



REKINDLE

Volume 1, Issue 2

“Hot Topics and Old Friendships Rekindled”

May, 2009

2009 IAFF Legislative Conference

Local 1426 was well represented at the 2009 IAFF Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. March 15th -18th. Brothers Smith, Higgins, Greenhaw, and Tracy attended the conference which puts forward the IAFF's Legislative Agenda for the upcoming Congressional session. The agenda held a full day of guest speakers including: Senator Joe Lieberman from our own State of Connecticut, Senator Kay Hagan from North Carolina, Senator Susan Collins of Maine, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and headlined by Vice President Joe Biden.



Justin Greenhaw, Bob Smith, Phil Higgins and Chris Tracy

The top legislative item this year, as in years past, is the passing of the National Collective bargaining bill. With the current state of the economy this is even more important than ever. As the economy worsens the first place the bean counters look to save a buck is public safety. If our brothers and sisters across the nation don't even have the right to sit at the table to bargain for their wages, hours, and working conditions

then they stand no chance when it comes the axe of budget cuts. The IAFF has made it clear that this is their top Legislative Priority and will not rest until it is passed. Vice President Joe Biden made it his mission to see that this is the year that all IAFF members have the right to collectively bargain.

this year's conference that most attended in the history of the event. The conference, which is already the largest Labor Legislative Conference in the country, has grown so big that it will be held in a new location in Washington next year.

Over 900 IAFF members were registered for the conference making

To see the complete list of speakers and hear their speeches log onto the IAFF website at www.iaff.org.

**We're Back with a
HOT
new name**

Welcome to the Second edition of the 1426 newsletter. After combing through the many responses to our request for names for the Newsletter we are now happy to officially reveal the new name "The Rekindle." Special thanks to Bill Sagalski for coming up with the winning name and thanks to everyone who sent us a suggestion. Thank you to our own John Cieplinski for the fabulous artwork for our new title. It has been a busy three months since the first edition of the newsletter and we hope to catch you up over the next few pages.

Bills, Bills, and More Bills!

More and more of members, both retired and active, have been having trouble with medical bills. We have been working very hard with all our members trying to everything cleared up with the Town to make sure those bills are paid in a timely fashion. One recurring theme that we are running into is when a member reaches sixty five and begins to qualify for Medicare. At sixty five Medicare becomes the Primary insurance and Anthem becomes your secondary insurance. It seems that what has been happening is when a doctor submits a bill to Medicare and a partial payment is made the balance is not being forwarded to Anthem for payment. As a result folks have been getting a second bill from their doctors with a balance due. In an effort to get these bills paid as quickly as possible we are asking everyone to make sure you save the "Medicare Benefits Summary" (the page that tells you what was paid and what wasn't) and a copy of the doctor's bill in question. Please give us a call at the office 203-366-7055 or email us at newsletter@mail.iaff1426.org and we will help you through the red tape and get your bills paid. We know that it can be frustrating trying to get the Town to cooperate and get the bills paid so please be patient and let us give you a hand. If you have any questions on your benefits please give us a call or an email and we will get them answered for you.

Bald Heads for Cancer Research

On March 8th 2009 Local 1426 members participated in the annual Team Brent St. Baldrick's day celebration at the Bear and Grille Restaurant on Black Rock Turnpike. The event, which raises money for childhood cancer research, was well attended by the entire community. Approximately 400 people had their heads shaved to raise awareness and money for this worthy cause.

Team Brent was created in 2005 by Mike and Dana McCreesh to battle childhood cancer alongside their son (and Honorary IAFF/UPFFA/ and Local 1426 Member) Brent who was fighting stage IV neuroblastoma. Today he is a survivor who has no recollection of his treatment. Team Brent has proudly raised over 2.5 Million dollars for childhood cancer since 2005 through St. Baldrick's day events, the Princess Ball father/daughter dance, and the Pan Mass Challenge a 192 mile bike ride across 46 towns in Massachusetts.

Our members have proudly participated in the St. Baldrick's day event for the last 3 years and are determined to help find a cure for all childhood cancers. Local 1426 committee chair Rob Luise stated " We had a pretty good turnout this year and we are already looking forward to next year."

Thanks to Rob for helping to organize the 1426 effort, and to all those members who were shaved for this event.



It's Another Year for Relay for Life

It's that time of year again and the American cancer Society "Relay for Life" is just around the corner. This year the event will be held on evening of June 6th overnight until the Morning of June 7th at the Roger Ludlowe Campus. This will be the fourth year that Local 1426 has been a part of the Relay and it is an event that seems to grow every year. This year will see the return of a few of the items that have become crowd favorites over the last few years. The dunk tank will be back again and folks are already wondering who will be the dunkees this year. Engine 1426 will be back providing rides around the track for a \$10 donation. The ever popular 4:00 a.m. bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches will be back!! The NEW addition this year will be Miccalizzi's Italian Ice.

We are working on a special project for this year as well and we need your help. Anyone who has had a family member

or friend suffer from cancer or whose life has in some way been touched by cancer (as a survivor, or has lost someone to cancer) please send us a picture of the person. You can either email the picture to newsletter@mail.iaff1426.org or you can send us an actual picture and we will scan it AND SEND IT BACK. While all the detail of the special project cannot be revealed at this time it will be a spectacular part of the Relay. Please send us your pictures NOW!

Anyone who would like to get involved in the 1426 team for Relay please contact Bob Smith, Phil Higgins, Joe Rainis, or Jeff DeNitto. We can always use help throughout the night so even if you can't make the beginning there will be plenty to do at night and next morning. This event is really worth a look. If you have never been to the Relay you should stop by and show your support .

Happy Anniversary Local 1426



The Fairfield Fire Fighters Association reached our 47th Anniversary on April 5th 2009. Congratulations to all of our members,

both active and retired, on the many achievements we have been able to accomplish in our Forty Seven Year history. We will continue to make our history grow and follow the examples and guidance passed down over the last forty seven years. See you at the 50th anniversary celebration!!

Bravest Battle Early Morning Fire



Firefighters Edmondson, Kazzi and Kenney make entry at 466 Davis Road as Assistant Chief Doug Chavenello looks on

A 94 year old woman narrowly escaped and early morning house fire on Davis Road. Fire Fighters received the alarm at 7:56 AM and the first arriving unit reported smoke showing from the structure.

As Fire fighters attempted to enter the house they were met by thick black smoke and heavy fire in the home. Crews quickly knew that they had a serious fire on their hands. The ranch style house had an unusual layout and the heavy thick smoke made it difficult for the attack line crew to find the seat of the fire. Ladder two cut two strategic vent holes in the roof which quickly helped improve visibility in the structure. Crews used a number of hand lines to find and extinguish the fire. Crews had the bulk of the fire knocked down in less than thirty minutes. The major amount of fire damage was confined to the kitchen area but the whole house sustained major heat and smoke damage.

Crews from Engine 3, 2, 5, 1, Ladder 2, Rescue 1, Car 3, Car 5, Car 2, FM1 were on scene for a number of hours completing overhaul and salvage operations. The cause of the fire was believed to be a small space heater in the kitchen area.

Kettlebell Seminar

"The workouts make everything else I have done seem pointless, can't wait to see where it takes me."

"It would absolutely help with the way we operate on the fire ground."

"It can be easily adjustable to your own home and the benefit from the program is exactly what is needed for today's modern firefighter."

"It was real life training that can be done anywhere."

Those were just a few of the quotes from people who attended the RKC Kettlebell seminar the weekend of February 7th and 8th

Local 1426 Member and Fairfield Fire Assistant Chief George Gomola was instrumental in organizing the event and wished a very special thanks to all who attended the first ever "Kettlebell Training for Firefighters" Seminar held at the Connecticut Tank facility in Bridgeport CT. We had over 41 participants. Firefighters attended from all over the State, representing Norwalk FD, Stamford Fire Rescue, Poquonnock Bridge Fire Dept., Milford FD, West Haven FD, Stratford FD, and Fairfield. Some brought their wives,

and some brought their sons and daughters. The diversity of the class was amazing – from age 12 through age 63, from a few years on the job to retirees, firefighters through Chief Officers. The physical conditioning ranged from athletic to highly deconditioned. All participants performed EVERY exercise and participated in every training session. With the exception of sore hamstrings and one dropped bell there were NO reported injuries in 2 days of training in this eclectic blend of hard style Russian Kettlebell training, flexibility, strength training and yoga. The program was made possible through the generosity of Connecticut Tank and it's owners – Joe Palmeri and Rob Kellerman. Thanks for sharing your space with us. We are also extremely grateful to the Fairfield Firefighters Benevolent Association and it's members – Frank DeAngelo – head cook and bottle washer – Jeff DeNitto – social director, Mark Harry and John Calandriello. As (Lead instructor) Zar put it so well on the ride back to the airport – we learned this hoping some day to be able to teach our brothers- now we have. Thanks for giving us that opportunity. Train hard, train smart.

Well done to all those who attended!!!



Save The Date

- April 16 Union Meeting
- May 21 Union Meeting
- May 26 Memorial Day Parade
- June 6 & 7 Relay for Life
Ludlowe High School



- June 10 ... Bridgeport Bluefish Game
- June 18 Union Meeting

Hockey Team Skates into Spring



Leroy Corbo and Justin Greenhaw

The Local 1426 Hockey Team recently played in the Connecticut Heroes Tournament at the Arena at Harbor Yard. This annual tournament for area fire and police departments has become one of the yearly stops for the Hockey team. The team lost in its two games in the tournament but continued to make steady progress with their performance on the ice. "It won't be long til we notch our first win." said team member Elijah Riendeau.

The team continues to play in the Shelton Adult Hockey League at the rinks in Shelton throughout the spring and summer months and we are proud to say that they have "NOTCHED THEIR FIRST WIN." A hard fought 6-5 shootout win with the

winning goal scored by John Calandriello. To follow the team log onto the Rinks at Shelton web site and check out the upcoming schedule for adult leagues.

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