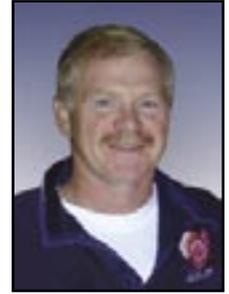


Greetings from Hanify

Here's the plan to back our PAC

When you opened this newsletter you should have found a brochure for the PFFUI Political Action Committee. I hope you will take a few minutes to read and review what this State Union's efforts have meant to you as a firefighter. The simple fact is your job as a firefighter would be very different if the PFFUI had not worked the halls of the State House on your behalf for more than 30 years. As you know, during those years politics in the state of Indiana and across the country have changed. Today, politicians listen to people who can help get them re-elected. The most important thing we can do is to energize you, our members. I have witnessed first hand how a motivated group of firefighters can change the results of an election. If you don't believe me, ask any of our brothers in Richmond, Evansville, or Hammond. Your PFFUI Executive Board wants to direct that same energy toward State House elections.



Here is the plan:

First, we need to improve communications with our membership. We are in the process of doing that through our improved website, increased visits to our Locals, and with this quarterly Newsletter.

Second, we are in the process of developing our membership list. This membership list will include which State Senate, State Representative and U.S. Congressional District you live in. This will enable us to keep you informed about how the people who represent you vote on our issues, especially when they are in closely contested primary races or general elections.

The third step is helping our political friends get their message out. This is where we need you to consider making an annual commitment to the PFFUI PAC. I can tell you from my experience in those State House halls that the organizations which have the ability to make a difference in the legislative races back home—through motivated membership and financial assistance—are the organizations who are effective in that State House. That is why we are asking you to look over the PFFUI PAC information provided with this newsletter — consider joining today. Remember, Union dues cannot be used for political activity. Voluntary PAC donations are the only revenue we use for political donations.

As you probably know, not much happened during the Indiana General Assembly this year. By many legislators' accounts, this was the most contentious session in recent years. I attribute this to the State projecting a budget shortfall and this being an election year. On the positive side, we were able to protect all of our past gains. Please read Vice President Chuck Sosbe's column for a complete legislative report.

At this year's PFFUI Convention in May, the Board will tie business and education together. We are planning to have several comprehensive presentations concerning issues such as starting your Local PAC, implementing a merit system, the pension windfall penalty for Social Security and how to begin a child safety seat program for your Local or department. I ask all our members to encourage your Local's leadership to attend this year's convention in Fort Wayne from May 12th to the 14th and to bring a report back to you—the membership on the business accomplished and information presented.

Finally, in conjunction with the Convention, we will hold our 4th Annual Brian Reed Golf Tournament, Tuesday, May 11th, at Riverbend Golf Course in Fort Wayne.

The funds we raise at this event go directly towards our legislative efforts. I hope you can support this event by playing or through sponsorship from you or your Local.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me, or any of our Executive Board members. We are here to serve you—the membership.

Fraternally,

Tom Hanify



INDIANA
Professional Firefighters Newsletter

Indiana State Executive Board

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Richard O. Kissel

Vice President Report

Charles Sosbe, Jr.

This year's Indiana General Assembly adjourned on March 5th. The most important piece of legislation we were able to move this year was Senate Bill 81, the Heart and Lung bill. This bill will make certain forms of cancer and heart disease line-of-duty disabilities and deaths. We were able to get this bill moved to the Pension Management Oversight Committee (PMOC). This committee is the summer study committee that all major pension bills must pass through in order to move in the next General Assembly. None of our major pension bills have moved in the legislature, until first getting a positive recommendation from PMOC.

This was a very strange session. If I could sum up this year's General Assembly in one word, that word would be politics. This being an election year everything seemed to revolve around what it will take to win control this fall. The Governor's office, as well as control of the Indiana House of Representatives, is up for grabs. Only the general election in November will determine which of the strategies the two parties had chosen will benefit them. All I can tell you is because of politics this session came to a screeching halt a full two weeks before the final day, and nothing of any significance happened from that time to the finish.

I know some of you may get tired of us continually talking about how important politics is, but let's say it again. If you don't have a Political Action Committee (PAC), you are not going to be successful in moving forward on Local issues for your brothers and sisters. If we don't get more interest in the State Political Action Committee it will be harder and harder to move forward with the legislation needed that will benefit all of our brothers and sisters on the issues that affect us all.

Not only do we all need to be more politically active, but more politically aware as well. You need to talk to those individuals who represent you. You need to know their stand on your issues. You need to support those representatives who support you, and defeat those who oppose you. It doesn't matter what their political party is, either they support firefighters or they don't. The most effective way to make a difference is by establishing a PAC. You need to start talking to the members of your Local, and get it done.

We will be more than happy to help you get started. Each district has a PAC committee member that will come to a meeting to talk to your members and help you get a PAC started. Just do it. Don't wait until something happens that hurts your members, because then you have an uphill battle just to get back what you may have lost. While you are talking about your Local PAC don't forget the State PAC. We face the same issues at the state level that you face at the Local level. Each of you will receive the brochure about the state PAC with this newsletter. We have tried to develop a program that will allow everyone to participate at some level. The higher the level the better, but believe me all contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Our PFFUI State Convention will be May 12-14 in Ft. Wayne. I hope to see you there.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Michael Pinkham

You've probably already noticed the enclosed FIREPAC brochure and likely read President Hanify's article detailing the inception of our membership participation incentive program. I simply want to echo what every State Union Officer and I hope every Local Union Officer should be saying: YOU NEED TO SUPPORT YOUR FIREFIGHTER PAC'S!

We are public employees and politicians at every level of government. Elected and appointed officials have tremendous influence over policies, regulations, and legislation which affects our careers as Professional Firefighters. You need to be politically involved at the local level, hopefully through your own Local Union Political Action Committee, and you need to support our statewide Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC and the International's IAFF Firepac.

This program is off to a highly successful start already. Special recognition is deserving for the Valparaiso Local 1124 Firefighters who have already marketed this program to their membership resulting in signing up 17 individuals at the top President's (\$200/yr) Club Level, with 6 members signing up at the Capitol (\$100/yr) Club Level, 8 members at the Leadership (\$50/yr) Club Level and their remaining members signing up at the Membership (\$26/yr) Level for 100% participation by their Local.

Initial solicitation at District meetings has additionally brought in numerous checks and payroll deduction commitments ensuring that this program will continue to be successful. A list recognizing the names of those individuals committing to the top levels will be published separately in this newsletter.

Please read over the brochure and realize the strength your contributions, large or small, provide our organization in achieving our goals of protecting and enhancing your career as an Indiana Professional Firefighter.

Brian Reed Memorial PAC Golf Tournament:

On another PAC note, our primary source of revenue in previous years has been our annual Brian Reed Memorial PAC Golf Tournament. I have had a number of teams register already and many commitments to sponsor signs. There is still time to send me a check for players or sponsorships. The event will be the day immediately prior to convention, Tuesday May 11, 2004 at 11:00 am at Riverbend Golf Course in Fort Wayne. Please contact me as soon as possible to register as a player or sponsor a sign to benefit our Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC.

State Union Convention

Convention information has already been sent and every Local Union President should have their credential packets by now. It is important that you register your delegate and alternate representatives with me prior to convention. The deadline for hotel reservations is April 12, 2004. The convention will be held at the Fort Wayne Marriott (260/484-0411) Wednesday May 12th – Friday May 14th, 2004.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Continued...

If his hectic schedule doesn't change, we are expecting IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger to attend and address the delegation. In addition to deliberating probably 10 or more resolutions, delegates will also be able to participate and learn from a number of educational presentations including legal issues, merit systems, Political Action Committee organization, Social Security Windfall provisions, and the offerings of the IAFF Financial Corporation. Delegates will also nominate and elect State Union Officers and a convention host city for 2005.

Please visit our web site at pffui.com for a wealth of information and a calendar of activities and please do not hesitate to contact me via E-mail or by telephone if I can be of any service to you or your families.

Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC Participation Recognition (1st Quarter 2004):

President's Club Level (\$200 or more per year):

PFFUI Officers: Tom Hanify, Mike Pinkham, Mark Mastison, Edward Lomeli, Richard Dolsen Sr, John Noone

Fort Wayne Local 124: Scott Alday, William D'Allesandro, James Ridley, Joy Williamson, Gary Wymer

Indianapolis Metro Local 416: Randy Adams, Tom Miller, Mike Reeves

Valparaiso Local 1124: Scott Arnold, Joe Canton, Jon Daly, James Daughterty, Donald Edgecomb, Steve Jacobs, Jack Johnson, John Kroll, Jeff Lawley, Mark Maze, David Nondorf, Jim Scarborough, Bob Schulte, David Souders, Timothy Stites, Mike Szany, Nicholas Weber Anderson

Local 1262: Donald Watson

Capitol Club level (\$100 or more per year):

Fort Wayne Local 124: Matt Peckham, Anthony Ridley

Indianapolis Metro Local 416: Joe Finneran, Paul Ford, Mike White

Hammond Local 556: Michael Demulc

Bloomington Local 586: Steve Coover

Valparaiso Local 1124: Dennis Alonzo, Mike Cervik, Chad Dutz, Teresa McCleary, James Shepard, John Taylor

Muncie Local 1348: Dennis Tyler

Leadership Level (\$50 or more per year):

Fort Wayne Local 124: Amy Biggs, Kelly Hurd, Chris Walker, Karen Wilkinson,

Valparaiso Local 1124: Les Abraham, Michael Brettin, Kenneth Collins, Jarry Frye, William Garpow, Michael Herzog, Scott Stafford, Jeff Walsworth

Membership Level (\$26 or more per year):

The numbers of members contributing at this level are too numerous to list here but each and every dollar is appreciated and much needed. Special thanks to the members participating in payroll deduction contributions in Brazil, Fort Wayne, Hammond, Kokomo, and Valparaiso.

The Political Action Committee of the Professional Fire Fighters 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 Fire Fighters. 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 Fire Fighter.

The Indiana Fire Fighters 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. These contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes.

**Please send your contribution today
by personal check payable to:**

Indiana Fire Fighters PAC

P.O. Box 15735

Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5735

Indiana Professional Firefighters PAC

General Council's Report

John C. Ruckelshaus
General Counsel
Indiana Professional Firefighters Association

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Ind. Code Section 36-8-3-4.1 states that the Chief of the department may, without a hearing, or reprimand, suspend without pay, for a maximum of five (5) working days. For purposes of this section, eight (8) hours of paid time constitutes one (1) working day. If a Chief reprimands a member in writing or suspends a member, the Chief shall, within forty-eight (48) hours, notify the Board (Safety Board) in writing of the actions and the reasons for the actions. A member who is reprimanded in writing or suspended under this section may, within forty-eight (48) hours after receiving notice of the reprimand or suspension, request in writing that the Board (Safety Board) review the reprimand or suspension and either uphold or reverse the Chief's decision. This section has raised many questions among police and firefighters as to whether if an appeal is taken by an aggrieved member, can the Board (Safety Board) increase the penalty given by the Chief. This issue was finally addressed by the Indiana Court of Appeals in a case entitled

City of Ft. Wayne v. Slattery, 791 N.E.2d 807 (Ind. App. 2003). In this case a Ft. Wayne police officer appealed the Chief's five (5) day suspension to the Board of Safety and the Board of Safety increased the suspension from five (5) days or 42.5 working hours to 85 working hours. The officer appealed that to the local Superior Court which held that the Board erroneously increased the length of the officer's suspension. The City appealed this decision and the Indiana Court of Appeals in the case cited above held on July 16, 2003 that the Board only had authority to reverse or uphold the Chief's decision and, thus, did not have authority to increase the suspension and affirmed the decision of the local trial court. If no further appeals are taken or if the City attempts to have the Indiana Supreme Court review this, and the Supreme Court refuses, then this decision will be the law of the land in Indiana. We have repeatedly taken the position that the literal interpretation of the statute means just exactly what the Court of Appeals stated in their July 16, 2003 Opinion.

We will continue to follow this case and report any further decisions as they may occur.

PSOB to Include Heart Attacks & Strokes IAFF lobbying efforts secure victory

The IAFF won a significant victory as Congress passed the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act (S.459) shortly before adjourning for the year. The legislation extends the Public Safety Officer Benefit to cover firefighters who die from a heart attack or stroke suffered in the line of duty.

Under current law, families of public safety officers who die "as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty" are eligible to receive a one-time federal benefit in addition to any compensation provided by states or localities. The Department of Justice (DoJ), which administers the program, has interpreted the phrase "direct and proximate" to cover heart attacks only when an autopsy shows a high level of carbon monoxide in the blood. This narrow interpretation of the law has resulted in the denial of benefits to hundreds of survivors of fallen firefighters. In fact, no family of a public safety officer has ever been awarded under the DoJ's interpretation. The new law, which was authored and championed by Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-N.C.), directs the Justice Department to pay the benefit for fatalities that result from a heart attack or stroke that occurs within 24 hours after engaging in any strenuous or stressful emergency response or training activity.

The legislation, which boasted an impressive 282 cosponsors in the House of Representatives, endured numerous setbacks during its two year journey through the legislative process. The bill had passed the House in the final hours of the previous session of Congress in 2002, but died in the Senate. In 2003, it was the Senate that passed the legislation—thanks to the tireless efforts of Sen. Pat Leahy (D-Vt.)—but the bill bogged down in the House.

Nicknaming it "the jelly doughnut bill," key Members of the House vowed to block action on legislation that they claimed would pay federal benefits to public safety officers who suffer heart attacks caused by eating too much junk food. The logjam was broken when Subcommittee Chairman Howard Coble (R-N.C.) held a hearing on the legislation, and subsequently met with IAFF staff and IAFF leaders from North Carolina. After several months of difficult negotiations, Coble successfully forged a compromise that addressed the objections raised by his colleagues.

Even after the compromise was reached, it was unclear if there was enough time to pass the legislation before Congress adjourned for the year. The IAFF continued to push for action, and the House finally passed the Hometown Heroes Act at 6 a.m. on Nov. 22 after a contentious all-night session. The IAFF worked

over the next two days to ensure that the Senate would approve the House changes and send the bill to the President. At the time, the Senate was locked in a partisan stalemate over the Medicare legislation, which dimmed prospects for moving a bill championed by Democrats.

Working against the clock, the IAFF was able to persuade Senate leadership that providing a benefit to the families of fallen firefighters should not be a partisan issue. The legislation was finally approved by voice vote on Nov. 25. President Bush signed the measure into law on December 16.

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SAFER Becomes Law Federal dollars for more firefighters

On November 24, President Bush signed the annual Defense Authorization Bill, containing a historic initiative to provide federal funds to hire firefighters. The SAFER Act was crafted by the IAFF in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy as the cornerstone of IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger's commitment to build a living memorial to our fallen brothers.

Numerous Members of Congress played key roles in moving the issue forward. Senators Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and John Warner (R-Va.) sponsored the amendment to add SAFER to the Defense Bill on the Senate floor. Rep. Sherry Boehlert (R-N.Y.) used his position as Chair of the House Science Committee to build support for the provision in the House. Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Penn.), a long time champion of the fire service, used his influence as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee to craft a compromise that was embraced by Democrats and Republicans.

Senators John McCain (R-Ariz.), Fritz Hollings (D-S.C.) and Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Representatives Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.), Jack Quinn (R-N.Y.), Gene Green (D-Texas), and Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) played crucial roles. Following House passage, Schaitberger lauded, "The IAFF applauds our congressional allies for taking the first step in addressing the fire service's most pressing issue: lack of staffing. The inclusion of SAFER in the DoD authorization acknowledges the problem and provides an avenue to tap federal resources to hire sorely needed firefighters nationwide." The final step in the process is for Congress to appropriate funding for the staffing grants. The IAFF will be lobbying hard for full funding. Once funding is available, local fire departments can apply directly for grants to hire firefighters. Each application covers a five year period. In the first four years, the federal government provides a share of the fire fighter's compensation, and the locality must retain the position for at least one additional year. The federal government will pick up 90 percent of the costs in the first year, 80 percent in the second, 50 percent in the third and 30 percent in the fourth. The maximum amount awarded for

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 First Bankers Corp.
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Financing Company Awards \$5000 in Scholarships to Firefighters, Children *Indianapolis-Based First Bankers Corp announces 10 recipients, sixth year for scholarships*

January 14, 2004 (Indianapolis) – First Bankers Corporation announced it awarded \$5,000 in educational scholarships to firefighters and families of firefighters from municipalities across the country. The 2003 awards mark the sixth year the public safety and municipal financing company has provided the funding.

“First Bankers Corporation recognizes the important part in our society that public safety officials serve,” said John Hill, president of First Bankers. “We work closely with agencies and governmental agencies every day, but we wanted to support the individual firefighter in a different, more personal way.”

Five \$500 scholarships were awarded to emergency services personnel and five \$500 scholarships were awarded to children of emergency services personnel. The recipients typically apply the money to post-high school education, such as university, community college, technical school, fire school, EMT training, etc.

“I witnessed the emotional devastation that hit our occupation on Sept. 11, 2001. It was then that I vowed to return to school so that I could receive my degree in Psychology and help my brother firefighters when they needed it,” said Thomas Prin, Deputy Chief of the Horry County, South Carolina, Fire Dept and a scholarship recipient. “The scholarship is not just a financial boost, it is also a moral boost. The fact that First Bankers Corp. recognized my effort – and is willing to help – just adds to my resolve to finish my degree.”

First Bankers Corporation is pleased to congratulate the following recipients of our Fire Service Scholarships for 2003:

Firefighters:

Alan Weaver –	Wauconda Fire Department – Wauconda, IL
Beth E. Stone –	Titusville Fire and Emergency Services – Titusville, FL
Lisa J. Ouzts –	Billings Fire Department – Billings, MT
Mark E. Rutledge –	San Bernadino County Fire Department – Adelanto, CA
Thomas M. Prin –	Horry County Fire Rescue – Conway, SC

Dependents:

Adam J. Schaefer –	Rocky River Fire Department – Rocky River, OH
Brandi L. Sluder –	Jasonville Fire Department – Jasonville, IN
Nathan J. Bowden –	Sugarloaf Volunteer Fire Department – Sugarloaf Key, FL
Sarah L. Richards –	Henrico County Division of Fire – Richmond, VA
Sarah K. Odem –	Victoria Fire Department – Victoria, TX

Any child or dependant of a fire fighter or emergency medical personnel is eligible for the scholarships. Fire fighters or emergency medical personnel may also apply on behalf of themselves. The \$500.00 scholarships are paid directly to the scholarship winner for expenses of their choice. In addition to detailing how the money will be used, applicants must also write a 50-word essay on why they are deserving of the scholarship.

SAFER...
Continued

fighters each position is \$100,000 over the four year period based on an annual starting salary of \$40,000. The \$100,000 cap is indexed to inflation, and will rise each year.

In order to secure passage of SAFER, provisions were added to overcome objections of Members of Congress who represent areas that are predominantly protected by volunteer firefighters. Ten percent of the funds allocated each year will be devoted to a separate program for volunteers. In addition, 10 percent of funds used to hire professional firefighters must go to volunteer or mostly volunteer departments. This provision means that many communities will be able to hire their first full-time firefighters. Firefighters hired with SAFER grants funds must retain the right to volunteer in neighboring jurisdiction if they choose. Existing and new firefighters hired without utilizing federal dollars may still be prohibited from volunteering by contractual and legislative processes.

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PFFUI Legislative Conference



Governor Joe Kernan speaking to the PFFUI 2004 Legislative Conference.



Lieutenant Governor Kathy Davis Poses for a photo with 8th District Vice President Tom Miller after addressing our 2004 Legislative conference.

PFFUI Board Meeting



The Board has a lively discussion on resolutions for the May PFFUI Convention.

2nd District Vice President Rick Dolson and 3rd District Vice President Mark Mastison wondering what time lunch will be.



1st District Vice President Steve Wieger talks to Representative Mike Murphy from Marion County.





Brother Shane Zurcher speaks to the Conference after Brazil Local 1453 is recognized for 100% participation in the PFFUI PAC.



Indianapolis City County Council Majority leader Division Chief Monroe Gray poses with Deputy Chief Vern Brown, newly elected to the Indianapolis City County Council, after Brother Gray spoke to conference on the value of getting involved in the local political system.



President Tom Hanify introduces the new PFFUI Political Action Program by recognizing Brazil Local 1453 past contribution to our State PAC.

Local 2278 Monticello



President Tom Hanify moves the agenda along.



Local 2278 Monticello President Jason Thompson and others with the PFFUI President Tom Hanify on 3/9/04.

First District

Steve Wieger
Vice President

Greetings from the First District:

As we get closer to May and our PFFUI Convention, the excitement grows.

I've been actively involved in this great union for 30 of my 32 years as a firefighter. I am a former member of U.A.W. and Teamsters but neither of them come close to the PFFUI in loyalty to each other.

As a District Officer, I have been assisted by Trustees Jansen Rollins, Dave Nondorff and Ed Lomeli and each has been more than willing to go the extra mile to help any Brother or Sister firefighter anywhere in our State and beyond.

At our convention, I'm certain we will hear speeches from a few politicians. If we listen to what is being said, we may be able to see through the rhetoric in trying to "play to the crowd". Each politician is from someone's home Local union. It may be an excellent idea to talk with that particular Local's leadership to learn the track record of those that say nice things about firefighters from a podium and then...! Let's be very careful which politicians we allow to use the PFFUI during their campaigns. See you in May.

Second District

Richard A. Dolsen Sr.
Vice President

Every firefighter should join and participate in the PFFUI-PAC and their Local PAC. Every firefighter should register to vote and participate in all local, state and national elections. Every Local and their membership should know, on a first name basis, their local elected officials as well as their state representatives and senators.

I have been a professional firefighter since 1978. I have seen the pension base of my department go from \$12,500 to almost \$43,000. The politicians need our help on many issues, not the least of which is getting elected. We need them even more. Your local officials set your wages and working conditions and, most importantly, your pension. Your Local and their families represent votes and campaign workers.

Politics is not a dirty word, just the most important word in your livelihood. Encourage your membership to participate in the election process. Your membership needs to develop friendships with the locally elected officials; they will last a lifetime. The membership should also become familiar with the county chairman of both parties. You will find that the political climate in your area gets a lot better when you become known for your honesty and integrity. Elected officials and firefighters need to find common ground—issues to build relationships on.

President Emeritus Tom Miller and our old and dear friend Brian Reed gave me an important word of advice, "When you have the opportunity to speak to an elected official, remember that your word is everything." If you enter into local politics remember where you came from. If you help someone get elected, you should do so to improve your department. It should not be to just have a white shirt and gold badges; hopefully, you will strive to make a difference. Firefighting is a calling and the greatest career you can have. We are professionals. We are heroes. We are citizens. We have the respect of our local and state politicians.

Third District

Mark Mastison
Vice President

Brothers & Sisters of the PFFUI,

Welcome once again to all of you from the 3rd District. I recently attended the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. The purpose of this conference was to take legislation that is important to firefighters across the country, and lobby our local Congressman/woman and Senators to do what they can to help get this legislation passed. To help to work through this process and to see how politics work at the federal level is amazing. I was fortunate enough to be sent with and learn from some of the best. The names Wymer, Hanify, Ridley and Lomeli are names that are synonymous with the power of persuasion. These people show up to work every day for the PFFUI, wherever they are needed. They, along with the IAFF Firepac, have accomplished some amazing things on the national level. But as effective as we are on the national scene, it is of much more importance to be effective on the state and local levels. There are many things that can be done, but they all focus on you, the Union firefighter of the PFFUI. First is money. We have to increase the size of Firepac. This is the statewide fund that is used to work with politicians. Every dollar voluntarily contributed is one more that can be used to better the things that are important to us. Another is to start your own Local PAC. It is easy to do, and the endorsements alone can make a huge difference in a local election. Contact any member of the PAC committee, and they will assist you in setting up a PAC.

Another thing that can make a huge difference is finding a candidate that is firefighter friendly and help them to get elected. This can be a current politician, someone who hopes to aspire in politics, or best of all a member or someone associated with your department. A Union brother of the Evansville Fire Department approached our PAC and told us he was interested in running for City Council. With the help of the IAFF and our Local Union brothers and sisters, we were elated to watch the results roll in and listen to Brother Keith Jarboe give his acceptance speech. The IAFF has an

outstanding PAC seminar that they offer to anyone who has an interest in politics or starting a PAC committee. Keith Jarboe and I have both attended the IAFF PAC seminar and the information gathered was immeasurable.

My hat goes off to the brothers from Brazil Local # 1453. They are one of the very few Locals in the state that have 100% contribution to the state Firepac. You should have received a Firepac brochure in this copy of the newsletter. Look it over and try to contribute at whatever level you can.

The 3rd District will meet in caucus on April 8th at White River Township headquarters in Greenwood, Indiana. The time will be at 12:00 p.m. and everyone is invited. Please contact me if you need directions. If you know of a paid department that would like to become a union, invite them so that we can show them the advantages of being an IAFF member. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to be a member of the PFFUI. I give my thanks to all members of the 3rd District for allowing me to serve you on the executive board. Let me know if there is anything I can do to give you the information needed to help keep you safe on the job.

4th District

John Noone, Vice President
Joe Finneran Trustee

January 1, 2004 marked the beginning of the second year of a four-year contract and a 3% pay increase for the Indianapolis Fire Department. Along with the other cities and townships within the Indianapolis Metropolitan Firefighters Local 416, IFD is currently occupied on their working agreements.

In 1976 the Indianapolis Fire Department came within hours of going out on strike. Union President Don Wolf was able to settle on a memorandum agreement with the Mayor of Indianapolis (William Hudnut). In August of 2001 the Local was able to get a City Ordinance passed to negotiate a contract. This didn't happen overnight; it took many years of frustration and hard work to get this accomplished. After the threat of a strike in 1977, Don Wolf suggested implementing a Political Action Committee with contributions of \$52 per year from members of the Local and Retirees. In several years we had a six-figure balance in the account. It didn't take long before the politicians began to recognize that we were a force able to affect elections through our endorsements and contributions. Money creates strange bedfellows. PAC has been recognized not only for its monetary value, but also for endorsements, volunteering at polls, putting up yard signs, assisting with phone banks and other tasks. Regrettably, Don Wolf passed away February 27, 2004. He was President of Local 416 for nine years, from 1970-1979. Don organized an annual golf tournament for ten years, which enabled him to be instrumental in establishing the burn unit at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis, as a local segment of the IAFF

Burn Foundation. Don served 21 years as a parliamentarian for the PFFUI and when he retired he became President of Wayne Township Firefighters Merit Board. Don will be truly missed.

Bill Burkhard, VP of Local 416, mentions in one of his Local 416 Helmet articles that Local 416 has 25 different departments (23 Districts), 2250 active members and 400 retirees. There are now 8 districts with contracts and 2 more awaiting either approval or final negotiations. These numbers are extraordinary when you consider that only a few years ago there were only 3 districts with contracts. I believe today, as much as when it occurred, that consolidating our Locals and unorganized departments into one Local has benefited everyone involved. We now have a base of people in various cities, towns, and townships that make us a political "player" within these districts. We would not be as successful without PAC and our involvement with politics. We have created trust and working relationships with most of our elected officials. There are still a few that don't see the big picture, but we are still working on them and trying to turn them around. It takes time and commitment on both sides; working together to try to find a happy medium for our members.

The Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) will be held in Indianapolis at the Convention Center April 26 -30, 2004. Local 416 will host an Open House and Pumper Pull at the Union Hall on Friday, April 30, 5:00-10:00 p.m.). Pumper Pull Team application forms are available on Local 416's web site: www.L416.com

Hope to see all of you at the Open House!

Twenty year ring award Doug Gardner, Harry Hoffmaster, and Howard Fuller, not pictured Mike Drubert.



New Union Officers, President Michigan City Fire Department Local #475 Jeff Cox, State President Tom Hanify, Trustee - Rob Steinborn, Dave Koss, and Mike Pagels, Secretary Treasurer Craig Krivak, Trustee John Mellen

IAFF Eighth District

Tom Miller
Vice President

Greetings,

By the time you read this newsletter, spring should be in full swing. Let's hope so. This has been a rough winter. It has also been a hard year for some of our locals in the 8th District of the IAFF. Indiana has had some bumps, but Ohio has really been hit hard by layoffs, cutbacks and givebacks. The Bellaire, OH, City Council even voted to do away with their Fire Department. In Indiana the economic picture has not been as bleak. Throughout all of this, the IAFF has been a tremendous help to our Locals in need. The IAFF Staff in Washington, DC works tirelessly to provide our affiliates in need with Municipal Financial Analysis, Staffing information, EMS integration, Collective Bargaining statistics, and other pertinent information which helps them in their decision making process. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

I receive a lot of questions from members who want to know how the IAFF chose to endorse Sen. John Kerry for President of the United States of America. From previous polling the IAFF realizes that our membership nationwide is about 50% Democrat, and 50% Republican. Given President Bush's obvious negativity towards professional firefighters, the IAFF contracted with Celinda Lake and Associates, a very reputable and respected Washington, DC firm, to poll 800 of our members nationwide, and ask them what they were looking for in a potential candidate who could oppose President George W. Bush. Last summer the poll was conducted. Our membership indicated an overwhelming desire for a candidate who supports the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution (the right to bear arms), a person who supports and sponsors firefighter issues, and it wouldn't hurt if that person happened to be a military veteran. Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts), in the eyes of the General President and Executive Board, strongly fits that bill. Sen. Kerry is a highly decorated US Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, having been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Combat V, and three Purple Hearts for wounds received in combat action with the enemy. He is a very strong supporter of the right to

bear arms and is an avid hunter. A twenty year veteran of the United States Senate, Sen. Kerry has sponsored the Collective Bargaining Bill and the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) legislation to put 100,000 new firefighters on the job. He also sponsored the FIRE ACT and has been an outspoken opponent of the overtime regulation changes proposed by the Bush Administration.

For all of the above reasons, on September 24th, 2003, the IAFF Executive Board unanimously endorsed the candidacy of Sen. John Kerry for President of the United States of America. The Principal Officers and Executive Board feel that Sen. Kerry best exemplifies the character needed to lead the United States for the next four years. We all hope that you and your families will feel the same way.

I hope everyone has a great summer. Stay safe and God bless all of you, your families and God Bless America.

Strength in Unity,

Thomas H. Miller
8th District Vice President
International Association of Fire Fighters



Indiana Professional Firefighters Special Recognition License Plate

Indiana Professional Fire Fighters Special Recognition License Plate

The Indiana Fire Fighters' special recognition license plate is available to Fire Fighters and their families along with individuals who want to show their support for the career Fire Fighters in the state of Indiana.

The cost to individuals for the special recognition plate is \$40.00. A \$25.00 check or money order must be remitted to the PFFUI Secretary-Treasurer at the time of the request for application from the PFFUI. The Bureau of Motor Vehicle will collect the remaining \$15.00

of the fee when the individual takes the Fire Fighter license plate application to their local license branch to obtain their plate.

Send a \$25 check or money order per plate request to:

PFFUI
PO Box 15735
Ft. Wayne, IN 46885-5735

Your authorization form(s) will be validated and sent back to you. Take the form to your local license branch to obtain your plate(s).

Reserve yours today!

A Warren Township Restoration

By Ted Waldroup

In 1999 Warren Township firefighters Mike Fontaine and Gary Powell came up with an idea to restore an antique fire engine. They have always had an interest in preserving fire service tradition and thought they would enjoy the challenges brought on by such a difficult restoration task. At first, they didn't believe the Administration would approve of it; so the idea just became idle conversation. Division Chief Shawn Grass soon heard of the idea; he thought it was a great project that should be pursued further. So with this inspiration the project was pitched to the Administration. The intent was to preserve fire service tradition and some history of the Warren Township Fire Department all while providing a tool for public information and education. The administration, to the Chief's surprise, thought it was a great idea. Chief Sanford and his staff immediately recognized the benefits for the department and formed a committee to direct the project: Sean Ferbrache, Mike Fontaine, Mike Harter, Jeremy Pell and Gary Powell.

Since Warren Township was organized in 1937, a search was begun there to find the perfect apparatus, one representing the type in use

during the 1940's or 50's. An open cab, body intact, engine in good condition along with a long wheel base was preferred. Luckily, in December of 1999, we found a prospect right inside the township: a 1947 KB 8 International Harvester. The owner's original plan was to cut the body off and make a car hauler but after hearing the Department's plans (and probably to get Gary off his back), agreed to sell it. The Engine had been in service as a first line apparatus in the small town of Muir, Pennsylvania, until 1993.

The process of disassembling the apparatus and evaluating its condition began in a reserve bay of Station 442 while the committee was still unsure of exactly how monies would be raised to fund the restoration process. By going "door-to-door," Mike and Gary soon found there were numerous supporters within the business community of Warren Township. Many people were very generous with donated time, materials and their expert advice. Custom Coach, owners Gary and Carol Hasket, took the project to heart, donating their expert painting services. Along with these efforts, Local 416 and the Warren district were very helpful in the early

discussions of the project, giving much needed support and advice. Over a three-year period with approximately 2000 man-hours in the shop, the restoration process was completed on what is known in Warren's fleet as Engine 4, the public education engine. It is 100% functional and we will be using it at schools for fire safety education and many other public events. The completed restoration was presented to the township at our Annual Awards Banquet on March 7, 2003, and was featured during the morning news on the Dick Wolfsie Show March 26. I encourage any of our brothers and sisters to stop by Warren Station 442 (1302 S. Franklin Rd) to view Engine 4. You will be able to view images of the restoration process, what things were like at that time and some may even remember those good old days.



CMS Ambulance Update

CMS Ambulance Fee Schedule Update

2004 Inflation Factor and Rural Mileage Adjusted

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) fee schedule, which included an interim bonus payment for rural ambulance mileage of 18-50 miles, has been given a "sunset" date. As of December 31, 2003, the 25 percent increase in that payment is no longer in effect.

Although ambulance providers will no longer be receiving the 25 percent additional money from Medicare, the schedule, published in the Federal Register (Vol. 68, No. 234, p. 67960), did provide notice of the annual Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) for ambulance services for calendar year 2004. The law requires that the inflation factor be applied in determining the fee schedule amounts and payment limits for ambulance services. The inflation factor adjustment, beginning January 1, 2004, is 2.1 percent and applies to services provided from January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004. This is the percentage increase to both the fee schedule portion of the blended payment and to the reasonable charge/cost portion of the blended payment amount for each ambulance supplier/provider. These two amounts are added together to determine the total payment amount for each ambulance supplier/provider.

The rural mileage adjustment has been changed effective January 1, 2004, to read as follows: "For ground ambulance services where the point of pickup is in a rural area, the mileage rate is increased by 50 percent for each of the first 17 miles and, for services furnished before January 1, 2004, by 25 percent for miles 18 through 50. The standard mileage rate applies to every mile over 50 miles and, for services furnished after December 31, 2003, to every mile over 17 miles. For air ambulance services where the point of pickup is in a rural area, the total payment is increased by 50 percent; that is, the rural adjustment factor applies to the sum of the base rate and the mileage rate." Section 414.610 (c)(5).

As an example, based on the above information the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) modified CMS Ambulance Fee Schedule reimbursement rates for a city with a GPCI of 0.881 would be as follows: BLS- \$214.63, ALS1- \$327.56, ALS2- \$408.96, Mileage- \$5.39. For the typical BLS/ALS 5-mile transport, this amounts to an approximate increase of \$5.10/\$7.30, respectively. Transport agencies in rural areas with significant travel distances to appropriate receiving facilities will likely experience an increase in reimbursement due to the higher mileage.

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PFFUI

4th Annual Brian Reed Memorial Golf Tournament

Tuesday, May 11, 2004
(this is the day immediately before prior to the State Union Convention)

Benefiting the Indiana Firefighters PAC
11 AM Shotgun start
Riverbend Golf Course, 7207 St. Joe Road
Fort Wayne, IN

Florida Scramble -\$250 per team, with
Traveling Trophy to all IAFF members
winning team
Tournament Sponsorship: \$350
Closest to Pin Sponsorship: \$250
Longest Drive Sponsorship: \$250
Tee or Green Sponsorship: \$100

Make checks payable to:
Brian Reed Memorial Tournament
c/o Mike Pinkham
P.O.Box 15735
Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5735
Please Include Players' names
& language for signs.

Mishawaka Survive Alive 20th Anniversary

March 18, 2004, was the 20th anniversary of the "Survive Alive" program in the City of Mishawaka. It gives us great pride to know so many different departments around the country have also started a similar program.

On March 18 in 1984, the Mishawaka P.T.A., the Mishawaka Fire Department, and the Indiana Fire Marshal's office introduced a pilot program for "Survive Alive." Since then "Survive Alive" has been visited by more than 80,000 people locally, mainly children ages 6-12 years of age. This "House" was the first permanent structure in the nation. Generous donations from the citizens of Mishawaka, as well as the State of Indiana have made this "Survive Alive House" possible. Making escape plans for their own homes and Stop, Drop, Cover, and Roll are just a few of the tools taught to children by our firefighters at "Survive Alive House." Children pass this information along at home to their parents and siblings. This program has saved many lives, taught many children and has been one of the best learning activities our firefighters can do with the public. Where better to learn from than our children?

Lt. Brian T. Linson II
Mishawaka Fire Department

Letters to the Editor

Greetings Tom,

I am a fellow brother of Local 1634 Princeton Firefighters Union. I just wanted to give you an "atta-boy" for the message you put in the newsletter entitled "I wish you could know". Our little community has a website that discusses events and news within the county. The site is called Countyquest.com and the talk forum in the web site is called Gibson County Talk. In this forum a "poster" made a topic of a recent fire our department and many others desperately fought and to no avail lost, well I shouldn't say we lost, because we all went home to our families. However, we became under some scrutiny in this forum about how we did our job. I posted this message and it could not have been at a better time than to bring into perspective how we as firefighters see it. Thank you so much for allowing me to share this message to my community in hopes to open their eyes and see we are really doing our best! Feel free to view the site. Some is real interesting, some comical and some plain dumb. The site is www.gibsoncountytalk.com and the forum once in the site is Gibson County Talk, Current events. Again thank you and be safe!

Your Brother,

Justin Hyneman
Princeton Firefighters L1634

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

Calendar of Events 2004



April 26-May 1

Fire Departments' Instructors Course (FDIC)
Indianapolis Convention Center

April 30

FDIC Local 416 Open House and Pumper Pull
Local 416 Union Hall
5-10 PM

May 1- 2

50th Annual Indiana State Firefighters Bowling Tournament
Key Lanes - Fort Wayne, IN

May 10

IAFF Peer Fitness Training Class
Portage, Indiana

May 11

PFFUI Brian Reed PAC Golf Tournament
Fort Wayne, IN - Riverbend Golf Course

May 12-14

PFFUI 2004 Convention
Marriott Hotel - Fort Wayne, IN

May 21

Monticello Fire & Rescue Golf Outing
Pine View Golf Course
\$50/person - \$200/ team - \$100 Hole Sponsor
\$250 Foursome Hole Sponsor
Contact: Brooks Ingle (574) 870-0056 or
Shane Swaim (574) 870-0939

June 19

The Portage Firefighters 3rd Annual Summer Fest
June 19, 2004, Portage
Woodland Park (outside event)
6:00 p.m.- Midnight

June 19- 20

Annual Tom Jozwiak Memorial Softball Tournament
June 19- 20 , 2004, South Bend

June 26-27

Michael Kriech Annual Memorial Softball Tournament
Contact Danny Feeney (317)908-7998

July 8-9

IAFF 8th District Caucus
Adams Mark, Downtown Indy

July 30

Fallen Firefighter Memorial Dedication
South Bend

July 31

South Bend Firefighters Local 362 Blues Fest
South Bend

August 15-20

IAFF Convention:
Boston, MA

Check the PFFUI website at www.PFFUI.com for more information.

Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana
623 East St. Clair Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
www.pffui.com

