosting its 1st Annual Golf Outing on July 9th at Eagle Pointe Golf Resort. Please contact me if you need additional information for sponsorship opportunities or to sign a team up to play.

In my last article, I mentioned that I had been elected Bloomington Local 586 President. What I failed to do is to thank Jim Parrott for his years of service to our local as President. Jim is a good friend and I felt that I had done him a disservice by not thanking him before. Thanks for all your help Jim. Finally, I want to thank the members of the 6th District for allowing me to serve.

Semper Fi

LOCAL NEWS

Terre Haute Local 758

Don Seprodi named "Vigo County Union Person of the Year"

Everyone knows that firefighters are notorious for going above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to helping those that are less fortunate. But very few go to the extent that Local #758 member Don Seprodi has. Seprodi, a 16 year veteran on the Terre Haute Fire Department, holds the office of Secretary for Local 758. In his spare time, he has

managed to put together a very impressive resume of charities in which he plays a major part year in and year out. His major project is to organize and run the MDA "Fill the Boot" drive. This campaign is consistently one of the top producers in the state. He has also organized food drives, Christmas toy drives, a Habitat for Humanity drive and has helped to raise money for COCH and the America Red Cross. For all of his hard work and dedications to charity, he was been awarded the Vigo County Union Person of the Year. This is a very prestigious award, being chosen from over 16,000 union members who live and work in Vigo County. Brother Seprodi says his best advice to union brothers who want to become involved is to start small and watch how it grows. To see what one man can accomplish when he has the drive is amazing thing. Brother Seprodi stated "Any project you want to do can be done. The most important part is having support from your family at home." On behalf of the 3rd District and the PFFUI, we would like to congratulate Brother Seprodi for this tremendous honor.

Hancock County Local 4787 Received Charter



Hancock County Local 4787 President Charlie Brown and Secretary-Treasurer Nicholas Baker



Members from Hancock County Local 4787 at their union meeting posing with their charter issued January 1, 2010. Departments in the local: Sugar Creek Twp. and Buck Creek Twp.

Valparaiso Local 1124 Tracy Millard Receives Award for Heroism

Firefighter Tracy Millard received a plaque for going “Above and beyond the call of duty” from Valparaiso Fire Chief David Nondorf at the February 8th City Council Meeting. FF Millard had just gotten off duty on the morning of December 30th, 2009 when he spotted heavy smoke and decided to investigate further. He located heavy smoke and flames coming from the roof of an apartment building at 1808 Chicago Street in Valparaiso. Millard took note that nobody was evacuated despite the conditions. He took immediate action by notifying the FD of the situation, and initiated a primary search of the building. He started his search on the top floor, closest to the fire, and worked his way down floor-by-floor. Millard ended up forcing entry into a total of 12 apartments and evacuated 4 families to safety. He suffered a minor leg injury during his efforts to protect life and property. The subsequent fire investigation showed that the fire was sparked by a lighting/fan fixture in the bathroom of an apartment on the top floor of the building. The fire had spread in the attic and through the roof. Thankfully, no residents were injured. Fire Chief David Nondorf stated “this went above and beyond, so there was a clamor from the rest of the department to single out one of their own for this award.” FF Millard was recognized at both the Valparaiso City Council Meeting and at L1124’s monthly union meeting. At the union meeting he received a plaque from Local 1124, the framed newspaper article that was printed in The Times, and a commendation letter. Tracy remains humble through his attention and simply states that it was fortunate that the fire occurred during the daytime so he could see the smoke. Job well done Tracy! It just goes to show that we are never truly “off the job.”



Firefighter Tracy Millard accompanied by fellow L1124 members that went to see him receive his award at city hall.



VFD union president David Souders, Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, FF Tracy Millard, Fire Chief David Nondorf, and Councilman-at-Large (and fellow firefighter) Arthur Elwood.

Kokomo Local 396 Working to bring back Laid-off Firefighters

Kokomo Local 396 received a two year contract extension. Also the Board of Works voted to bring back one more laid-off firefighter, effective Jan.27, 2010. In March, two more firefighters were brought back for a total of 6 firefighters back, and 10 firefighters to go.

Have you moved?

Be sure to let us know!
You are welcome to mail, phone
or E-mail your new info to us.

Please contact:

Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Pinkham
P.O. Box 15735 Fort Wayne, IN 46885
260-414-6889
Secretary@pffui.com

OR

Go to www.pffui.com and
click on the link to update your
contact information

Valparaiso Local 1124 Robert Schulte Elected to Fill Remaining Term as Porter County Coroner

Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Schulte, Local 1124's Secretary, was elected by a caucus of county Democratic Party officials on February 20th 2010 to fill the remaining 10 months as the interim Porter County Coroner. He won the election over four rivals. The spot was vacated by Vicki Deppe, who resigned to take a nursing job, effective at the end of February. Schulte will be on the Democratic primary ballot for Porter County Coroner in May 2010. By further proving himself with hard work and efficiency, Schulte has the intention of winning the primary election in May and the general election in November, to fill the position for the full four year term. Congratulations Robert, we are proud of you!

Hamilton County Local 4416: Increasing PFFUI PAC Giving

**PRESIDENT HANIFY, SECRETARY-TREASURER
PINKHAM, VICE-PRESIDENT WHITED:**

On behalf of the Local 4416 Executive Board, we would like to share with you some information concerning Local 4416 PAC Check-off for 2010 voluntary contributions to PFFUI PAC. This year, our Local is poised to send state PAC a new record in annual member contributions - \$8,901.00. This represents an increase from 2009 to 2010 of + \$2,451.00. However, this total represents 48% participation of active members. We know we can do better next year.

The message concerning the work PFFUI does at the General Assembly is catching on. We are proud of our members and their commitment to PAC. Thank you for your continued work.

Fraternally,
Local 4416 Executive Board

Hamilton County Local 4416: Welcoming Sheridan Fire Department

All nine career members of the Sheridan Fire Department in northern Hamilton County organized with IAFF Local 4416. After researching and meeting with leadership, the newest members of the Local voted to join the union last month. President Tony Murray, the Executive Board, and all members of Local 4416 welcome these new members to the IAFF and are excited to help them set and achieve their professional goals.

Firefighter-Paramedic Craig Isenhower was elected by members in Sheridan to serve as their steward. District Vice-President Darren Collar will serve as the service representative for the members in the Sheridan District.

"I am excited for our members in Sheridan. Over the last decade, career firefighters in Hamilton County have come together under the house of the IAFF in an effort to speak as one strong voice for our issues. Sheridan's vote to organize only helps our cause," said Local President Tony Murray.

Clay Firefighters Local 1630 Adding Members

On January 1, 2010 Clay Fire Territory and the Harris Township Fire Department merged departments. Prior to the merge the Clay Firefighters L1630 had 34 members with 100% participation. The executive board of L1630 hosted a meeting for all the career firefighters from Harris Township to provide them with information and benefits of the IAFF, PFFUI and L1630. On January 5, 2010 a special meeting was held to vote in all 22 firefighters from Harris Township Fire. Clay Firefighters L1630 now has 56 members still maintaining 100% participation. Clay Fire Territory consist of 5 stations running 5 engines, 1 truck, 1 tanker, and 2 paramedic ambulances covering 60 sq miles and 66,000 residents.

Have a story to tell?

Email the latest news happenings in your Local to Kara Glennon at kglennon@indy.rr.com. Be sure to include photos if you have them, and we may publish your story in the next quarterly PFFUI newsletter!



Check us out on Facebook to keep up on events around the state and connect with your other Brothers and Sisters!

PFFUI PAC Corner: Greetings from the 1st District

JEFF LAWLEY
VICE-PRESIDENT LOCAL 1124

Brothers and Sisters, I am writing to you in regard to an issue that is near and dear to my heart. That issue is Political Action: Specifically, the push to get all of our members active in the State PAC. I have talked with many of you over the years about PAC at the State and Local levels and I was honored to be asked to be a part of the PFFUI PAC Development Committee. It is my belief that we all must get involved.

The 1st District has always prided itself on its members' activity both politically and in the monetary support of the PFFUI PAC. We do so because we know its importance and the importance of the issues that are addressed at the state level. These are tough times all over the state and I would think even our most anti-political activity brothers would finally see the importance as well. Valparaiso is enduring these times better than most because of the hard work put in by members since well before I was here. With that though, we are still experiencing wage and personnel freezes. Despite this, we put in the work that is necessary to accomplish our long term goals and our members still put their money where their mouth is!!! We have always prided ourselves on having the ability to have in depth, informational, and sometimes controversial discussions and have a vote and then all move forward together whether we were on the "winning" or "losing" side. This is the most important aspect of PAC...a unified voice! That unified voice is present and now needs everyone to step up to the plate and "put their money where their mouth is".

The PAC Development committee is getting ready to start the fund drive over the next year and is going to be asking every dedicated, professional firefighter in the state of Indiana to do their part and give one dollar a pay to the PFFUI PAC. We know that we all expect to be given the correct tools to do our jobs and we must provide the state PAC the tools to do their job.

I will relish the day when Valpo Local 1124 is no longer the leader in state PAC contributions. So please get your members on board, get yourself on board if you are Union Leadership, and let's ALL work together to make this great tool even better!



Congressman Dan Burton meets with the delegation from Hamilton County Local 4416 during the IAFF Legislative Conference.

Thomas Miller Elected IAFF General Secretary-Treasurer

JANUARY 20, 2010

Following the retirement of IAFF General Secretary-Treasurer Vincent J. Bollon on January 15, 2010, the IAFF Executive Board in accordance with the IAFF Constitution and Bylaws – has elected Thomas H. Miller, to finish the term.



"Tommy Miller has demonstrated his ability to lead on the local, state and international levels of this great union," says IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger. "I have no doubt he will continue to be an invaluable asset to our members in his new capacity as General Secretary-Treasurer."

Miller says, "As I take on this new position of General Secretary-Treasurer, I am mindful of the awesome responsibility of the duties that come with it. I look forward to providing this higher level of service to our members."

The newly-elected General Secretary-Treasurer joined the Indianapolis Fire Department in 1968, retiring in 2005 at the rank of captain. Showing an early commitment to the

IAFF, he was elected a trustee of the Indianapolis, IN Local 416 in 1971, and elected vice president in 1974.

In 1978, Miller was elected as president of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana (PFFUI), and served until 2002. While still serving as PFFUI president, he also began serving as IAFF 8th District Vice President – representing Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan – in 2000. With more than 700 locals, the 8th District is the second-largest District in the IAFF.

Miller was appointed by former Governor Robert Orr to the Police Officers and Firefighters Pension and Disability Fund Advisory Board. He was reappointed by four successive governors and became chairman of the advisory board in 1990.

He also served as an advisor to numerous Indianapolis mayors and governors and other legislators on matters of public safety, pensions, labor contracts and other fire service and union issues.

Miller also served two tours of duty in Vietnam while in the U.S. Navy as a sailor aboard the U.S.S Tioga County.

Calendar of Events 2010



- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| MAY 11, 2010 | PFFUI Brian Reed Golf Outing
Winding River – Indianapolis, IN | SEPTEMBER 2, 2010 | Tiny Adams MC Ride
Plainfield, IN / Indianapolis, IN |
| MAY 12-14, 2010 | PFFUI Convention
Hilton Downtown – Indianapolis, IN | JANUARY 16 – 19, 2011 | IAFF ALTS / LMI
Phoenix, AZ |
| AUGUST 23-27, 2010 | IAFF Convention
San Diego, CA | MARCH 13 – 16, 2011 | IAFF Legislative Conference
Washington, DC |
| SEPTEMBER 2, 2010 | Indiana Firefighters Memorial
Indianapolis, IN | MAY 18 – 20, 2011 | PFFUI Convention
Blue Chip Casino/Hotel – Michigan City, IN |

Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC

The Political Action Committee of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana desperately needs your support.



The successes we achieve in the Indiana General Assembly protecting and enhancing our pensions and other benefits could not be realized without participation in the political process.

Elected officials at the state level of government have the ultimate 'say-so' in the statutes governing virtually every aspect of our careers, particularly our disability and retirement benefits. The state officials we lobby with cross all party lines and we are totally bipartisan in our support of those elected representatives who support professional Firefighters. These are the individuals who control your disability, retirement, and survivor benefits, and who write the statewide statutes governing merit systems, collective bargaining, residency requirements, disciplinary procedures, and countless other issues affecting you and your family as an active or retired Professional Firefighter .

The Indiana Firefighters PAC relies solely upon voluntary contributions. The PFFUI is requesting each member dedicate a minimum of \$1.00 per paycheck to build an effective political action committee.

To find out how your Local can start a PAC, contact your District Vice-President.

These contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes. Fill out the form below and mail it in today. Let us know that we can count on your support.

Sign Up Now!

cut here

Indiana Firefighters PAC Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Shirt Size (circle one) XXXL XXL XL L M S

Mail to:
Indiana Firefighters PAC
P.O. Box 15735
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46885-5735

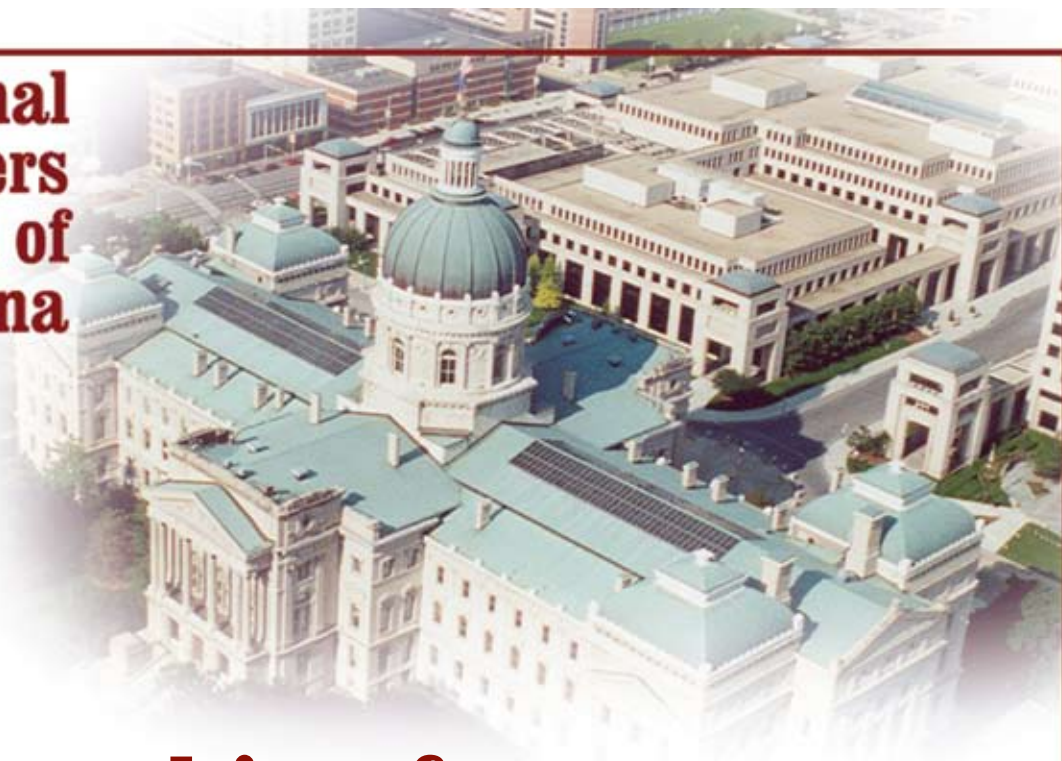
Check the box to indicate the level you are joining.

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\$200 or more per year
(\$8.00 per paycheck)
Receive an
Indiana FIREPAC Windshirt</p> | <p>★ CAPITOL CLUB LEVEL
\$100 or more per year
(\$4.00 per paycheck)
Receive an
Indiana FIREPAC Polo Shirt</p> | <p>★ LEADERSHIP LEVEL
\$50 or more per year
(\$2.00 per paycheck)
Receive an
Indiana FIREPAC T-Shirt</p> | <p>★ MEMBERSHIP LEVEL
\$26 or more per year
(\$1.00 per paycheck)
Receive an
Indiana FIREPAC Car Decal</p> |
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• Photo courtesy of: Nancy Flanigen




Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana



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 **Spring 2010**
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