Cities, counties, special districts and schools now have billions more dollars available for critical services, thanks to the end of redevelopment.

According to new data released by the California Dept. of Finance (DOF), local agency general funds have reaped a nearly $4 billion windfall since the state eliminated redevelopment agencies (RDAs) in 2011.

The costly and often-corrupt agencies had been diverting upwards of $6 billion in property tax dollars away from vital services and into the pockets of real estate developers and pet projects.

California Professional Firefighters led a coalition that successfully fought to end this property tax drain on local general funds.

“The cities complained that the loss of redevelopment dollars was forcing them to roll back vital services,” said Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters. “Truth be told, there is actually more money available now for the services people expect from their local governments – public education, fire and police protection and critical health services.”

Continued on page 4
LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT

CFFJAC

Thanks for all your work with the CPF Staff in keeping the JAC program intact. I appreciate the letter you sent me thanking me for the letters I wrote to our elected officials and the Governor’s Office to protect the JAC. Working together, we got the job done!

Thank you,

Frank De Clercq
President
San Diego City Firefighters Local 145

CFJAC

Cal-LAST

On behalf of the Air and Army National Guard, my wife Pat and I wish to express our gratitude to the California Last Alarm Service Team members for their support of the fallen firefighters and their families. Their assistance in the transportation and honoring of the Granite Mountain Hotshot team, who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the lives and property of others, was deeply appreciated by all families saddened by their deaths.

Please pass along our thanks to the team members. We are truly grateful for their service.

Frank J. Grass
General, U.S. Army

Cal-LAST

The loss of the Granite Mountain Hotshots in the Yarnell Wildfire on June 30 was a tremendous loss. Adding to the tragedy was finding out that Santa Ynez native, Sean Misner, was one of the nineteen. As you know, Sean was an extended family member to Montecito Fire, not only because he was a brother in the fire service, but also because he was the nephew of our own Division Chief Terry McElwee and grandson of our late Fire Chief Herb McElwee.

We wanted to provide Sean’s family a memorial that would honor him as the hero that he was. We worked closely with his wife and family to organize the event, and they were very pleased with the service.

Chip Hickman
Fire Chief
Montecito Fire Protection District

YOUR PROFESSION IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

CPF UPDATES FREE MOBILE APP FOR IOS AND ANDROID

Last year, California Professional Firefighters took the lead in bringing its members a mobile application. In 2013, the CPF Mobile App has been updated to provide some important new features that will help you keep tabs on your profession and your union.

The free CPF Mobile App is your link to the California fire service and the political and legislative decisions that will affect your life. Developed for iOS and Android, the free app offers members the latest news, legislative updates, LODD information and a handy guide to the Firefighters Bill of Rights.

In the latest update, CPF has added important new features tailored to your needs on the job:

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION GUIDE — A new feature exclusively for CPF members, the app now offers a complete pocket guide to last year’s groundbreaking Workers’ Compensation reform.

TRAINING — In conjunction with the CFFJAC, the app now has essential information on training, including a set of wildland firefighting resources at your fingertips.

In addition to these essentials, the free application also brings a wealth of special features:

CAMPAIGN UPDATES — CPF members can register and log in for everything they need to know about what’s at stake in the most important elections;

CPF FIREVISION — follow CPF’s award-winning video news service right on your mobile device;

“WHERE’S THE FIRE?” — incident information from around the world;

FIREFIGHTERS BILL OF RIGHTS — a full guide to your disciplinary rights in your pocket;

MEMBER RESOURCES — essential information and links to CPF services such as Personal Exposure Reporting and new member services, as well as social media links.

“We’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback on the CPF Mobile App and we want to make it as useful as possible,” said CPF President Lou Paulson. “We’re thrilled to be able to offer this mobile application and are anxious to hear your thoughts on how we can continue to make it better.”

The application is free and available in the iTunes App Store and the Android Marketplace.
A HARD REMINDER ABOUT WHY WE FIGHT

Because risk to life and limb is so much a part of the job, firefighters don’t have to “imagine” the heartbreak felt by the families of the 19 Prescott Arizona “hot-shot” firefighters who died this past June in a horrific wildland fire.

But after all the memorial ceremonies and the tributes had been paid, what happened next was hard ... no, impossible to imagine.

The city of Prescott, which had at one point vowed to take care of the fallen, delivered the lowest of blows to the families of 13 of the 19 by denying them full survivor benefits. It seems these 13, many of whom were working full-time hours, had been officially classified as “seasonal” employees.

They worked together. They trained together. They died together. But because a cheapskate city decided to put its agenda ahead of humanity, these 13 families were basically told, “sorry, you’re out of luck.”

Prescott officials changed their story a couple of times once word got out of this unfathomably callous decision. First, it was “hey, it’s out of our hands – the state says we can’t.” Then, it was “gee, we can’t afford it.”

Of course, it’s all BS. Whatever the state may say, the city was well within its rights to extend full survivor benefits to its employees. Even the state of Arizona called them out on this one, with the Legislature vowing to retroactively make the benefits available notwithstanding what the city decided.

As for the city’s financial position, at last report, they had $230 million available to fund a $173 million budget. As Los Angeles Times columnist Paul Whitefield noted, “Is it just me or does it appear the city could cough up a few bucks for some widows and their kids?”

I know it seems shocking, but this is nothing new for the firefighters of Prescott. According to my colleagues with the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona, Prescott is one of the worst when it comes to how it treats its employees and, in particular, its firefighters.

The experience in Prescott is a heart-breaking but important reminder of how fortunate we are in California.

• In California, we don’t make a distinction between permanent and seasonal employees when it comes to survivor benefits: If you die on the job, your family is protected;

• In California, protection for our families doesn’t stop with just those who die in a fire, but is also there for those whose death comes from job-related illnesses;

• In California, firefighters and their families have recourse when a local agency tries to stiff them on Workers’ Comp or other survivor benefits;

• Unlike Arizona (a “right-to-work” state), California firefighters don’t have to beg for their benefits; we bargain for them.

The protections afforded firefighters and their families in California are, of course, not just handed to us. Though it’s not as brazen, the attitude on display in Prescott exists in our state and has existed for decades. It is why we work so hard in Sacramento to ensure that legislators are, and remain, pro-firefighter in deed as well as in word. It is why we work so hard collectively in the Capitol to solidify and enshrine protections for you and your families in state law, out of reach from the whim of a heartless city manager.

The horrifying events last June and the inconceivable actions of the city of Prescott break our hearts and stiffen our resolve. As firefighters and as union members, we have been and must remain, ever vigilant.
Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation to dissolve RDAs in 2011, as part of a package of reforms aimed at closing the state’s massive budget gap. Legal challenges to the law by the League of California Cities ultimately failed when the California Supreme Court upheld the elimination of RDAs.

Since the law took effect, local school districts have received more than $1.3 billion in residual payments from previously diverted RDA dollars. Counties have received over $862 million. Cities have gotten back about $605 million. Special districts — which include fire districts — have gotten back over $300 million.

The DOF report offers a complete city-by-city, county-by-county breakdown of how much money is flowing back to local agencies. In some cases, the windfall runs into the tens of millions of dollars. Counties stand to benefit in particular: Most didn’t have their own redevelopment agencies and were scrambling to fund health and social service programs that cities aren’t required to finance.

“All counties will benefit in the sense that they will ultimately receive this money back as general fund money,” Deputy Santa Clara Co. Counsel James Williams told the Los Angeles Times.

For CPF locals, the Department of Finance data documents the existence of resources to repair departments that were decimated by staff rollbacks. During the legislative fight, local governments — especially city managers — tried to extort local leaders into supporting their ongoing money grab by claiming the elimination of RDAs would force budget cuts.

Truth be told, elimination of RDAs actually generated more general fund money for these services. RDA dollars couldn’t be used for firefighter staffing — they could only go to new buildings. The newly recovered RDA funds are available for all services.

“Redevelopment money was off limits for any kind of critical services — it could only go to fund ‘projects’ like Stockton’s ill-fated arena or Sacramento’s mermaid bar,” said Paulson. “With these agencies gone, these dollars are now flowing back to local agency general funds for essential services.”

KAPLAN UNIVERSITY AND IAFF PARTNER ON FIRE SERVICE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Tuition reductions, credit for service certifications part of package for IAFF members

Kaplan University, a leader in higher education innovation, and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), representing more than 300,000 full-time professional firefighters and paramedics in the United States and Canada, have joined to provide discounts and special benefits for IAFF members interested in pursuing higher education.

The offer builds on the collaboration established last year between Kaplan and California Professional Firefighters, extending additional tuition benefits to all IAFF members across the country.

“Higher education is an increasingly important component in the career advancement of fire personnel and critical to managing the complexities of the fire service,” said IAFF General President Harold A. Schaitberger. “By partnering with Kaplan University’s School of Public Safety, we are able to provide access to some of the best educational tools and fire science programs for our large network of members across the United States and Canada.”

“Kaplan University’s goal is to help fire science and emergency management professionals at any stage in their careers to enhance their skills and become more competitive in their field for advancement,” said Mike Brackin, dean of the School of Public Safety at Kaplan University. “As the primary advocate for providing firefighters with the tools they need to perform their jobs, the IAFF is the perfect ally for us to reach the bulk of our nation’s fire service professionals.”

Kaplan University benefits offered to IAFF members include:

- Tuition reductions: Equivalent to a 43 percent reduction, a $210 credit hour rate will be extended on AAS in Fire Science, BS in Fire Science, and BS in Fire and Emergency Management programs.
- Waived fees: Kaplan University’s Learning Recognition Course (LRC 100) and the accompanying Portfolio Assessment will be offered at no cost, equaling a $1,500 value.
- Credit for prior learning experience: After a rigorous process of aligning the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) standards with its course offerings, Kaplan’s School of Public Safety can apply articulated credit to Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) recognized programs, making it easier for firefighters to convert their applicable International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and Pro Board certifications into college credits toward a degree, saving both time and money.

Currently in effect, all members of the IAFF can take advantage of the available benefits. For more information, visit www.iaff.kaplan.edu.
PROTECTING PATIENT CARE IN EMS

What is California Professional Firefighters’ involvement in our emergency medical services issues? We all know that CPF is responsible for political and legislative direction at the state level for firefighter issues. All of us are familiar with our work as it relates to career protections, benefits (including retirement), health and safety. But to most of our membership, much of what CPF does regarding EMS is “behind the scenes.”

California Professional Firefighters is committed to providing the best possible patient care to those in need of emergency medical services. We firmly believe that cross-trained firefighter-medical personnel is the optimum delivery model for Californians. The private, for-profit EMS industry has repeatedly stated to our elected officials that they provide “…high quality services at lower cost and greater efficiency.” We strongly disagree with their contention.

Three entities directly affect our members as we provide EMS: employers and county and state agencies. Our goal is to bring all three into a collaborative effort that ends confusing and sometimes conflicting state laws, regulations and collective bargaining agreements into a system that makes sense for us as we provide quality EMS.

Over the past few years we have achieved success in passing laws and enabling regulations that properly protect EMTs under the Firefighter Procedural Bill of Rights in any investigation or subsequent disciplinary action. We continue to work in clarifying disciplinary actions involving firefighter-paramedics, ending the practice of being sometimes subjected to two or three separate investigations.

As financial resources remain scarce, CPF was able to shepherd the passage of 2011’s AB 678 (Pan), the bill that provides supplemental Medi-Cal reimbursement to fire departments from the federal government. Additionally, we are carefully studying and working with other labor groups, principally the nurses, in our participation in “Community Paramedicine.” CPF’s position integrates input from the IAFF, the California Nurses’ Association and best practices. We will be working with our local leadership as they move forward with potential pilot projects under the direction of the state.

Other hot EMS topics involve “Tactical EMS,” “Rescue Task Forces,” deployment to active shooter incidents and other operations that require a high degree of integration with our law enforcement partners. As we move forward in this area, we will focus on the training and safety of our members, providing the best possible outcomes for victims and supporting law enforcement without interfering with their duties and responsibilities.

We can have confidence that we are engaged in all facets of EMS decision-making. The CPF currently has four members serving on the state’s EMS Commission. We have key persons involved in various EMS Authority task forces and groups. We constantly interface with all of the EMS stakeholder groups. Your pride in providing the best quality patient care to Californians is being carried forward by your state organization.
GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS CPF-BACKED LEGISLATION INTO LAW

The Legislature recently wrapped up its final weeks of session and sent hundreds of bills to the Governor for consideration. Included were at least two bills backed by the CPF – SB 311 (Alex Padilla, D-Pacoima) and AB 312 (Bob Wieckowski, D-Fremont).

CPF is pleased to report that the Governor signed both of these bills into law.

SB 311, a bill sponsored by the Building and Construction Trades Council and co-sponsored by CPF, increases voter participation in the decision to convert a General Law City to a Charter City by allowing for conversion measures, as well as charter amendments impacting employee rights, to only be placed on the statewide general election ballot.

Fewer voters actually participate in the local direct democracy process because many local proposals appear in primary elections when voter participation is historically and consistently much lower than in general elections. Ensuring greater voter participation at the ballot box is especially important when considered in the context of these specific types of proposals, which can have far-reaching impacts on a community’s public services, including fire protection and other public safety services.

AB 312, a “clean up” bill sponsored by CPF to help streamline the administration of the displaced firefighter hiring list that is maintained by the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC). Specifically, it clarifies the number of months that a firefighter may remain on the list – from 48 months to 36 months, reflecting the historically appropriate length of time that a displaced firefighter has remained on the list before being hired by another department. If a firefighter is hired from the list sooner than 36 months from the date on which he or she was placed on it, AB 312 allows them to be removed from the list accordingly.

Both of these bills will take effect January 1, 2014. A handful of other CPF-sponsored bills were sent to the Governor in early to mid-September and the Governor has until October 13th to act on legislation.

For updates visit www.cpf.org.

YOUR ONLINE VIDEO NEWS UPDATE

Want to stay connected with your profession? Connect with CPF Firevision

Twice a month, CPF Firevision brings the California fire service directly to your computer, iPod or smartphone.

Timely: Up-to-the-minute headlines and stories that affect you
Informative: Stories and images from the front lines
Relevant: Local spotlight segments about how firefighters are making a difference … on the front lines and in the community.

Find CPF Firevision at www.cpffirevision.org
Are taxpayer dollars being used to pay for campaigns? This question is at the heart of broad, bipartisan reform legislation sponsored by California Professional Firefighters and approved this September by the California Legislature.

Senate Bill 594, by Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) opens the books on millions of campaign dollars paid out by so-called “non-public funds” from taxpayer-financed non-profits like the League of California Cities. It also strengthens state law to ensure that public dollars are not being used to pay for ballot initiative campaigns.

“The goal of SB 594 has always been about protecting the public’s right to know where campaign dollars are coming from and reassuring them that public dollars aren’t going to campaigns,” said CPF President Lou Paulson.

Since 2003, more than $17 million of campaign money has been spent from “non-public funds” – anonymous accounts run by taxpayer-financed non-profits. By itself, the League of California Cities has spent more than $12 million on politics from these hidden accounts, dwarfing their traditional reported spending.

For years, these accounts have continued to spend on campaigns without any reporting of the source of the funds. At the same time, some of these groups were also collecting millions in so-called “marketing fees” from the sale of tax-free bonds sold by a joint powers agency – the California Statewide Community Development Authority (CSCDA).

The state of California considers these proceeds to be public funds, but these semi-public agencies appeared to treat them as private dollars. Numerous news reports have suggested these public dollars were, in fact, being used to help finance ballot initiative campaigns. With no public reporting, there was no way to determine whether this money was being inappropriately spent on politics.

“Elections and the electorate’s view of candidates should not be influenced by how cleverly money is hidden or how well relationships are obscured, whether intentionally or not,” said Jo Seidita, Chair of the California Clean Money Campaign.

Senate Bill 594 shines light on the sources of these anonymous dollars.

- It imposes tough new disclosure requirements, ensuring full disclosure of non-public funds when spending rises above a nominal threshold.
- It reinforces the state’s determination that the “marketing fees” derived from bond sales are, in fact, public dollars and off limits for political mischief.
- It establishes new oversight and auditing requirements through the Franchise Tax Board.

The legislation sparked a unique alliance between good government groups (such as the California Clean Money Campaign), organized labor (CPF, the California Labor Federation and the State Building and Construction Trades Council) and anti-tax groups, most notably the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn.

Local government organizations, especially the League of California Cities, came out hard against SB 594, deeming it as a “last-minute power play” intended to “silence their voice” in political campaigns. In most cases, the concerns were addressed within the original bill, but SB 594 was amended to zero in on the most egregious situations and reassure many non-profits that their current level of activism would not be affected.

In the end, the measure won the support of the California State Association of Counties and numerous other smaller groups. The League of California Cities did not support SB 594, but did remove its opposition after the amendments.

“This agreement reflects our commitment to transparency—which has always been a priority for us,” said David Finigan, President of the California State Association of Counties, and a Del Norte County Supervisor. “And it also ensures that California Counties and CSAC retain our ability to fully communicate our position on initiatives and vital statewide issues that affect us and our constituents.”

The amended measure won strong approval in the Legislature and as of this writing, is expected to be signed by Governor Brown.
Doing battle with forces you can’t control is pretty much what being a front line firefighter is all about. Through training and experience, firefighters are often able to get the fickle forces of nature to bend to their will.

For the past few years, the future of apprenticeship has been hostage to a similar uncontrollable force – the California state budget deficit. But, as it does on the front lines, the fire service – indeed the entire apprenticeship community – rose to the occasion and won the fight.

At issue was continued funding for critical training provided through the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee. Since its earliest days, vital resources provided through the CFFJAC have been spent through a special “categorical” account – a guarantee that the money will go where it should, to critical job-training services.

As the state’s fiscal situation has deteriorated, officials have sought to redistribute these dedicated dollars back into the overall budget for K-12 education. Given the fiscal crises faced at the state and local level, the practical effect would have been the end of funding for apprenticeship.

“We know the schools are facing severe funding crises of their own,” said CFFJAC Program Manager Yvonne de la Peña. “No matter how well intentioned they may be about preserving apprenticeship, we knew it would be difficult to preserve this critical training without the protection of a dedicated funding source.”

In 2012, a united effort involving labor and management throughout the apprenticeship community earned a reprieve for apprenticeship’s status as a designated categorical funding program. A remarkable short documentary, “Apprenticeship Works,” emphasized the role apprenticeship plays in building the economic future of the state. Dozens of departments and local unions flooded the Capitol with letters and phone calls.

“CFFJAC training dollars ensure standardized firefighter training that safeguards the citizens we serve,” wrote Santa Maria Fire Chief Daniel Orr. “Well-trained firefighters save lives and apprenticeship is central to preserving that training.”

In 2013, Governor Jerry Brown sought to completely eliminate all categoricals. The CFFJAC and other apprenticeship programs were again in the crosshairs.

Battle tested, the CFFJAC and the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California again mobilized and organized labor and management support for what is, by most measures, the most successful on-the-job training concept in history. At the same time, the partners began working with the administration and the Legislature on finding a way to end the annual high-wire act over funding.

With the active involvement of CPF’s governmental advocacy team, an innovative compromise was forged, reallocating apprenticeship funding into the California Community College system, but also preserving it as a dedicated resource. Through CPF’s relationship with the Brown administration and the leadership in the Legislature, the compromise was incorporated into the state budget. While funding wasn’t increased, local departments counting on training dollars won’t have to sweat out Sacramento budget maneuvers every year.

“All this work would have been for naught without the support of the fire service,” said de la Peña. “It is clear we were successful in our efforts due to the outpouring of letters and phone calls to legislative leaders by the fire service - both management and labor.”

Teamwork – one of the core values of the fire service – won the day in Sacramento.
MAKING SAFETY THE #1 PRIORITY FOR THE CALIFORNIA FIRE SERVICE

The 2013 Fire Season got off to a bad start and shows no signs of slowing down. The effective fire season began as much as two months before the official mid-May kickoff and, as of September 10th, there have been 7,581 fires in California, which have burned over 550,958 acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. The extreme danger of wildland firefighting really hits home though, when considering the loss of life experienced during this volatile fire season.

This year’s loss of nineteen courageous firefighters from Arizona and eight firefighters in California is a grounding reminder of the dangers that firefighters face every day. These tragedies provide an opportunity to better protect California’s firefighters. For local firefighters, more fires and reduced mutual aid capacity increases the need to be well trained on wildland firefighting safety techniques.

So, heading into a hot and dry Fourth of July weekend, a coalition of California Fire Service partners came together to announce a Safety Stand Down for July 3, 2013. Fire departments across California stood down from routine, non-emergency duties to review and discuss basic safety-related training and standard operating procedures that often get lost in the course of performing daily operations and responding to routine calls.

“This year’s fire season got off to a dangerous start in terms of the sheer number of fires and acres burned, but especially in terms of the loss of life,” said Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters. “We decided to sponsor the Safety Stand Down to help refocus the fire service on staying safe and aware in the extreme conditions being experienced throughout the state.”

The Safety Stand Down focused on a review of safety procedures in the wildland and wildland-urban interface. The focus was not on tactical skills but on informal discussions around the firehouse to encourage each crew to review their plans for staying safe and aware.

The California Fire Service coalition provided abundant resources for departments to utilize for their Safety Stand Down activities, including pertinent excerpts from the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee’s groundbreaking “Fighting Wildfires” training curriculum. The new “Fighting Wildfires” training program – free for all CFFJAC participating fire departments – provides fundamental training on fireground safety and wildland firefighting techniques.

“As firefighters are increasingly being called to respond to ever-more-massive fires, CFFJAC’s “Fighting Wildfires” curriculum provides accessible training materials to help firefighters get the job done and get home safely,” said CFFJAC Chair Daniel A. Terry, “This comprehensive training protocol is an important and timely addition to any department’s wildfire training.”

With so many different forces arrayed against them, it’s essential that firefighters rely on their training and keep their wits about them. CFFJAC’s “Fighting Wildfires” training resources stress that situational awareness and a realistic assessment of risk are the keys to returning home safe.

California Professional Firefighters, CFFJAC, CAL FIRE, the State Fire Marshal, Cal Chiefs and the California State Firefighters’ Association joined together to make safety the California Fire Service’s number one priority. The Stand Down provided a reminder that safety is everyone’s responsibility.
CALIFORNIA WELCOMES HOME ITS FALLEN HEROES

Foundation’s Cal-LAST team deployed to help recognize Arizona Hotshots

When 19 Prescott, Arizona firefighters fell in a horrific disaster this past June, the men and women of the California fire service were there to welcome home California’s native sons who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Five California natives were among those who lost their lives in the line of duty June 30th in the Yarnell Hill Fire in Central Arizona. When the time came to bring these brave souls home, the bodies of Kevin Woyjeck, 21, and Christopher MacKenzie, 30, were airlifted back to California on July 12th, for transport to individual ceremonies.

The California Last Alarm Service Team (Cal-LAST) was activated to coordinate the ramp ceremony, in conjunction with Cal EMA and the California National Guard. Cal-LAST, a partnership between the California Fire Foundation and the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, is a comprehensive support team designed to help local fire departments and firefighter unions deal with line of duty deaths.

Cal-LAST personnel coordinated the ceremonial arrival of Brothers Woyjeck and MacKenzie and also provided critical local support for the Garden Grove and Montecito Fire Departments, who held services honoring three other fallen Arizona hotshots – Robert Caldwell and Grant McKee (Garden Grove) and Sean Misner (Montecito).

“The loss of a firefighter in the line of duty is a wrenching experience for any department, whether it is a traumatic event or the torture of job-related illness,” said California Fire Foundation Chair Lou Paulson. “Cal-LAST is our way of being there for the men and women who stand guard for our state and nation every day.”

For information on Cal-LAST, go to www.cafirefoundation.org.
Firefighters and community members march in to a memorial ceremony in Santa Ynez to pay respect to one of their fallen brothers, Sean Misner.

Members of the Anaheim Fire Department carry the remains of Grant McKee to his memorial service. McKee grew up in Costa Mesa and was one of the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots killed in the Yarnell Hill fire in Central Arizona.
The third annual San Francisco Giants Firefighter Appreciation Night began with over 2,000 supporters attending a pregame tailgate party at Seals Plaza. The party included drinks and free Firefighter Appreciation Night Hats, and featured a live band. The game opened with the Pipes & Drums of California Professional Firefighters performing a stirring rendition of the National Anthem.

Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation, introduced the Foundation and its mission to the sell-out crowd of 41,497 and then accepted a check for the proceeds from the event. He was joined by CPF Secretary-Treasurer Lew Stone and two representatives of the San Francisco Toy Program: retired Fire Captain Tony Stefani, founder of the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation, and Firefighter Keith Onishi, Vice-President of the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation.

Paulson spoke to the work that the California Fire Foundation is doing: “firefighter families throughout the state benefit from the work of the California Fire Foundation. We are grateful for the partnership with the Giants and we appreciate everyone who came out to show their support.”

The battle on the field lasted 16 innings and ended with a 4-3 victory for the New York Mets over the San Francisco Giants. The Mets scored with two outs in the 16th inning and outlasted the Giants in a game that ended at about 1:00 AM the next day. It was the longest game in time and innings the Giants had played since May 9, 2001.

Despite the loss on the field, California firefighters and their families achieved a major victory that night.

“The Foundation exists to provide emotional and financial assistance to the families of California’s fallen firefighters, firefighters themselves and the communities they protect. And we continue to work with local firefighters throughout the state to identify unmet needs and to implement programs to enhance services in their communities,” said Hedi Jalon, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation.

With Firefighter Appreciation Night tickets having sold out this year, and AAA coming onboard as a sponsor for the first time ever, approximately $17,500 in proceeds were donated to the California Fire Foundation.

Proceeds from the event benefit the California Firefighters Endowment and other Foundation programs. The Endowment proudly offers $2,000 scholarships to the children of California’s fallen heroes. The Foundation aims to raise $2 million over the next five years, thus increasing the scholarship award amount to $10,000 per child.

To donate, please go to the California Fire Foundation’s website at www.cafirefoundation.org.
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva has continued her support of firefighters and firefighter issues by authoring ACR 72, an Assembly Concurrent Resolution proclaiming Saturday, October 5, 2013 as California Firefighters Memorial Day. ACR 72 memorializes the 11th Annual California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony held at the State Capitol in Sacramento and urges all Californians to remember those firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. It also encourages Californians to express their appreciation to the brave firefighters who continue to protect our communities and risk their lives every day.

Sharon Quirk-Silva is a school teacher who was elected to the California State Assembly in 2012 to represent California’s 65th Assembly District, which includes her lifelong home of Fullerton. Prior to her election to the Legislature, she was elected to the Fullerton City Council in November 2004, where she was selected by her peers in 2007 to serve two terms as mayor of Fullerton. As a school teacher for 27 years, she brings a passion for public service with her to the Assembly. She has also received numerous awards for her teaching and public service work.

Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva, serving her first term in the California Legislature, has consistently supported the CPF legislative agenda since arriving to the Legislature. She has voted for CPF-backed bills in committee and otherwise put her support behind CPF-sponsored legislation covering a wide range of issues from Retiree Healthcare to Charter and Initiative Reform to Survivor Death Benefits. Authoring ACR 72 to recognize and honor the sacrifice of California’s fallen heroes is only the latest showing of her great support for the California fire service.

ACR 72 was adopted by the California State Assembly and presented by Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva to California Fire Foundation Executive Director Hedi Jalon on August 30, 2013. The measure was adopted with unanimous approval and 63 Assemblymembers opted to co-author the resolution.

“ACR 72 is a reminder of the dangers firefighters face in their efforts to protect the lives and property of California’s citizens,” said Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva. “Currently, on the grounds of the State Capitol, the names of over 1,200 firefighters are displayed on the limestone wall of the California Firefighters Memorial. The names are engraved on the Memorial in honor and recognition of the brave men and women of the fire service that have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

ATTENTION ACTIVE & RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS!

PROUD OF YOUR PROFESSION?
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Call (800) 890-3213 and order your firefighter license plates today!

Proceeds Benefit the California Fire Foundation.
In the first half of the 20th Century,
joining a union was a dangerous thing for a firefighter. But by the middle of the century, firefighters would be at the forefront of a signature event in the history of labor in California – the right to organize.

Early attempts to organize in San Francisco and Los Angeles were, in essence, shut down by management who feared disruption from the prospect of firefighter strikes. “The union of uniformed members of the Fire Department is, in my opinion, opposed to the public interest, and for that reason should not be sanctioned by the Board,” wrote the acting president of the San Francisco Fire Commission, which shut down its firefighters union in 1919.

When Federated Fire Fighters of California – which later became California Professional Firefighters – was chartered as the IAFF State Council in 1938, there were only seven active firefighter IAFF locals in California: Oakland, San Diego, Richmond, San Jose, Long Beach, Stockton and Sacramento. Over the next two decades, ten more locals chartered with IAFF. Some were tolerated by their employers, but most faced the same management intimidation even though in many cases, the firefighters were returning World War II veterans.

In 1951, the city of South Pasadena escalated the fight over public employee union rights with an ordinance, #1107, which specifically forbade any city employee from being a member of a union that was affiliated with an external organization (such as IAFF).

“(Unions) have a valuable place in private enterprise, but have no place whatever in public employment,” wrote the South Pasadena City Manager. “Fair treatment of public employees does not require the intervention of labor unions ...”

The South Pasadena ordinance was a major moment for the labor movement in California: if allowed to stand unchallenged, it could have eventually shut down every public employee union in the state. California’s firefighter unions and the still relatively young Federated Fire Fighters, answered the call.

Oakland IAFF Local 55 and Los Angeles (Firefighters) easily won adoption of resolutions at the California State Federation of Labor Convention in August 1952, instructing the CFL legislative advocates to push for statutes that would guarantee public employees the right to organize. The Federated Fire Fighters of California also began an extensive organizing drive under the leadership of President A.E. Albertoni, who was also IAFF 10th District Vice-President, and increased the number of local unions to thirty.*

In 1959, with the support of the Labor Fed and nearly three dozen active IAFF locals in California, Assembly Bill 618 was introduced by Culver City Assemblyman Lester McMillan. With the muscle of the newly-unified AFL-CIO and FFFC President Albertoni, the bill won bipartisan support and was signed by Governor Edmund G. “Pat” Brown.

For working Californians, AB 618 was about more than just first responders. It was the first statute in California to recognize explicitly the right of any group of public employees to organize.

This year, California Professional Firefighters marks its 75th year of commitment to making life better for firefighters, their families and their communities. Over the next three issues, the California Professional Firefighter will look back at signature events in the history of the organization and the proud firefighting profession.

1939 - Heart and Pneumonia Act of 1939 establishes firefighter heart and lung presumption.

1938 - IAFF charters Federated Fire Fighters of California (the organization that would later become CPF); Milton J. Terry chosen as founding president.

1955 - American Fed. of Labor merges with Congress of Industrial Organizations to form AFL-CIO.

1959 - Fire Fighters Act establishes first right-to-organize law for any labor group.

1960 - Proposition 1A establishes full-time legislature.

1965 - 2% at 55 for PERS retirement for firefighters.

1966 - Proposition 1A establishes public employee bargaining rights.

1969 - Los Angeles Co. Fire launches state’s 1st fire-based medic unit.

1941-1945 - World War II

1954 - First comparable cities standard for firefighter salaries enacted by initiative in Culver City; IAFF launches partnership with MDA.

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On Sunday June 2nd, another sold-out crowd packed Wente Vineyards Lawn and Sycamore Grove Park for the 5th Annual Hook and Ladder Run.

The event benefits the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 that supports injured and fallen firefighters, law enforcement officers and their families, the Burn Foundation and other local charities in the Tri-Valley.

The event kicked off just after 8 AM with the 5k and 10k runs. A moment of silence was observed for all firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

There were 1,300 participants from all over Northern California. A one-mile Kids Fun Run featured over 200 kids, all of which received a goody bag and fire prevention materials to take home to share with their families.

An awards ceremony concluded the day, with prizes and medals going to the top three finishers in each age category of both the 5k and 10k run.

This was the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation’s largest and most successful event yet, with over $41,000 raised.
CPF and UFLAC Local 112 are pleased to announce that parole has been denied for Mario Catania, the arsonist who set fire to a North Hollywood restaurant and took the life of Los Angeles firefighter Thomas Taylor.

Catania set the fire at Cugee’s Coffee Shop in North Hollywood on January 28, 1981, after being paid $2,500 by the restaurant’s owners. Brother Taylor was one of the firefighters responding to the scene and died falling through the collapsed roof, leaving behind a wife and two sons. Catania was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for murder and fraud.

Nearly 32 years later, Catania was again up for parole and, after a nine-hour parole hearing on June 28, 2013, his parole was denied. Packed in a small room to testify at the hearing were Tom’s father George and his brother Jeff, both retired firefighters, retired LAFD Captain Mike Reagan who also responded to the 1981 incident, and Frank Lima, President of UFLAC Local 112 and CPF District 8 Vice-President.

A resolution was passed at the 2013 CPF Convention that commissioned CPF to issue a call to action asking CPF local affiliates to participate in a comprehensive letter-writing campaign urging the Parole Board to deny early release. In this effort, CPF sent emails to members, posted calls to action on its website and social media outlets and produced a compelling Firevision episode encouraging firefighters to make their voices heard.

The outreach of CPF and UFLAC Local 112 was a tremendous success. Firefighters, friends and family from throughout California wrote letters urging the Parole Board to deny parole, which produced a two inch thick stack of opposition letters, including one from L.A. City Council Member Paul Krekorian, who also sponsored a motion unanimously approved by the Council urging denial of parole. Krekorian’s letter was referenced three times during the hearing.

Catania will be up for parole again in three years.

A devastating blaze at Cugee’s restaurant in North Hollywood set by arsonist Mario Catania cost Tom Taylor his life and left eight others injured.

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY

AT THE AUTO CLUB SPEEDWAY
Benefitting the California Fire Foundation

October 19, 2013
MAVTV 500 IndyCar World Championships
Auto Club Speedway, Fontana

First Responder Appreciation Ticket Package $99
with proceeds going to support the California Fire Foundation and the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, among other charities.

Info and tickets:
www.autoclubspeedway.com/responder
rchambers@autoclubspeedway.com
909-429-5134

WATCH CPF Firevision: Keep Arsonist Behind Bars
FireStar Studios and Firefighters Print & Design, together, comprise CPF Media Services. Their contributions to the fire service were recognized this year by various media awards. FireStar Studios had the distinction of winning the prestigious Telly Award for five of their productions. Firefighters Print & Design was honored with four printing and design awards from the nationally recognized Visual Media Alliance (VMA).

FireStar received bronze awards for the California Fire Foundation’s “California Firefighters Endowment” fundraising video, the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee’s (CFFJAC) “Active Shooter” segment of its “Terrorism Consequence Management” series of training videos, the CFFJAC’s “Mentoring: Recruit, Retain & Promote” recruiting video, the “San Jose Fire Department – All Risk” public relations video and the CFFJAC’s “Apprenticeship Works” informational video.

“FireStar helped us to tell the story of apprenticeship in California and to demonstrate its importance,” said Yvonne de la Peña, Program Director of the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee. “Apprenticeship Works’ has been a powerful communications tool for us and really conveys the strengths and successes of apprenticeship training. We’re fortunate that we have such an important resource in FireStar. Their experience, in and passion for, making the best possible videos to promote labor and the fire service has been a crucial piece of our overall program.”

The Telly Awards honor the very best film and video productions, groundbreaking online video content and outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs.

“At FireStar, we’re committed to producing the best possible materials for firefighters and the fire service and we couldn’t be more pleased to have again been recognized for the quality of our work,” said FireStar Vice-President Kelley Trujillo. “We particularly like being able to present one of our Locals or Departments with a Telly Statuette and thank them for working with us.” FireStar is the proud recipient of 30 Telly Awards since its creation in 1992.

Firefighters Print & Design received two Silver and two Bronze Showcase of Print/Design Excellence awards from the Visual Media Alliance (VMA). The print shop was recognized with Silver honors for the printing of the “Uncommon Courage Commemorative Coffee Table Book” and for the design of the “California Fire Foundation Annual Report.” They also received two Bronze awards for the design of two internal mailers used in the No on Proposition 32 campaign.

The Showcase of Print/Design Excellence Awards celebrate Northern California and Northern Nevada’s best in the Graphic Communications industry.

“My Voice Matters ... For Our Members
Don Cervantes, President
Pasadena Firefighters, Local 809

Our Voice Matters ... For Public Safety
Zach Taylor, Engineer
Sacramento Area Firefighters, Local 522

Tim Bakken, Firefighter
Sacramento Area Firefighters, Local 522

Andrew Whaley, Captain
Sacramento Area Firefighters, Local 522

Firefighters Print & Design was recognized with Silver honors from the Visual Media Alliance (VMA) for the printing of the “Uncommon Courage Commemorative Coffee Table Book.”
Firefighters have been making a difference for children and adults fighting neuromuscular disease for over 58 years. Since the formation of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), MDA-funded research has “written the book” on muscle disease and nerve diseases affecting muscle. What is taught in medical schools about muscles is in large part due to firefighter and public support of MDA. Through the “Fill the Boot” campaign and various other events, California Professional Firefighters are part of MDA's muscle team and are flexing their muscle for those that can’t. 

“MDA would like to thank all California Professional Firefighter local affiliates for raising over $1,396,000 so far this year,” said MDA Regional Director Susan Kenny. Money raised will continue funding worldwide research to find treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy and related diseases.
GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT
ENTER CPF’S 2013 PHOTO CONTEST

First Place
$1,500

Second Place
$1,000

Third Place
$500

Photos must be submitted by November 22, 2013

www.cpfphotocontest.org