

Welcome to Your Union

International Association of Fire Fighters



Harold A. Schaitberger
General President

Vincent J. Bollon
General Secretary-Treasurer





By fire fighters, for fire fighters.

Union

A group of people gathered together for a common purpose.



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Who We Are

We are 270,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel in the United States and Canada.

As a member, you are the most important part of our union.



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Our Legacy

In 1886, some skilled trades united to form the American Federation of Labor (AFL).

A turning point came in the 1911, with the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, one of the worst tragedies in American labor history.



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Our History

Founded in 1918, the IAFF was formed to give fire fighters a democratic voice in their workplace.

At a time when workers had little rights—long hours, low pay, no safety—the IAFF became the fire fighter's voice and remains so today, taking on issues facing all of our members.



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Our Mission

The IAFF is committed to a professional fire/rescue service that:

- Promotes a safe/equitable working environment
- Secures reasonable work conditions and fair compensation
- Serves the community effectively



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Safety

Nothing matters more to our members and their families than the health and safety of fire fighters and paramedics.



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IAFF On the Frontline

- 1970 National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control
- 1971 Project FIRES: NASA and IAFF begin technology exchange program to build better protective gear
- 1980 OSHA 29 CFR 1910.156 Fire Brigades: First industry standards issued requirements for organization, training, and PPE.
- 1986 NFPA 1500 enacted: Occupational Health and Safety Standards
- 1995 IAFF/IAFC Wellness Fitness Initiative
- 2002 Project HEROES: more effective bunker protection



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Stay Prepared

- Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction Training
- Wellness-Fitness Initiative
- Safety Alerts
- Health and Safety Fact Sheets
- Health and Safety Online Job Aids



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Disaster Response

Resources

- Incident Response Team
- CISM

Funding

- Disaster Relief Fund
- Hurricane Relief Fund



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Last Alarm

- Line of Duty Death (LODD) Investigation
- Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial
- Public Safety Officer Benefits
- McClennan Scholarship



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Serving Our Community

- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Burn Foundation
- Fire Safety Programs



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Advancing Our Profession

The IAFF works to secure fair compensation for professional fire fighters and improved response for the citizens they serve



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Voice at the Table

Many decisions that affect the fire service are made by elected officials who often do not have a background in emergency response.

The IAFF serves as the voice of first line fire fighters when these decisions are made.



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Active in Politics

The IAFF educates politicians about issues important to fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, such as safe staffing, first responder training, and collective bargaining.



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Standing By Those Who Stand With Us

IAFF members work to elect candidates from any party who support fire fighter and emergency medical provider issues, regardless of party affiliation.



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FIREPAC

FIREPAC is the IAFF's political action committee (PAC). This fund, supported through voluntary contributions, promotes the political interests of all professional fire fighters and paramedics.

While not every FIREPAC supported candidate gets elected, each one stands strongly in support of issues important to fire fighters and emergency medical personnel.



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Protecting Our Rights

The IAFF protects the First Amendment rights of fire fighters to speak out on issues affecting fire fighters and the public.

City board reinstates firefighter

BY BRAD BRANAN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

SPRINGDALE — The Springdale Civil Service Commission late Wednesday reinstated firefighter Dean Bitner, overturning a decision by the fire chief to terminate the union president.

During a 10-hour hearing, the commission heard testimony from three of Bitner's supervisors who said Bitner was an excellent firefighter with no history of disciplinary problems. Commission members also learned Bitner received no blemishes in his personnel file during his 11-year career.



Bitner



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Working for Fair Compensation

- 1918 Average fire fighter earns 29¢ an hour and works 84 hours per week.
- 1943 Fire fighter compensation improves to 50¢ per hour and a 70 hour work week.
- 1968 Average firefighter earns over \$2.00 an hour, 56 hour work week.
- 1992 Fire fighters earn over \$13.00 per hour and work 50 hours per week.
- 2002 Fire fighters hourly wage is \$17.40 with a 50 hour work week.



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Democracy in Action

- Membership-Driven Organization: Actions taken by the IAFF must be approved by the membership or their representatives.
- Elected Leadership: IAFF officers are elected not appointed.
- Local Autonomy: Leaders are responsible to their members, not to the elected officers above them.

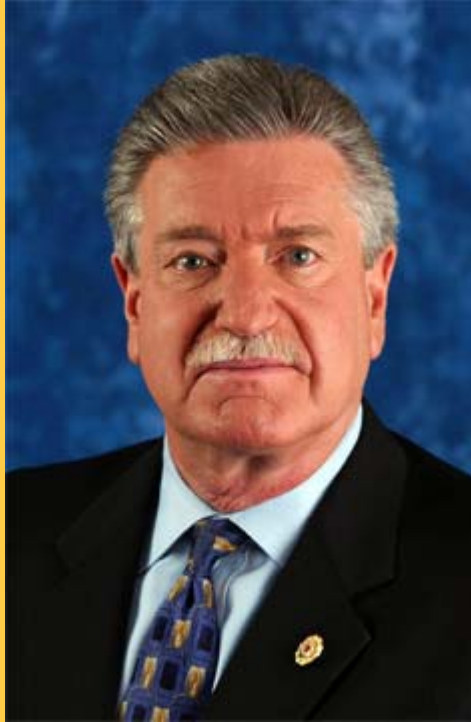


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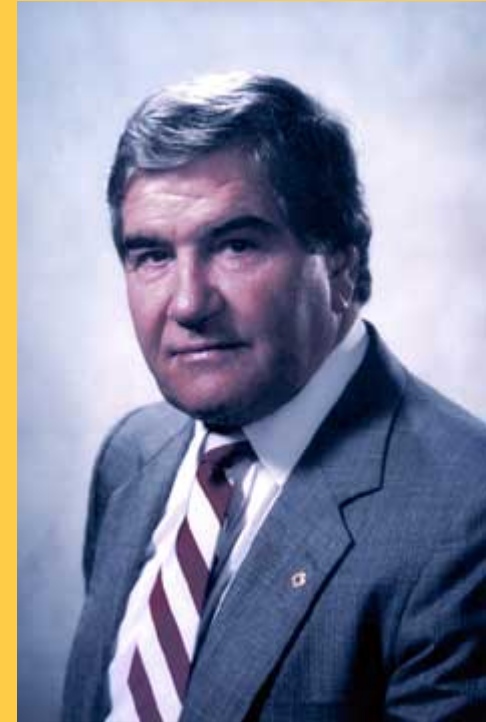
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Leadership



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IAFF: More Than Just a Sticker

- Resources for Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Responders
- Geographic Information Survey
- Municipal Financial Analysis
- Seminars and Conventions
- Health & Safety Information
- Political Action
- Legal Assistance
- Financial Corporation

www.iaff.org



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Member Responsibilities

- Be the best in your profession
- Know your rights and look out for each other
- Learn everything you can
- Bring your interests and talents to the local
- Protect your voice through the political process
- Help in the community with charities and fundraisers
- **STAY INVOLVED**



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