

TURN ↑ OUT

IFBA **2016** CONVENTION

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

AUGUST 2016



All Photos by Chuck Leidtke

TURN OUT

The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

*Published Twice Yearly
Spring and Fall*

“To serve as a
common ground
for Fire Buffs, active
in promoting the
general welfare
of Fire Departments,
allied emergency
services, their
officers and
members.”



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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

TURN OUT is available free of charge via internet website at www.ifba.org. You may download and print each edition free; however, you may not sell or otherwise profit from selling printed copies.

SUBMISSION POLICY

TURN OUT has an “open submission” policy. We encourage immediate submission of stories on fires and events “when they happen.” More than one submission per issue is welcomed and encouraged.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit articles electronically to the email address noted below. As an alternative, articles may be submitted on CD or disk, or as a last alternative, in written form.

Electronic files should be prepared using a major word processing program, such as Word or WordPerfect. You may always submit an article in “text” format also.

Pictures should be digitized at 300 dpi resolution to allow for sizing. All photographs must be captioned and acknowledge the photographer. Of course, photos should be sharp and clear. Full color photos are encouraged.

Once submitted, all articles and pictures become the property of **TURN OUT**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IBFA 2016 Convention Highlights

Convention Photos

IBF Associates Necrology Report



IFBA 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Fire Buffs from coast-to-coast and border-to-border gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana August 16 through August 20 for the annual IFBA business meeting and convention. Accommodations, meetings and closing banquet were held at the DoubleTree by Hilton at 300 Canal Street, centrally located for food, entertainment (can you say Casino?) and Mississippi River dockside activities.

The Executive Board meeting on Tuesday evening was called to order by President Karen Hoskins of Box 4, Dallas. Agenda items were handled in the published format. Committee reports included a decision to re-name Newsletter/ Website award to Electronic Media Award. Seven Regional vice-presidents were present to deliver annual reports. Vice-President at Large Wally Banks of Box 4 presented By-Laws and Constitution changes, to be voted at this year's general session. A new position is Chairman of the Board, who will be responsible for the oversight and promotion of the IFBA. The President's work will center on Convention and annual meeting management. Secretary and Treasurer will maintain their current duties. Immediate Past Pres-

ident and Regional Vice Presidents (with one of them designated 1st Vice President) will be officers.

Annual meetings will be held between March 1 and November 30, as a part of the annual convention. All Active and Associate members will be given no less than 6 months advance formal notice of the annual convention and meeting, along with publicity information from the host city.

The IFBA Executive Vice President shall notify all active member groups and associate members of the place, date and time of the annual business meeting at least 60 days prior to its scheduled time.

The elected officers, the immediate Past President, the Executive Vice President and the Director of Publicity shall constitute the IFBA Executive Board. The executive Vice President, Vice President at Large and Director of Publicity, appointed to indefinite terms of office, shall be ex-officio members of the Board without voting privileges. The Second Vice President, named by next year's convention host group, shall be an ex-officio member of the Board without voting privileges.



IFBA Executive Board meets at DoubleTree Hilton, New Orleans, August 16, chaired by president Karen Hoskins.

IFBA 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



There shall be no less than two meetings of the Executive Board annually, in person or by teleconference. Meetings shall take place at a designated time and place to be set by the officers in conjunction with the convention host club. One of these meetings shall be held in the convention city prior to the annual meeting.

The Executive Board shall not approve any financial expenditure in excess of 35% of the current cash assets of the IFBA. A majority of the officers meeting as the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Description of duties of officers that now include Chairman of the Board have been rewritten. Expense allowances were specified, and Executive Vice President limits were stated.

Executive Board committee reports were provided by members present. There will be a Fire Buff of the Year award at the banquet this year. Membership chair will be appointed, following the passing of former chairperson Ira Rubin.

Seven Regional Vice Presidents either presented or delayed their reports to the Business meeting. Future conventions were set for Indianapolis (replacing Baltimore) for 2017; Racine, WI for 2018; Nashville, TN for 2019. There may be an application for 2020 before the end of this convention.

Officers for 2017 were announced as Jerry Traub of Indianapolis, President; Ed McMichael, 2nd Vice President. Final listing will be presented at the annual meeting and swearing-in accomplished at Saturday's banquet.

Two club anniversaries will be honored this year: Box 8, St. Louis, MO, 75 years; Box 61, Portland, ME, 50 years.



Executive Vice President Bill Mokros swears in 2016/17 IFBA president Jerry Traub, as Past President Karen Hoskins prepares to gratefully pass the gavel.

Next Board meeting will be Electronic and chaired by Chairman Schaetzle. Next in-person meeting is expected in Indianapolis prior to 2017 general meeting and convention.

Registration bonus items included for all attending were a 125th anniversary (1891-2016) of New Orleans Fire Department challenge coin and a multi-colored large logo T-shirt.

IFBA 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Thursday morning breakfast at the DoubleTree was followed by opening ceremonies with the New Orleans FD Bagpipe band leading the dignitaries.

Annual business meeting followed those ceremonies. Financial report for 2015/16 was provided. Regional vice-presidents presented about their activities since the Hartford convention in 2015. Significant vote for Constitutional changes concluded the discussion. Later in the day, the Port of New Orleans fireboat was boarded and operations explained. A water display of multiple nozzles provided several rainbow photos for those dockside. Evening dinner on your own followed, with some lucky persons doing quite well at Harrah's Casino right out our hotel entrance. Hospitality room was open and well stocked to close out a busy first day.



Fireboat Gen. Roy S. Kelley with all nozzles working creates rainbow in the Port of New Orleans.

Buffet breakfast Thursday morning was followed by a short bus ride to New Orleans Emergency Medical services HQ on Earhart Boulevard. Chief Carl Flores and Deputy Chief of Logistics and Special Operations Cedric Palmisano welcomed us and presented information about their services. Deputy Chief Ken Bouvier, seen in several of the "NIGHT WATCH" episodes on A & E Network (look for the start of Season 3) gave a very spirited presentation about the many

challenges of doing EMS in their city. Last year saw 62,000 runs, all ALS. 75% of a shift their units are on a call. They also provide rescue technicians, extrication and rope rescue. Many special events in this city demand a lot of services. One creative first responder has a special name for visitors—Marty Graw! The department has done well for cardiac incidents with the use of Thumper—which performs electronic-powered chest compressions.



New Orleans EMS Deputy Chief Ken Bouvier explains the many facets of handling 62,000 runs a year.

The recently constructed HQ opened in January, 2016 after the previous property suffered severe damage from Hurricane Katrina. They have kept a good attitude, even responding to the Superdome, investigating a reported white powder on the football playing field. Incident was terminated and units marked back in when it was determined that the substance was the goal line.

A tasty lunch followed after tours inside and outside the HQ building viewing their rolling stock and specialty units.

IFBA 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Back on the bus, attendees next visited the city's 911 Center. Dispatch protocol and station responses were explained. 31 stations with 33 engines and 6 ladders are in service. Cross streets are important, as street numbers and names are sometimes duplicated with the city boundaries. They do not use location, doing Voice for all contact. Stephen Gordon, Communications District director, has 146 operators and 15 Admin and IT positions.

Last stop on Thursday was the NOFD museum at 1135 Washington Ave. This antique station is crammed full of apparatus and memorabilia. Video exhibits of the Hurricane Katrina challenges made visitors more aware of the destruction and lasting impact that storm had on the city. Thursday evening allowed for dining on your own and visits to the Hospitality room.



David Crockett Fire Company No. 1, 205 Lafayette St., Gretna, LA.

Friday morning, August 19, dawned clear and warm as we boarded the after-breakfast bus for the trip to Jefferson Parish and the David Crockett Volunteer Fire Company in residential Greta. It has the distinction of being the oldest continuously active volunteer company in the U.S.A. Their station is dedicated to Anthony J. "Tony" Labruzzza (1925-2012) whose 55 years of service included 50 years of certified perfect attendance from 1962-2012. Pierce and Ferrara are the apparatus of choice. This is a combination company, one of four stations in this town.

Next stop was at the Louisiana State Fire Museum at 205 Lafayette St. This site of the original Crockett fire house and its 1876 Gould #31/ B. F. Nichols steam fire engine were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The steam engine was built in Burlington, VT in 1876 and sold for one dollar per pound (approximately \$3,000).

Station tours, apparatus photos and a great lunch followed at Terrytown 5th District Volunteer Fire Department on Heritage Ave. Visitors gushed at the well-restored New Orleans Fire Dept. Ahrens Fox. A second New Orleans Fox is a work-in-progress. President Valerie Zeringue was on the scene and in the kitchen with Chief Bruce Mills serving hot, deep-fried catfish, jambalaya, garden salad, bread and butter. Cookies and brownies with beverages finished a yummy lunch. Facebook address is "Terrytown Volunteer Fire Dept."

After a few tight turns and finding a parking spot, Jefferson Parish Communications and EOC were next on the list. Another Hurricane Katrina aftermath, dual power generators are available to maintain services as long as seven days with water, meals, and waste control. Utilities are on the upper floor. EOC includes Ops, Planning, Logistics and Finance. Host Timothy Gautreau Jr. shared his FEMA experiences and told of Inventory Control and tracking to assure government payment.

Building has 88 beds and duplicate communications systems by ANALOG and VOIP. A 50-seat cafeteria can provide meals through a contracted food service, allowing staff to stay in place and perform their duties. Communications room includes work stations for Public Works, HAM radio operators and SPECIAL NEEDS for area residents requiring extra support. If there is a challenge or problem these folks haven't addressed, it hasn't been invented yet.

IFBA 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Conventioneers returned to the hotel for meals, casino visits and Hospitality at the end of a busy and very enjoyable day.

Saturday dawned warm and dry, just right for the NOLA Fire Dept apparatus displays, hosted by Deputy Chief Dave Castle. The open lot on Annunciation Street saw many pieces pass through and photographers had their fill.

We were back on the bus to see what most of us think of with recent New Orleans history and Hurricane Katrina. Dodging a brief rain shower, we were able to visit the lower 9th ward levee break point at N. Roman St. and Jordan Ave. Our bus driver was a resident of the area and drove through his neighborhood, telling of first-hand experiences of the levee break event and how much the area has redeveloped until now. Commercial development and basic services have been slow to return to the area.

A tour of NOFD station 39 followed. This is the newest station since Katrina. Capt. Eric Plaisance is house officer. That day Will Scott, Corey Williams and Pablo Palacios were on duty with Paul St. Julien as officer of the day on First shift, running with one American LaFrance engine. Rear area of the station property provides storage for boats, Fire Prevention trailer, and other fire department vehicles.

A tasty sub and chips and dessert with beverages was served at this station before leaving for adjoining St. Bernard parish.



Well-fed conventioneers enjoy a great lunch at Terrytown Volunteer Fire Department on Heritage Ave.

Back on the road, we arrived at St. Bernard Parish Fire Dept. at Torres Park to be met by an admirable display of apparatus and personnel. Moving inside, we got the whole story from Department chief Thomas Stone. We learned they have 10 stations, 8 engines, 2 ladders, a heavy rescue, 2 squads, a 3500 gallon tanker, and 3 District chiefs. Ambulance service is by private contractors. There are 110 firefighters, and they operate their own dispatch center. A media presentation showed Katrina responses and various responses to fires in the Parish. They use 4" LD hose in place of 5", and Blitz Fire 400 gpm nozzles.

Interesting topics included the impact on (any) department's personnel because of retirements (lots of Viet Nam-era veteran hires are on their way out all over the country); resignations; unfortunately, marital and medical issues; and in our more mobile society, firefighters moving away from their work community. Overall, it was a very intense look at the Fire Service in our 21st century world.

Back on the bus for a final trip to the DoubleTree Hotel, we did a nostalgic drive-by of Fats Dominos' former home.

Members and guests were served a delicious meal following a pleasant social hour. Special thoughts were shared, recognizing the passing of Dr. Harvey Carter from Shreveport and Ira Rubin of Jersey City. Deputy Chief Dave Castle spoke about his 24 years of experience, including the disaster when an incoming vessel to the Port of New Orleans hit the Riverwalk in 1996. We were able to laugh with him when he told the story of seeing "another" yellow helmet officer approaching him, when he was, in fact, in a mirrored room viewing himself. Awards for the evening included an appreciation plaque to the New Orleans Fire Department given to Chief Castle; special thanks to NOFD District Chief Chris Mickal and civilian host Brian Pfister.

IFBA 2016 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Next to be recognized was the Ira Rubin Firefighter of the Year, Assistant Chief of the Cambridge, MA Fire Dept, IFBA Secretary Gerard “Gerry” Mahoney. In another victory for the Nor’easters, Box 52 Association, Boston, MA, was awarded the Newsletter/Website/Electronic Media award. Finally, the Henry N. Willwers Fire Buff of the Year for 2016 was presented to... Assistant Chief Gerard “Gerry”

Mahoney, Cambridge, MA Fire Department. No one asked if he needed more luggage to get his awards back home on the plane.

Plaques were presented for Club anniversaries: Box 8, St. Louis, MO, 75 years; and Box 61, Portland, ME, 50 years.

All officers and Regional Vice Presidents were sworn in for the new term by Executive Vice President Bill Mokros. Door prizes and 50/50 prizes were awarded, dessert was served, and NOLA 2016 was history.

One last thanks to our very gracious NOLA hosts and the work done by Region 5 members from Texas and Louisiana.



Double 2016 award winner Assistant Chief Gerry Mahoney of Cambridge, MA, standing next to empty chair and unlit cigar at place setting for the late Ira Rubin.

See you in Indianapolis August 23/27, 2017!



Members of the New Orleans Firefighters' Pipe and Drum Corps perform at the Opening Ceremony of the New Orleans Convention.

IFBA 2016 CONVENTION PHOTOS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Port of New Orleans fireboat Gen. Roy S. Kelley tied up at the Riverwalk, prior to boarding for tours and demonstrations.



EMS fleet staged at new Headquarters.



Vehicles used by EMS for special events.



Former home of Fats Domino, 1208 Caffin Ave., New Orleans.



Wild and crazy party animals from Region 6 stand still for just a moment before Saturday's closing banquet.



Gould #31 steam fire engine at Louisiana State fire museum in Gretna.



Terrytown VFD—restored Ahrens Fox ex-New Orleans Fire Dept.



Plaque located where waters from Hurricane Katrina overpowered the levee system in New Orleans now-famous Lower Ninth Ward.

IFB ASSOCIATES *NECROLOGY REPORT*

2015 / 2016



- John R. Akre, Member Old Dominion Fire Historical Society
Richmond, VA
- Claude "Pete" Ashen, Member Phoenix Society, San Francisco, CA
- Dr Harvey Carter, Founding member Signal 51 Group, Shreveport, LA
- Edward Collins, Past Chief Greater Springfield VFD
- Delmar E. Davis, Last Surviving Member SHC Association, Baltimore, MD
- Mike Dubus, Member Old Dominion Fire Historical Society
Richmond, VA
- Bernie, Fye, Member 5-11 Club, Chicago, IL
- Fredrick Gaines, Past President Ontario Fire Buff Associates,
Ontario, Canada
- Zach Glassman, Member MESS, IL
- Donald L. Mattkens, Hon. Member Phoenix Society, San Francisco, CA
- Art Hausman, Member 5-11 Club, Chicago, IL
- Carl Reynolds, Member Box 4, Dallas, TX
- Ira Rubin, Member Gong Club, Jersey City, NJ
- Mort Sager, Member BOX 55 Association, Nashville, TN

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

TURN ↑ OUT 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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