



The Billy & Spanner



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Ray Storms

As we finish our sixth month of suffering through the COVID-19 pandemic, it's a good time to reflect on the impact this virus has had on our lives, our communities, and our country. It's also important to reflect on the impact COVID has had on our Association. The good and bad impacts.

One of the things I appreciate most about the Association is the social connection it provides to retirees. Regardless of when you served, there is a certain bond that exists for those of us who fought fires and caught crooks together. There's even a bond between our police and fire members as we all served through San Jose's incredible growth as a city.

The simple act of approximately 100 of us getting together every month for lunch and an Association meeting helped maintain that bond. As did our Annual Association BBQ and the Annual Folsom BBQ. I'm genuinely saddened that we missed all those opportunities to spend a few quality hours with old friends and I hope we can return to those days soon.

At the same time, the fact that we cannot do simple things such as hold a member meeting have required us to evolve our approaches. I think we've done very well in that regard. Association meetings are now held virtually through Zoom, allowing attendance by members from anywhere in the country. As a Board, we've put this to good use, increasing our ability to discuss Association businesses whenever needed. It's been gratifying to see members learn some new tech skills to make this happen. So, even when we bring back the buffet lunch, and we will, we plan on continuing to give members access to virtual meetings.

As wildfires ravage our state, we adopted a new technology and communication tool, person-to-person text messaging, which allowed the Association to connect with over 300 members who we have mobile numbers for, in a very short time period to check on their well-being and to determine if they required any assistance. Please contact Dale Foster at secretary@retiredsjpoff.org to be sure we have your mobile number for future reference.

We've also overhauled our website, providing an easier way to sign up for membership online (for the portion allowed by the City) and making the site easier to navigate for mobile phone and tablet users.

As we finish out the year, we will look for new and better ways to connect with all of you. I encourage you to get engaged. Drop in on an Association meeting via Zoom and let us see your face. It's not the same thing as seeing you in person, but having that connection helps lift all our spirits.

Please enjoy your retirement. You earned it!

visit our website at www.retiredsjpoff.org

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TO MY FIRE DEPARTMENT COMRADES

By Bill (William) Adams; retired in 1998

I usually don't have much to say
In fact I'm downright quiet
But I'm inspired to say some words
To you so I will try it

I appreciate the comradeship
Of those with whom I've labored
I hope after I'm gone you'll have
A favorable word

I've been a cowboy all my life
Though sometimes dressed in blue
The fire department secured my life
Now cowboy is what I do

For over twenty-seven years
I wore this garb of blue
It was a damn good job to me
I hope as good to you

I still don't know why they paid
Me for the things that I have done
It was fulfilling and a hoot
As a matter of fact 'twas fun

I've seen some things, I've had some lumps
It wasn't always easy
I've been involved in situations
That'd make your stomach queasy

Train wrecks, car crashes, rescues
And fires to name a few
Some downright hair raising experiences
But that's what firemen do

Some go for glory and promotion
Some want to be well known
I've done my job out of the limelight
But now my cover's blown

I've found my niche and expertise
It's very plain to me
I've always been cut out to be
A first class retiree

And now my shift is over
No toil, no stress, no strife
They're going to pay me generously
For the remainder of my life
As I hung up my turnout gear
And as I passed on through
I've learned a few things here and there
I'll pass them on to you

If you take a man's money, give a day's work
And do the best you can
Don't whine too much, protect your honor
Don't backslide for any man

There's some who won't appreciate
The dangerous things you do
To protect their property or life
Fortunately they are few

Some will criticize your work
Others envy what we do
Some sit at desks and think of things
They wish that they could do

They may have forgotten what it's like
To work a twenty-four
Or do the things that we are doing
To get our salaries for

Remember if they say some things
You look upon with derision
They're probably trying to do something
To justify their position

To all of these I offer you
Some words and pearls of wisdom
Do with them what you will
Of worth I hope you find some

So my friend don't be dismayed
And remember as time passes
There's fewer horses in this world
Than there are horses asses

At the end of your shift
Go home healthy

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

JON FRIESELL, Fire Captain, 19.29 years of service.

BRIAN JOHST, Police Lieutenant, 24.61 years of service.

PAUL COOK, Police Lieutenant, 27.15 years of service.

RUBEN DALAISON, Police Officer, 24.52 years of service.

MARTIN A. LOMELI, Fire Engineer, 28.25 years of service.

NOMINATIONS FOR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AT OCTOBER MEETING

Nominations for Association Officers will occur at our upcoming October 8, 2020 membership meeting. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting will be held via Zoom conference. All existing officers have stated they intend to run for re-election. You must be present during the meeting to nominate someone. The meeting begins at 11:00 AM. An email invitation will be sent. Please make sure we have your email if you wish to receive an invitation. Email Secretary Dale Foster at secretary@retiredsjpoff.org to sign up for our emails.

FIREFIGHTER LIABILITY SUIT REGARDING PFAS MATERIALS

Previously, we informed you on the effort to potentially litigate on the issue of cancer-causing chemicals contained in manufactured products including firefighting foams and firefighter turnouts among others. A civil suit has now been filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court. Click this link to review the case or visit our website at <http://www.retiredsjpofficefire.org/2020/09/24/firefighter-liability-suit-regarding-pfas-materials>. If you have been diagnosed with cancer and believe you have been exposed to these chemicals in your career, and are interested in potentially joining the suit, you can contact retired SJFD Battalion Chief Richard Seal, Esq., who is Of Counsel to Pritzker Levine, at 408-623-3519, or firm partner, Elizabeth Pritzker, at 415-805-8532.

GOOD & WELFARE

SJFD retiree Robert Santos wife Judy passed away in February 17, 2020 after a long battle with an illness. She was 70 years old Robert can be contacted at 408 238-2476.



ASSOCIATION ENDORSES DAVID COHEN FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

The Association endorsed Berryessa Union School District Bandmember David Cohen for San Jose City Council District 4. The seat is currently occupied by Councilmember Lan Diep. We appreciated Mr. Cohen's track record on working with public employees and his commitment to public safety. You can learn more about David at his website: <https://www.electdavidcohen.com>

As you may recall, the two candidates we endorsed during the primary election, Councilmembers Sylvia Arenas and Sergio Jimenez both won election outright, meaning they received more than 50% of the votes cast. In the primary, the District 4 race had four candidates, with Cohen receiving the most votes (36.48%) and Diep coming in second (33.23%).

UPDATE ON MEMBERS POTENTIALLY IMPACTED BY FSLA CLAIMS

As we communicated previously, the SJPOA entered into a lawsuit settlement with the City of San Jose regarding the miscalculation of health/dental in-lieu compensation as it relates to overtime rates as well as a miscalculation of compensatory time off under FSLA. The settlement, however, cut off some retirees who may have had claims. It only covered employees who did not retire before February 22, 2019. Following outreach to members to find out who may have been impacted by the payment miscalculations, the Association organized a meeting with Christopher Platten, an attorney with expertise in labor law, specifically in dealing with the City of San Jose. While the Association does not have standing to take any sort of legal action, we have been trying to assist impacted members in getting legal guidance. Everyone's case hinges on their own personal situation. Mr. Platten is in the course of conducting additional factual and legal research and will be following up with the Association in the short-term. If you believe you are impacted, please contact Ray Storms at president@retiredsjpoff.org.



Association of Retired San Jose

Police Officers & Firefighters

P.O. Box 28041
San Jose, CA 95159-8041

visit our website:
www.retiredsjpoff.org

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JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING

It's not perfect yet, but we're getting the hang of it. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we've moved all of our Association Meetings to Zoom. It's easy to use. You can join from your computer, tablet or even your phone.

This month we're unlocking the feature to let everyone participate by video if they want to. Meetings have been shorter due to the new format. The major change is, you have to bring your own food. If you want to participate, we will send out email invitations or, if we do not have your email address, email Board Secretary Dale Foster at secretary@retiredsjpoff.org to get on our list. See you on Zoom!

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Ray Storms, President	510 507-1136 president@retiredsjpoff.org
John Shuman, VP of Police	vppolice@retiredsjpoff.org
Walter Bugna, VP of Fire	vpfire@retiredsjpoff.org
Dale Foster, Secretary	secretary@retiredsjpoff.org
Larry Samarron, Jr. Treasurer	treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Don Bartels, Tim Miller, Mike Moffett, Jim Spence
Jerry Ellis, Director Emeritus, Ken Jacksteit

WIDOWS & ORPHANS OFFICERS

President (COA) Jeremy Wise	831-566-7624
VP (SJA) Maxwell Magnus	650-773-3271
VP (COR) Bill McCluskey	408-985-7563
Secretary (SJR) Luis Chacon	408-642-0385
Treasurer (SJR) Jerry Ellis	408-730-9974
Treas. Emeritus (SJR) Mike Moffett	408-867-0405

CONDOLENCES

Ronald Ledesma, Police Sergeant, retired May 1, 1999, died June 9, 2020.
William McQuaide, Firefighter, retired January 4, 2001, died June 17, 2020.

POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President - Ernie Alcantar, Vice President - Steve Windisch,
Sec-Treasurer - Larry Lundberg, Sgt at arms - Bob Moir www.sjpba.net