



Scoop Sheet

Newsletter for The Tacoma Professional Fire Fighters
Local #31 IAFF, AFL-CIO-CLC
Visit our website at WWW.IAFFLOCAL31.COM

November 2007

Issue 11

President's Message

Local #31 Officers

President

Pat McElligott

Vice President

Matt Frank

Secretary-Treasurer

Bruce Baurichter

Recording Secretary

Larry Ritch

Executive Board Members

Brett Collett

Mike Curley

Grant Erb

Albert Frank

Tad Jackson

Lee Reid

The Scoop Sheet is published monthly by the Tacoma Fire Fighters Union Local #31, IAFF, affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO-CLC, the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and the Pierce County Central Labor Council.

Editor-

Bruce Baurichter

Co-Editor-

Brad Wesenberg

Sisters and Brothers

Nominations were held tonight at the Union meeting. This year's ballot will have two positions up for vote, the Vice President and Local 31 Trustee. Both these positions are important for this Local. Make sure to mail your ballot. If we do not receive it at the office, it will not be counted.

Bruce and I will be attending the Health and Safety conference this week in Chicago. The conference deals with new technology for fire apparatus and equipment as well as Wellness fitness and how to defend ourselves against new and increasing dangers of communicable diseases.

This conference is held every two years by the IAFF and has always been very informative and helpful when dealing with the cities on presumptive disease coverage.

City elections are right around the corner; one of our candidates still needs our help. Spiro Manthou has been a friend and Matt will be calling you to do some doorbelling before Election Day, please help us send Spiro back to the city council.

I do want to thank everyone that showed up for the sign party. I guess I need to eat a little crow from my last article. If you want to see me eat the whole crow come on out for doorbelling.

Last item, voting is your choice, make sure that when selecting your choice it is done with thought on how this organization will continue to move forward in the

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Minutes of the Local #31 Union Meeting October 18, 2007

Roll Call: Pat McElligott, Bruce Baurichter, Matt Frank, Mike Curley, Grant Erb, and Brett Collett.

Working: Grant Larson and Brian Dougherty.

Excused: Tad Jackson, Lee Reid and Kristen Hepler.

Absent: Jeff Chandler.

Meeting called to order.

Communication:

Executive board report read, bills paid.

Committees:

Safety: Be careful. Review policy and document everything.

Building Association: Work in Progress.

Joint Labor: Currently in medical negotiations. Domestic partner coverage discussed.

Unfinished Business:

Probationary testing – 12th shift test, standardization in testing.

Accreditation – It's not going away. Wellness fitness is not part of the plan.

Central Pierce dispatch discussed. Five positions for Central Pierce personnel.

B.C.'s – Meeting to discuss some issues.

New Business:

Leukemia stair climb will be on March 3, 2008.

Temporary Captain appointment questions.

December 15th will be the Christmas Wrapping Party with the band Rekindle performing.

Nominations:

Vice President – Matt Frank and 2nd by Chris Galbraith

Dean Edwards and 2nd by

Jeff Carney

E.B. Position 5 Grant Erb and 2nd by Matt

Frank. Elected by acclamation.

E.B. Position 6 Mike Curley and 2nd by Mick Crider. Elected by acclamation.

Sgt At Arms Brian Dougherty and 2nd by Pat McElligott. Elected by acclamation.

31 Trustee #1 Jeff Chandler and 2nd by Grant Erb. Elected by acclamation.

31 Trustee #2 Kristen Hepler and 2nd by Matt Frank. Elected by acclamation.

31 Trustee #3 Phil Erickson and 2nd by Matt Frank. Elected by acclamation.

31 Trustee #4 Grant Larsen and 2nd by Grant Erb

Scott Streeper and 2nd by Jon Bleasdale.

Bldg Assoc

Sec'y-Treas Mick Crider and 2nd by Mike Curley. Elected by acclamation.

Bldg Assoc

Trustee #5 Tad Jackson and 2nd by Albert Frank. Elected by acclamation.

Trustee #6 Albert Frank and 2nd by Pat McElligott. Elected by acclamation.

HR Sec-treas. Pat Jasmer and 2nd by Matt Frank. Elected by acclamation.

Trustee Dave McRoberts and 2nd by Matt Frank. Elected by acclamation.

Trustee Scott White and 2nd by Pat McElligott. Elected by acclamation.

Trustee Larry Ritch and 2nd by Pat McElligott. Elected by acclamation.

Good & Welfare: Larry Smith is cancer free. Mike Curley thanked everyone for the support at Jim Hannity's funeral.

Meeting adjourned with 21 members present.

Larry Ritch took the minutes.



President's Message

years to come and not on a popularity contest (if it were, I would not have lasted as long as I have). These positions are not a 9-5 job. It is a 24 hr 7 days a week commitment. So whomever you support, make sure you get that promise from them.

Finally, as I stated before, when it comes to rumors, "you say it you wear it".

I heard "through the grapevine" that I would be stepping down prior to the end of my term. This is NOT TRUE!

When I ran for re-election two years ago, I committed to this Local to serve three more years as your President. I am not going anywhere. If I feel that I can still add value to this Local as I believe I have for the last eighteen years, I may consider continuing as your President after 2008 if that is the desire of the membership.

It's about commitment!

Fraternally,
Pat

Vice-President's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

We once again find ourselves negotiating a contract, however, this time it is for our medical and dental benefits. I have been attending the Joint Labor Committee's contract negotiations with the City of Tacoma and discussing Local 31's healthcare issues. At this point in the negotiations it seems as though the city is willing to keep our premium share at the same monetary level for the next three years. The city feels as though the wellness program that is being implemented city wide will help keep health care cost down. The wellness program that I'm speaking of is different than our Wellness and Fitness Program (WF1). Domestic partner coverage has been a goal of Joint Labor for the last three contract negotiations and because of this determination it seems as though this will be available for 2008. We have also been attempting to negotiate a higher cost allowance for dental care, which currently stands at \$1500. Joint Labor would also like to see 100% coverage on composite fillings. Our coverage currently only covers 100% on metal fillings and you must make up the difference out of pocket. I will continue to keep you updated on medical and dental negotiations. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Fraternally,

Matt Frank
(253)677-7861
MattFrank77@gmail.com



RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

OF TACOMA

The meeting opened at 12:00 pm on October 3, 2007, by Vice President Gary Barrett. There was a small turnout with just a little over 40 members present. Our President, Larry Anderson and his wife Sandi were in sunny San Diego visiting their daughter Jennifer.

There were six lucky jackpot winners. So come on out and try your luck next month. Our next meeting will be November 7 at the Union Hall. 11:00 am for coffee, sack lunch and social hour. At noon for the short meeting with bingo immediately following. Host for the November meeting will be Elsie Conklin and Nancy Johnson.

Jackie Barrett who is an RN will have some information about senior foot care for those interested.

Just a reminder if you didn't change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries during the fire prevention week, please do it now!! They do save lives.

Thanks for reading and take the time to enjoy life!
Gary Barrett



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 David & Gail Oxford, 17 yrs
- 10 Phil & Juanita Pierce, 62 yrs.
- 16 Floyd & Claire Bowen, 35 yrs.
- 17 Tom & Peggy Powers, 46
- 17 Earl & Brenda Moore, 17 yrs.
- 25 Jack & Shirley Wilbert, 62 yrs
- 30 Bruce & Nancy Mallory, 16 yrs.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Janine Christianson, 57
- 3 Jean Hanson, 89
- 5 Gordon Kinsman, 76
- 6 Otis Hay, 85
- 6 Sharon Winesberry, 53
- 8 Dick George, 88
- 10 Jeannie Martin, 86
- 17 Gail Oxford, 59
- 18 Del Vosberg, 71
- 21 Peggy Reiser, 85
- 21 Billie Sands, 89
- 23 Donna Brais
- 23 Earl Moore, 57
- 29 Russell Hill, 63
- 29 Juanita Putman, 67
- 30 Monica Hearon, 65



Just a quick reminder – The December 5th meeting is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish. Also, we will have a very special treat for entertainment that we think you will all enjoy. Come check it out!

***Coffee & social hour (with entertainment!), 11:00 to 12:00,
Potluck at noonish. ! See you there!***



COMMENTS FROM A PAST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Pat's message in the October Scoop Sheet struck the nail on the head, "APATHY".

Wages – Hours – Working conditions and Improving Pension Benefits are what we (you) are striving for.

So people when you get into the Motorhome, SUV, BMW, Macho 4X4 Diesel PU or the ATV, Harley or Launch your Boat, maybe you should think – How did we get all this cool stuff anyway? Just maybe it was a result of that 15% of the membership who doorbelled, did sign parties, attended fundraisers, filled the boot, shook hands and patted backs.

Boys and Girls my message is "Get off your butts and become an active member". Remember the good things we have are a result of being active politically.

George Thornhill,
Local 31, Retired

CALENDAR of EVENTS

N 6 Executive Board Meeting/
O Election Day
V 7 Retiree's Meeting
E 8 Local 31 Union Meeting
M 11/12 Veteran's Day (office
B closed)
E 12 Scoop Sheet Deadline
R 22/23 Thanksgiving (office
closed)



D 5 Retiree's Meeting
E 11 Executive Board Meeting
C 13 Local 31 Union Meeting
E 15 Children's Christmas party and Local
M Wrapping party
B 18 Scoop Sheet Deadline
E 24 Christmas Eve (office closed)
R 25 Christmas Day (office closed)





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