

# Retired Firefighters of Washington

9134 207th Pl SW, Edmonds, WA 98026-6659 • Phone: (425) 775-9080  
FAX: (425) 776-7939 • E-mail: mwarbrouck@comcast.net • www.rffow.org

Richard C. Warbrouck  
President

James A. Fossos  
Vice President

## August 2010

*For, About and in Support of all Retired Washington State Firefighters*



**MEETING NOTICE:** Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 8, at the Ballard Elks, 6411 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, at 11:00 am.

## President's Message - By Richard C. Warbrouck



I hope you don't think you missed a July Newsletter. The Directors some time ago, in an attempt to reduce expenses decided to discontinue the July Newsletter each year. The thought was that

many of our members are away on vacation; things are kind of quiet, not much going on in Olympia except election campaigns that now seem to be a year round program.

Some of you who receive the Newsletter by e-mail may have missed issues due to problems with our e-mail list and the computer program. Please see Monica's article regarding future Newsletters via e-mail, in addition to other notices and information. If you didn't receive the June Newsletter please forward an e-mail and we will send it to you.

In my article I tried to explain the various cost of living increases associated with both the LEOFF and Prior Act Retirement Systems and when they are paid. The amount of the cost of living increase you receive depends on which retirement plan the member retired under, the type of retirement the member received and if you are the retired member or a surviving spouse.

I mentioned that July is usually quiet; however business problems and inquiries don't take a vacation. We have received what appears to be a lot of dues checks from members who were behind as a result of Monica's notices in the past Newsletters. We do thank you and want you to stay in touch. We heard from one member who called from Tennessee and then sent a check for three years dues and

a legislative fund (PAC) donation. It would be easier if more of you used payroll deduction, however I know many of you like to issue your own check. Maybe next year we can begin the dues notices in the November and December Newsletters or perhaps send out a dues notice on a postcard. Do they still have one-cent postcards?

The campaign season is in full swing. We have received at least seventy-five requests from candidates running for a position and from legislators who are seeking re-election. We even receive requests from legislators who are not up for re-election but would like to acquire a fund to pass to others whom they believe are worthy of their help. And then of course we hear from the House and Senate and the two caucuses as they solicit funds to use as they see fit. This is all in addition to the phone calls and e-mails from candidates and legislators themselves seeking donations. Remind me next year to give Monica's phone number. If you do have or know a legislator whom you feel is doing a good job, offer to help in the campaign as a retired firefighter, maybe addressing envelopes, helping with mailings or as you know, a small check is always acceptable.

One of the issues I continually try to remind legislators of is that firefighters and law enforcement officers should not be under and have no place in Labor & Industries workers comp, For example, in the past I have sat in Representative Helen Sommer's office and discussed this issue on more than one occasion to no avail. I don't want to demean any legislator but it just seems like common sense to me. Consider that workers comp was established to protect and to compensate the workers who are insured after every attempt

has been made to insure their safety. Labor & Industries establishes rules and regulations for the workplace that employers must adhere to. There are joint employer/employee safety committees that develop rules and procedures for the workplace. Every accident is investigated by the Safety Committee or by a Labor & Industry investigator. Every attempt is made to determine if the accident was preventable. Additional rules can be made or job procedures can be changed to reduce the possibility of an accident in the future. Workers Compensation will then pay the medical bills and compensate the injured worker for lost wages while disabled. In the event that worker has a permanent partial disability or is killed in a workplace accident, or dies as a result of an occupational accident or disease, a settlement will be paid by Labor & Industries. Keep in mind that all this is provided when an employee is injured after all attempts have been made to insure the worker's safety. I'm sure you have seen that when there is a small spill they put up a barricade and a sign to caution that the floor is wet.

Now when a law enforcement officer is in pursuit of a felon or at an accident scene and a firefighter is involved in a structure fire or other emergency, all the safety rules and precautions are out the window. There are no safety inspectors, no one to place a caution notice on a wet floor and in fact there may be holes in the floor. At night there may be no lights, smoke, fire, poor visibility, excessive heat and other hazards too numerous to list. Labor & industries provides the same benefit to the firefighter who is injured as to the office worker who is injured on a hot summer afternoon by tripping on an extension cord

*Continued on Page 2*

## President's Message - Continued From Page 1

or on a loose carpet. To make matter worse, the firefighter is usually off from work for a longer period of time because when he/she returns to work they must be able to perform all duties. They can't show up with their arm in a sling or leg in a cast.

The Audit Committee has just completed the 2009 audit. It was quite difficult as the former treasurer was not present to answer any questions. I believe the committee felt that all the funds were accounted for but many accounting practices were questionable. There was a lack of consistence in the method expenses were recorded and paid. The Audit Committee is drafting their report and will forward a letter to the former treasurer with questions regarding the audit. We will develop an audit protocol, establish, and define bookkeeping practices and procedures that will be incorporated in our Procedures Manual. All checks that are issued in the future will have a voucher, a bill or an invoice attached which was always done previous to 2009.

I have been notified by the IAFF that the new Dental Plan, PROTECT-DENT PLAN (Indemnity Dental Plan for IAFF Members) will be available to all members of the Retired Firefighters of Washington. We will have complete information in the September Newsletter. If you would like more information before September or would like a packet, please call toll-free 1-866-423-3757. See article in the June Newsletter.

The September newsletter will be a special edition and will be mailed to all LEOFF I and LEOFF II retired firefighters throughout the state. It will be developed as an introduction to the Retired Firefighters of Washington. It will include the purpose and the history of

the RFFOW and an outline of the services we provide to our members along with an application for membership. It will have two or more pages about the organization as a recruitment piece to solicit their membership. We may include some articles from recent newsletters and two or more pages of current information found in our regular newsletter. This one newsletter will not be sent by e-mail and will be addressed to all retired firefighters, current RFFOW members and non-members by the Department of Retirement Systems using their mailing list. We hope to encourage those who are not members to become members as their membership will strengthen our organization.

Regarding the ad for yard work by Jose

Francisco, Jose is a documented worker from El Salvador. I have hired Jose to assist me on several occasions with rental property. I have found him to be a hard worker, prompt and dependable. You must furnish the tools and I give him lunch. If you live a distance from the bus you may have to pick him up and return him to the bus stop. I offer this information to those who live near Seattle or surrounding areas as a service to both you and Jose. Sometimes it is difficult to find someone to help for a short time with a difficult task. I have found Jose to be honest; however one should exercise normal precaution.

Hope to see many of you at our September meeting at the Ballard Elks. 

## What's Happening

By **MONICA BLUM**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT


Thanks again to all of you who sent in your dues payment for 2010. 2011 dues will be due January 2011. As stated in Dick's article, we will be doing a membership drive with the September newsletter. Those that did not pay 2010 dues will receive this letter, as well as every retired firefighter in the state. Hopefully, past members will re-up at this time. There is power in numbers!

Payroll deduction is a great way to pay for your membership. (Widows only: you need to fill out a new form every year if you would like to continue to have dues via payroll deduction). It is easy and you don't have to remember to send in a check every year. A payroll deduction form will be in the September newsletter, as well as on the website

(www.rffow.org).

That's right... the website is updated! It will always be a work in progress, but I resolve to always keep it current. Right now, we don't have it password protected for members. The Executive Board will discuss this in the future.

Another mystery has been solved. All those members that were "missing" were actually email only members. It was the email list that was lost when I started this job. All email members are now receiving the email. If you would like to be on the email list (you can still be mailed a hardcopy) let me know. It's a great way to get information that happens between newsletters.

If you have any questions or concerns, call or email me at 206-286-9167 or monica@octheater.com. I'm here for you! 



## Retired Firefighters of Washington

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### Retired Firefighters Board of Directors:

**President: Richard C. Warbrouck** (home: 425-775-9080, cell: 206-406-9823, email: mwarbrouck@comcast.net)

**Vice President: James A. Fossos** (home: 206-824-8537, cell: 206-518-7075, pager: 206-540-4411, email: jfossos@aol.com)

**Director: Patrick B. Bartlow** (home: 206-523-0325, cell: 206-940-6156, email: kbartlow@earthlink.net)

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**Executive Assistant: Monica Blum** (home: 206-286-9167, cell: 206-300-0220, email: monica@octheater.com)

# Pension Report

By RAY SANDERSON

From the 2010 Spring Newsletter by the National Association of State Retirement Administrators ([www.nasra.org](http://www.nasra.org)) comes the following:

The year 2008 may be fading in our collective memories, but its effects on public pension plans linger, and retirement systems and their plan sponsors continue to assess and respond to its consequences. These responses generally revolve around efforts to address higher pension costs needed to amortize higher unfunded liabilities resulting from the market decline. However, other factors are driving the need for changes at many plans, especially a) chronic failure by some plan sponsors to make required contributions, and b) approval of benefit levels that plan sponsors either would not or could not pay for.

Retirement systems and pension plan sponsors have multiple levers to bring a pension plan into actuarial balance, including adjustments to plan designs, financing structures and actuarial methods. The long timeframes over which retirement plans operate also preclude the need to react by making hasty changes that may not be well considered.

Long timeframes also enable relatively minor adjustments to have a major cost impact over time. This is analogous to a ship adjusting its course only slightly, yet arriving at a destination far away.

Another variable affecting the environment in which public plans and their sponsors consider changes is the array of public pension legal protections. These take the form of constitutional, statutory, and case law provisions. They vary widely and their actual efficacy in many cases is uncertain. Equally varied are political and moral protections of pension benefits—however undefined and uncodified—that are relevant considerations in efforts to revise pension benefit formulas.

Of course, changes to pension benefit structures and financing arrangements are not new; in fact, they have become a mainstay of the public pension community. What is different now is the number and magnitude of changes. Post-2008, the pace of reforms to public pension benefits and financing arrangements around the country has quickened, and the extent of changes as a group appears to be more extensive than before. For example, more employees are be-

ing required to increase their contributions, and age and years-of-service requirements to qualify for retirement are being raised. Many systems also are making adjustments to cost-of-living adjustment provisions.

These changes are occurring in an environment of sharply higher public and media awareness of the gap that has developed in retirement benefits between public employees and those employed outside the public sector. Never has this gap been so wide, which should concern everyone, for two reasons: first, retirement security benefits everyone, and we all are affected when others' retirement security is lacking. Also, this gap in retirement benefits has provoked a response by some to take away the retirement benefits of those who have them, as if that will improve the situation. The appropriate response to this gap should be to pursue policies that promote retirement security for everyone, not that erode such security for those who still have it.

The goals of preserving retirement security for public employees and promoting it for others can be advanced by remaining mindful of the core elements of retirement plan design that promote the reliable delivery of retirement income.

Such elements include:

- Mandatory participation
- Cost-sharing between employees and employers
- Pooled assets invested by professionals over long timeframes
- Annuitized benefits

These basic elements of public pension plan design should not be taken for granted, but rather, recognized as components of retirement plan design that promote the reliable delivery of retirement income. As changes continue to be considered and made to pension benefits for employees of state and local government, these core elements should be inherent in pension plan designs for all segments of our economy. After all, retirement security benefits everyone.

The full newsletter can be accessed at [www.nasra.org/newsletters/2010SpringNewsletter.pdf](http://www.nasra.org/newsletters/2010SpringNewsletter.pdf). The Research Report is located on page 7.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

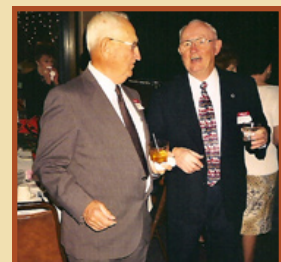
2010 Christmas Luncheon will be at the brand new Edmonds Yacht Club located next to Arnie's Restaurant in Edmonds, December 8, 2010.

## A Picture Says 1,000 Words...



Can you name these two distinguished longtime members and former Directors of the RFFOW?

Answer for June Newsletter (shown below): Two longtime members and former RFFOW Directors George Artim (on the left) and John McNerney (on the right).



# Fireboat Duwamish is Launched on July 3, 1909

REPRINTED FROM WWW.HISTORYLINK.ORG  
SUBMITTED BY RAY SANDERSON

On July 3, 1909, the fireboat Duwamish is launched by her builder, Richmond Beach Shipbuilding, north of Seattle. Designed by Seattle architect Eugene L. McAllaster, the Duwamish is the world's most powerful fireboat, upon which others will be modeled. The 120-foot long, steam-powered boat has a steel riveted hull, a flat bottom designed to work in tideflats and shallow waters, and a projecting "ram" bow designed to sink burning wooden boats, a last resort strategy to prevent a burning ship from igniting other ships or docks. The Duwamish can attain a speed of 10 knots.

The Duwamish went into service to spell Seattle's first fireboat, the Snoqualmie. The boat and its crew (along with the Snoqualmie and the Coast Guard vessel Unalga) fought the Grand Truck Pacific Dock fire of 1914, in which five people died and many more were injured. Without the fireboats, the fire would have been even more devastating.

During World War II, the Coast Guard used the Duwamish as a patrol boat. After the war, she was returned to the city, and in 1949 the Fire Department installed diesel-electric motors, which gave her the power to shoot 28,800 gallons a minute. The Duwamish had the most powerful water cannons in the world for 94 years until a Los Angeles fireboat, Fireboat No. 2, superseded her in 2003.

The fireboat was retired in 1985 and

was decommissioned. The City of Seattle designated her a Seattle city landmark on October 8, 1986.

She is moored at the Maritime Heritage Center on South Lake Union. She came into the news after a fire at a Lake Union marina caused enormous damage on Saturday May 18, 2002. The fire at the foot of Corliss Avenue N on the Wallingford side of the lake destroyed at least three dozen pleasure boats.

The marina burned while the fireboat Chief Seattle rushed around from Elliott Bay and through the Ballard Locks into Lake Union, a process that took nearly an hour. At the time many people questioned why the Duwamish could not have been used to slow the fire until the Chief Seattle arrived. The Duwamish lacked current instruments and chemical foam, but still possessed tremendous waterpower.

The owner of the Duwamish, the Shipping and Railway Heritage Trust (later renamed Puget Sound Fireboat Foundation), had been negotiating with the City for several months about outfitting the vessel to return to service, but without success. Bob Sittig, executive director of the Maritime Heritage Center, where the vessel was moored, commented, "It seems as though the bureaucrats fiddle while Seattle burns."

*Sources:* Angela Galloway, "Fire Ravages Marina on North Lake Union," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, May 18, 2002, ([www.seattlepi.nwsource.com](http://www.seattlepi.nwsource.com)); Mike Barber, "Powerful Fireboat Idle as Marina Burned,"

Ibid., May 21, 2002; Editorial Board, "Museum Piece to Fight Fires in 21st Century?" Ibid., June 4, 2002; "The Fireboat Duwamish," Puget Sound Fireboat Foundation website ([www.fireboatduwamish.org](http://www.fireboatduwamish.org)); "New Fireboat Is Placed in Water," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 4, 1909, p. 9.

Note: This file was revised on October 26, 2003, and updated on September 11, 2005, and again on March 6, 2006. By Priscilla Long, May 21, 2002.

**Fireboat Duwamish with water cannons in operation, 1910's. Postcard.**



**The S.S. Duwamish fireboat being launched at Richmond Beach, July 3, 1909. Courtesy Shoreline Historical Museum.**



**SS Duwamish at dock, 1910's. Postcard.**



## Legislative Contributions

Contributions to the Legislative Fund can be made at any time, with a separate check made to **RFFOW Legislative Fund, 9134 - 207th Place SW, Edmonds, WA 98026-6659**. Thank you to the following members who sent individual checks. Your contributions are very much appreciated:

Hanne Wickstrom (\$100)	Jeri Gough	Dennis A. Olsen	Patricia M. Burns	Jean R. Richards
Bob Hooper	Walt Griffith	Mick Crawford	Walter Ness	Bruce Grimstad
Ted & Mary Sholdra (\$100)	J Simmons	Alan & Jill Thomson	William Mataftin	E.K. Waterbury
Chuck Soros (\$103)	Leonard Leach		A.E. Leopold	Colleen & Doug Hanson
Lew and Thelma Ballatore (In memory of Linus Dillenburg)				

Thank you to all the members who make their contributions through their payroll deductions (each month their will be a partial list):

Michael Gale	Don Garrison	Dan Gefre	Richard Geissler	Richard Gelstin	Larry Genereau
John Genis	Edwin Gibson	Dave Gill	Gary Giraud	John Gittings	John Glass, Jr.
Thomas Godfrey	Alan Godfrey	Emery Goodrich	Charles Goodwin	Donald Goodwin	Arlene Gordon
Jeri Gough	Stanley Gould, Jr.	H. Richard Graddon	Gloria Gray	Mary Louise Greaby	John Green
Larry Gregory	Gene Grenstad	Jack Grier	William Griffin	Walter Griffith	Bruce Grimstad
	Kenneth Gronberg	Bernard Grywacz	Rex Guichard	Martin Gustavson	

## Aflac's Denial of Widow's Death Benefit Reverses Position after Labor Press "Went Global"

FROM THE LOS ANGELES FIREFIGHTER

*Editor's note: Recently, I found out some somber news regarding a mentor of mine, Jim Perry. Jim was a retired firefighter from Los Angeles who was the editor of The Los Angeles Firefighter. He died too soon, on December 3, at the age of 69.*

*During my years at Seattle Firefighters, Local 27, Jim and I got to know each other at various media/labor conferences. He took me under his wing and showed me the ropes. He was a tireless advocate for firefighters, labor, and especially, widows of firefighters. Los Angeles has already named their union hall after him and he will be receiving the IAFF Leadership Award at the IAFF Convention in San Diego this month.*

*Although his achievements were numerous over his more than three decades in the labor press, his final union victory, as detailed in this, his last article, was especially notable and represented Jim's indomitable spirit.*

*I wanted to share this with you because Jim, more than anyone, showed the power of the press and, even though you may be a retired fire fighter, you still have the power to create change.*

BY JIM PERRY, EDITOR  
THE LOS ANGELES FIREFIGHTER

Aflac Insurance Corporation originally denied the widow of a Los Angeles City firefighter (IAFF Local 112) the death benefits she should have received. Aflac stated that the fallen firefighter's reported "cardiac arrest" was different from a "heart attack," which is what was written (in fine print) in their policy.


Three IAFF Local 112 members met with Aflac representatives and after discussing the vague and ambiguous language in their policy, the Aflac representatives left us with the impression that the widow would get her death benefit. Then another letter of denial was sent to the widow by an Aflac claims representative, trying to justify their unjustifiable position.

As we told the Aflac reps, if they didn't pay this widow what she had coming, we would be "going global" and informing our brothers and sisters in the labor press, as well as all other labor affiliates, international firefighters and police organizations, elected officials, the news media and many others of this misleading insurance rip-off.

Within a couple days of publishing an article in our (Nov/Dec 2009) Los Angeles Firefighter newspaper, Mr. Daniel Amos, CEO and chairman of the board of Aflac, personally called and apologized. He dispatched three of his top representatives to Los Angeles to meet with the widow and her Local 112 representatives to present her with her benefits check.

Mr. Amos also sent a letter of apology in which he stated that Aflac is currently reviewing the benefits policy so that sudden cardiac arrest events are paid. As he stated, "It is simply the right thing to do and anything else would have been unacceptable to me."

This was a big win for working families and those not normally able to fight a large corporation. As we told Aflac's representatives, "We would much rather write thank-you letters or positive stories, but if warranted, we will not pull any punches when it comes to defending anyone in our fire department family, especially one of our widows or widowers."

We thank Mr. Amos for his swift and positive action in resolving this issue. 

## Retired Fire Fighter Helps Develop Mexico's First Search and Rescue Task Force

From the IAFF website: [www.IAFF.org](http://www.IAFF.org)

*(Editor's Note: In keeping with the theme of how retired firefighters can make a difference, here is another story of a California firefighter who took matters into his own hands).*

*July 22, 2010 -- Joseph Martinez left fire fighting in October 2007 because of a career-ending back injury. But that injury has not stopped Martinez, former fire fighter for Santa Maria, CA Local 2020, from helping create a first-ever search and rescue team for the City of Obregon in Mexico.*

*Martinez was in Obregon in March 2000 visiting his fiancée and preparing for their wedding when he heard the tragic story. Visiting the City's main fire station, Fire Chief Juan de Acha and other fire fighters told Martinez about the line-of-duty deaths of Ernesto Partida, 28, and Manuel Medrano, 27.*

*The men died while battling a large commercial fire when their air tanks ran empty. Without functioning personal alarm locators, and with ingress and egress blocked by burning debris, the men had removed their masks and died from inhaling super-heated gas.*

*They had collapsed 10 feet from fellow fire fighters and their bodies were without burns.*

*The tragic story struck a cord with Martinez, who like many fire fighters stateside sometimes take for granted the accessibility to state-of-the-art equipment they are given to fight fires.*

*Martinez was motivated to begin gathering phased-out fire equipment from fire departments in and around Santa Maria to take across the border into Obregon. While the phased-out equipment no longer would pass muster with the U.S. Fire Service or Cal-OSHA, it would be warmly accepted in Mexico where fire fighters were working often with less than the bare essentials.*

*"Once every year, I load my truck with all of the donated fire equipment. I look similar to the Beverly Hillbillies truck," he muses.*


*On his first trip to Obregon, he delivered six functioning personal alarm locators. Martinez says that on some occasions he was stopped at the border and delayed with "mountains of paperwork" needed to clear passage for the equipment. Though recently,*

*he has contacted high-level officials in the Mexican government who have been able to smooth out the delays.*

*The former fire fighter has taken his mission a step further and, working side by side with local fire chief, Sergio Martinez, he has helped develop a fully functional Urban Search and Rescue Task Force within the department.*

*Martinez believes that Obregon is a good location for a search and rescue team since most of the country's natural disasters – from floods to earthquakes – happen in the central regions of the country.*

*The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force includes one task force leader, an assistant task force leader, three squad leaders and 27 fire fighters.*

*The next step for the task force, says Martinez, is to become a resource for the United Nations as an official member of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), which is a global network of more than 80 countries and disaster response organizations under the United Nations umbrella.* 

## Great Ways to Save: Cut Costs at Home

### Rent that extra room

BY: AARP BULLETIN, JULY 1, 2010

Millions are looking for ways to shave dollars and dimes from their daily expenses. To share your own tips, send us an e-mail telling us how you save. You can save money on everything, but here's how you can get started around your home.

**Use up to 60 percent less energy by boiling water in a microwave rather than on an electric stovetop.** When you do use the stovetop, make sure pots and pans fully cover the heating element. A 6-inch pan on an 8-inch element translates to an energy waste of more than 40 percent.

**Improve freezer efficiency by keeping the thing as full as possible—with bags of ice, for instance.** But keep a 1-inch open space on each side of the interior for better air exchange.

**Lower your thermostat in the winter.** For each degree that you drop, you cut your heating bill by 3 percent. To feel more comfortable at lower temperatures, place pans of water near heating outlets or radiators. Water-filled air retains heat better, and the added humidity reduces itching and dry skin.

**Mix your own garden dirt.** Those “enriched” bags of soil boost flower and vegetable growth—at about \$8 a bag. Instead, for each one part of dirt or topsoil mix in about two parts of compost—shredded from leaves and branches and available for free at many municipal recycling centers.

**Save on a flush in an old toilet by putting a plastic bottle full of water, weighted with pebbles, in your tank.**

**Get a rain barrel.** Connected to your home's storm gutters, it will collect water for later use on your lawn, vegetable garden or car.

**Stop that dripping faucet.** Sixty drips a minute will waste about 6,428 gallons of water per year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

**Shower quickly and save.** A 15-minute shower a day costs about \$310 a year, even with a low-flow shower head. Cutting the time by a third will save about \$100 annually.

**Buy torn bags of mulch.** Home centers usually set these torn bags aside, then sell the day's mishaps at a big discount. Your best chance to get these deals is at the end of a weekend shopping day. Bring duct tape to close them, and a tarp to keep your car trunk clean.

**Rent that extra room or space in your garage, basement, backyard.** Visit [sparefoot.com](http://sparefoot.com) or [storeatmyhouse.com](http://storeatmyhouse.com) to list its availability and your asking price for free. SpareFoot gets a transaction fee equal to half the first month's paid rent (a spare bedroom can fetch \$150 a month). The site also sells legally vetted lease agreements for \$19.

**Save on printer ink by using the Century Gothic font, which a recent study showed consumes about a third less ink than industry-standard Arial.** That saves about \$20 a year for a home user printing 25 pages a week.

**Do it yourself or hire someone?** You can get estimates of the difference in cost for a home improvement project at [diyornot.com](http://diyornot.com), as well as advice on whether you should go it alone.

**Get your castoffs picked up for free by more than 60 nonprofit furniture banks nationwide.** (Your items generally need to be in good condition.) Find one near you at [nationalfurniturebank.com](http://nationalfurniturebank.com).

**Boost your knowledge with free online college courses.** (You may need to buy books or download special software.) Yale, MIT and Stanford are among dozens of universities offering no-cost knowledge. Visit [education-portal.com](http://education-portal.com) and click on “Open-

CourseWare” for a list of offerings by topic.

**Sell your junk, but first get an idea of what it's really worth by going to itaggit.com,** an online “blue book” for pack rats and collectors. The site analyzes recent sales at online markets.

**Free photo editing online is available at citrify.com,** where your uploaded photos can be tweaked with nifty effects like teeth-whitening and wrinkle-removing. Pixorial.com provides free video online editing and up to 10 gigabytes of free storage.

**Sell your books.** At [cash4books.net](http://cash4books.net) or [sellbackyourbook.com](http://sellbackyourbook.com), you type in an unwanted book's ISBN number to get an offer. If you like what you see, fill out a prepaid mailing label, box the books and send them off. Payment comes by check or as a credit to your PayPal account.

**Volunteer techies give free advice on common computer problems at [www.fixya.com](http://www.fixya.com).**

**Don't dump, recycle.** Join the local bulletin board at [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org) and post what you want to give away or something you're looking for. No money changes hands, and your unwanted stuff won't add to a landfill. If there's no group in your area, the website tells how to set one up.

## Seattle Retired Firefighters Travel Club

### FROM PRESIDENT JOHN CHURCH

There will be NO meetings in June, July or August. They will resume in September. There were 40 people at the May meeting. It was good to see that many there! Y'all come back!

### OUTINGS

The Curlew Lake Outing is over. There will be a report on it in the next newsletter.

*Long Beach Kite Flying - Andersen's RV Park - Wed, Aug. 19 - Mon, Aug. 24*

There are still openings for this outing. Contact Wagon Masters, John & Joan Church at 360-424-3892 or [jr.church@comcast.net](mailto:jr.church@comcast.net), not the RV resort to make reservations. Send John Church a check for \$35 made out to him, which is

your deposit for the 1st night and include the following information: your type of rig, length, number of slide outs, number of days, when you plan arrive and depart. Indicate any preference as to Park location, (N or S side). Send to John Church, 3923 Montgomery Court, Mt. Vernon, WA 98274-8706. The earlier you make your reservation, the more likely you'll get your Park location preference. They reserved 26 RV full hookup sites. Firefighters, relatives & friends are invited.

Let Ken or Audrey Sharp know of any news you might have, good or bad – hopefully good news or input regarding the SRFFTC luncheons and Outings we might go on at [kandasharp@comcast.net](mailto:kandasharp@comcast.net) or 425-673-0858. If you have ideas, call or e-mail us.



## In Memoriam



**HAROLD POLANDER:** Retired Seattle Fire Captain Harold Polander passed away on May 25, 2010. Harold retired in 1969. Graveside services were June 3.

**HEARSHEL OLIVER:** Hearshel Oliver, Retired Battalion Chief, passed away on June 6, 2010. No services planned at this time.

**JOHN PREHM:** John Prehm retired Firefighter passed away on June 14, 2010. No information on services available at this time but they do plan on having a service, when information is available we will notify.

**THERON GIBB:** Retired Firefighter Theron Gibb passed away on June 18, 2010. A celebration of life (no funeral service) was held on Saturday, June 26.

**BERNARD GRYWACZ:** Retired Firefighter Bernard Grywacz passed away on June 19, 2010. Services are still in the planning stage.

**FROM LEOTA KELLEY:** Retired Seattle Battalion Chief Loren Patrick Kelley passed away May 21 in Yuma, Arizona, after a long battle with esophageal cancer.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to all who attended the memorial for Pat on June 26, 2010. My thanks, also to Dept. Chaplain Joel Ingebritson, Walter Kilgore Firefighter Honor Guard and Seattle Firefighter Pipes and Drums. They did an amazing and wonderful job for us.

Loren leaves behind wife of 59 years, Leota, three children, Debra, Douglas, and Dianne, as well as eight grandchildren.

Loren always loved his Fire Department job and would bring home glowing reports of his men and the great job they did. He was so very proud of them. He will be missed by all.

## New Members

Please help us in welcoming these new members to the RFFOW:

**Glenn W. Johnson (Gwen, wife)**

Richland Fire Department

**Anthony Warren (Roxanne, wife)**

Seattle Fire Department

## Memorial Request

Thank you, Bob Hanson, retired Seattle Fire Department Fire Marshall, for the use of your boat for the James King Memorial. The family and the RFFOW thanks you.

## Classifieds

**EMPLOYMENT WANTED:** Flores (Jose) Francisco 206-571-7835 (cell). Yard and garden work and general labor. \$12 an hour, four hour minimum.

**FOR SALE:** A cemetery plot at Greenwood Memorial Park Funeral Home, 350 Monroe Avenue NE, Renton, WA 98056, is for sale in the Azalea Garden section. To see plot, call 425-255-1511. Value \$9,995. Asking price \$4,000. If interested call Doris at 425-271-8373.

## Letter to the Editor

My name is Terry Davis. I am a retired fireman and Paramedic out of the Seattle Fire Department Local 27. I would like to protest the holding of the WSCFF Convention at the Tulalip Resort and Casino. Every year they sell illegal fireworks from Boom City at that resort. Five years ago, my then 20 year old daughter was hit in the left eye while standing in the parking lot. She is now blind in that eye. Lawyers consider it a \$10,000,000 lawsuit in any court of law besides tribal. Our daughter got about 1/100th of that as a settlement, of which her attorney (it's hard to find one to go against the tribes) got 40%. This was a life long, life changing injury. There was no help at the scene of the accident. No one offered medical help. Things could have been worse for our daughter if a well meaning bystander hadn't called 911 and got help from the Marysville Fire Department. The Tribe did nothing.

It may interest you to know they, the tribes, do not carry liability and do not assume responsibility for any injuries that happen on their land. They set their own laws and regulations. They have injured several people at Boom City and have no First Aid or organized fire suppression at that location. The tribe at Tulalip pays no state or federal taxes. It's only support to the State of Washington is the jobs that it creates to run their establishment. This is not the type of establishment

that any responsible Fire Department should be supporting.

This is to Dean Shelton, WSCFF. You end your article in the Spring 2010 Washington Professional Fire Fighter publication with "Stay safe, and we will see you in Marysville." My suggestion to you and other firefighters is to "Stay safe, and stay away from the Tulalip Resort Casino Hotel and tribal lands."

**www.RFFOW.org**  
Check it out!

## Welcome to the IAFF Alumni

**FROM THE IAFF WEBSITE: WWW.IAFF.ORG**

The Alumni program is designed exclusively to assist retirees and former members in continuing their relationship with the IAFF.

Membership in this free program allows Alumni members to benefit from select IAFF and Union Plus programs, services and discounts, such as automotive, consumer education, computers, clothing, healthy lifestyles, home improvement, financial/insurance products, mobile phones / calling plans, pets, legal services and travel.

**Eligibility:** All active-retired IAFF members are automatically members of the Alumni. Most former IAFF members with an inactive-retired membership status are eligible to participate provided that they retired or left their local in good standing. The final Alumni eligibility decision is at the discretion of the retiree's former union.

**Welcome Package:** New IAFF retirees who are eligible for the program will automatically be sent an Alumni Welcome Package that contains an Alumni membership card, a recent issue of the International Fire Fighter magazine and a temporary web site address that must be accessed to validate new Alumni memberships.

Each Alumni member will receive a thank you letter and Alumni decals approximately two weeks after updating their contact information at the temporary web site.

**Contact Us:** Please contact the Assistant Alumni Coordinator Scott Dennis with benefit, eligibility, welcome package and other questions related to the IAFF Alumni program. sdennis@iaff.org (202) 824-1559.

## Retired Firefighters of Washington

9134 207th Pl SW  
Edmonds, WA 98026-6659  
www.rffow.org

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Date Sensitive Material - Please Deliver

### SEPTEMBER MEETING NOTICE:

Wednesday, September 8  
Ballard Elks, 6411 Seaview Avenue NW  
11:00 am

## Meeting Notices in YOUR Area

### BELLINGHAM

**WHEN:** 2nd Friday of the month  
**WHERE:** Squalicum Yacht Club  
**TIME:** 10 AM  
**INFO:** Call Jim Burton at 360-734-6572

All are welcome to come and join us, family and friends. We hear and share important information and re-connect with each other.

### TACOMA

**WHEN:** 1st Wednesday of the month  
**WHERE:** Local 31 Union Hall  
**TIME:** 11 AM  
**INFO:** Call Larry Anderson  
253-851-6831  
larrysandi@comcast.net

Bring a sack lunch, except August & December, which are potluck - everyone's favorite!

### VANCOUVER

**WHEN:** 3rd Thursday of the month  
**WHERE:** Vancouver Mall I-Hop  
**TIME:** 8 AM  
**INFO:** Call President Ken McMillian  
360-574-1123  
kenmac50@peoplepc.com

All are invited and encouraged to attend. It is a good time to hear and give the latest information, conduct our business and share time with friends.

### RENTON

**WHEN:** 1st Thursday of the month  
**WHERE:** Station 13 in Renton  
**TIME:** 10 AM  
**INFO:** Call President Bruce Phillips 425-226-2974 or b29m27p@comcast.net

We invite you to join us! All are welcome!

### SPOKANE VALLEY

**WHEN:** 3rd Thursday of the month  
**WHERE:** Conley's Restaurant  
**TIME:** 9AM  
**INFO:** Call Clyde Wisenor  
509-926-8822

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend! Come, and give us a try!

### SEATTLE RET. FF TRAVEL CLUB

**WHEN:** 2nd Thursday of the month  
**WHERE:** 125th St. Grill (12255 Aurora Avenue N., Seattle)  
**TIME:** Noon (Happy Hr) 1 PM Lunch  
**INFO:** John Church 360-424-3892  
jrchurch@comcast.net

### YAKIMA

**WHEN:** 1st Monday of the month  
**WHERE:** Waffles Cafe, 1501 N. 1st St.  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM  
**INFO:** Call Bob VanDyke at 509-452-8380

All retirees and wives from any Fire Department are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

### ABERDEEN/HOQUIAM

**WHEN:** 1st Monday of the month  
**WHERE:** Top Foods in Aberdeen  
**TIME:** 10 AM  
**INFO:** Don Hirschman  
360-533-4795

All are invited to join our get together!

### RFFOW MONTHLY MEETING

**WHEN:** 2nd Wednesday of the month  
**WHERE:** Ballard Elks, 6411 Seaview Avenue N.  
**TIME:** 11 AM  
**INFO:** President Dick Warbrouck  
425-775-9080  
mwarbrouck@comcast.net