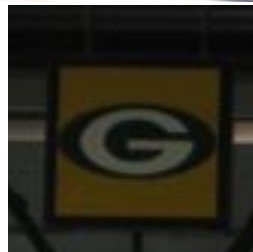


# CONVENTION ISSUE



# TURN OUT



# TURN OUT

## The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

Published Twice Yearly—Spring and Fall

### **The purpose of the IFBA is**

**“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.”**

### **Editorial Staff**

Jerry Traub, *Editor*

Ed McMichael, *Production Editor*

Jack Finney and Rodger Birchfield, *Photo Editors*

Paul McMichael, *Proof Editor*

Jim Williamson, *Circulation Coordinator*

Jack Finney, *Pre-Convention Editor*

### **Subscription Information**

*Turn Out* is available free of charge via internet website at [www.ifba.org](http://www.ifba.org). You may download and print each edition free; however, you may not sell or otherwise profit from selling printed copies.

Those individuals or clubs wishing a printed copy of *Turn Out* in lieu of obtaining through the website should contact Jim Williamson for additional information and pricing.

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### **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 e-mail 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*.

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### **Deadlines**

Publishing date November 1, 2008 - **Submission deadline NOW**

Publishing date April 1, 2009—**Submission deadline March 6, 2009**

# 56th Annual IFBA Convention Report

By Jerry Traub

Photos by Jerry Traub, Chuck Liedtke, and Ed McMichael

The Board meeting agenda followed that was presented at the Spring Meeting, May 17, 2008.

From East and West and North and South, they came. By car and bus and plane and train, they came. From offices and vacations spots, from photo shoots and baseball games. from Italian restaurants and Greek eateries, they came.

And just as promised, Wednesday, August 13, 2008, Racine, Wisconsin was rockin' with the 56<sup>th</sup> annual IFBA convention under way.

As guests sauntered in to register at the Racine Marriott for their rooms and convention packets,



East meets West: (left to right) Carlton Winslow, Portland, ME; Carl Kietzke, Seattle, WA; and Ken Beliveau, East Granby, CT.

Changes of regional vice-presidents, resignation of long-time Director of Publicity Keith Franz and status of various clubs' memberships were most discussed. A ballot for elections at Friday's business meeting was presented and authorized.

Updates from Racine convention personnel were given so attendees could confirm scheduled and optional activities. Nearly 140 registrations were received, mostly whole,

some partial. Vice Presidents' reports included that of Ira Rubin from Region 2, which will be combined into Region 9 at the end of the conference.

All annual conventions through 2012 were confirmed; Washington, D.C. 2009; Nashville, TN 2010; New Jersey 2011; Toronto, Canada 2012. The expected bid for 2013 from Milwaukee, WI was confirmed as received.

Only a tentative date for the Washington, D.C. convention 2009 Spring board meeting, occurring sometime after April 15.

Meeting was adjourned with the next activity due at 6 p.m. Opening Ceremonies and area department chiefs' reception.

Opening ceremonies were orderly and well attended. Following introductions and program, a pleasant eve-



Secretary Len Williams and President John Degenhardt prepare for Executive Board meeting on opening day.

the host Fire Bells were pleasant and welcoming.

President John Degenhardt called the Executive Board meeting to order on Wednesday at 1300.







ning followed with food and beverage enjoyed inside and outside in the motel courtyard.

Thursday dawned with a good, hot breakfast in the conference area. Members then boarded buses



Those Wisconsin winters are really tough on the apparatus.

for a trip through Racine area stations and two static apparatus displays for viewing and photo shoots. Antiques were presented at the Diamond Transportation Company yard. Then all buses were boarded for a trip to Somers, WI FD for a tasty lunch and even more apparatus displays.

Convention goes next were taken to a Kenosha station that included the airport truck that runs from that location. Lastly, buses went to Pleasant

Prairie FD HQ for apparatus and photo ops.

Thursday evening meals were available at the hotel and many Racine area restaurants.



Somers, WI Fire Department Chief Krause welcomed conventioners during lunch. He related plans for the new station.

Following Friday

morning's breakfast, the General Business meeting was called to order at 0900 by president John Degenhardt. Announcements and appointments by Executive VP Bill Mokros followed. The always-interesting Roll Call of officers and mem-



Reg. VP at Large Bill Celentano discusses his report with Executive VP Bill Mokros before the Annual Business meeting.

ber groups was conducted by Secretary Len Williams. Treasurer Paul Schaetzle's usual good work was shown on reports distributed to delegates and alternates.

Regional VP reports were presented in person or in written form by most regions.

Various topics, including Region re-alignment, were presented, with no consensus. TURNOUT

magazine report was offered. No new memberships or club applications were processed.

Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) representative Stuart Nathan advised that we do participate in D.C.'s largest Congressional caucus. He suggested standard description for many club's primary activity by altered to say "volunteer rehab support unit" rather than "canteen".

Milwaukee, WI was presented and accepted as host for the 2013 annual convention site.

IFBA Director of Publicity Keith Franz had asked to step down, and by virtue of an Executive Board appointment, Stuart Nathan of Baltimore, MD and Box 414 has agreed to serve in that position.

Election of officers followed, with the slate from the Nominating Committee accepted without further nominations from the floor.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Delegates and alternates were treated to a lunch sponsored by local fire department unions.

Members found their own activities during the afternoon, including some workshops. Evening meals were followed by future convention pres-



entations at 1900. Second VP Vito Maggiolo (left) spoke about the Washington D.C. 2009. Region 8 VP Ron Huff (right) gave a sketch of Nashville for 2010 and presented souvenir items from America's favorite distillery, which will be a part of their program.

Saturday morning breakfast was well at-



Mark Carton (Moline Second Alarm Assn.) and his daughter wave to the little people from atop the Kansasville FD training tower.



UGYFD Engine 322 has one of everything they'll ever need ... good salesman!



tended as conventioners prepared to board buses for visits to Union Grove and Kansasville fire departments at Kansasville. Photos were many and often. This was followed by an interesting stop at Lynch Diversified Vehicles (LDV). Various apparatus and service vehicles were seen at various stages of manufacture. Hosts from LDV staff were most gracious, with families and friends coming in on the weekend to help. Town of Burlington FD units were on display at LDV.



Firefighter Mark Henningfeld of the Rochester, WI Volunteer Fire Department showed off this unique baby stroller (daughter Kellyn on board) at the Cotton Exchange apparatus display..

Back on the bus and off to lunch at the Cotton Exchange buffet, with static

displays and photo ops from Waterford, Rochester, Tichigan, and Wind Lake. Some folks went on to Raymond to see more apparatus, and some returned to the Marriott to prepare for cocktail hour and closing banquet.

Many local club members and family guests joined the registered convention goers at the Banquet. Bob Deibler of Park Ridge, IL and long-time member of Metro Emergency Support Services, Inc. (MESS) was named Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year.

Phoenix Society of San Francisco was given the Club Newsletter award for

## Siewert to celebrate 60 years as Racine Fire Bell January 2009; Named Honorary Battalion Chief

“It seems like yesterday when I joined,” says Willard “Bill” Siewert, a life-long resident of Racine, Wisc. “I wouldn’t have missed it for the world.”

Siewert started his “career” as a Fire Bell on January 14, 1949, while he was a student at Northwestern University. He graduated in 1950 with a degree in retailing and production.

His first job was working at a local Racine bank. He left Racine for a short stint in the US Navy. One of his duty stations was on the west coast, near Hollywood. He related he helped to fight several brush fires in the area and one at the Paramount Studios

with the Hollywood Fire Department.

“They [the Hollywood FD] were very nice. I’d go to one of the stations on weekends or when I got liberty, and they always welcomed me.”



Siewert doesn’t know how many responses he had made as a Fire Bell, but he does have a good story or two. When you see him next time, ask him about the Goldblatt’s fire ... and the mannequins.

For his extraordinary contributions, Fire Chief Steve Hanson named Siewert as an Honorary Battalion Chief at the Awards Banquet.

2008. Phil Reid accepted on behalf of his club.

Racine Fire Department chief Steve Hansen presented Fire Bell club president Scott Tanger-



strom an honorary captain's citation. 60-year member Bill Siewert was named an honorary Battalion chief in recognition of his continuous service to the club from its beginning.

The evening ended with fellowship and good-bys in the hospitality room. See you in Washington, D.C., August 11-15, 2009.



Club Newsletter Award Co-Chairman Rick Cutts presents the 2008 Award to Phil Reid of the Phoenix Society of San Francisco.

South meets North: Region 11 VP Noel Kerkhoff, Florida; jokes with Gordie Kirkpatrick, Oshawa, Ontario.



Newly appointed IFBA Director of Publicity Stuart Nathan was looking dapper at the Closing Banquet.



(Above) IFBA Executive VP Bill Mokros administers the oath of office to incoming president Mark Platek (Box 414). (Below) Retiring Director of Publicity Keith Franz and wife Mary enjoyed the Closing Banquet.







Members of the Kenosha Area Pipes and Drums Association perform at opening of the 2008 convention banquet.



Bob Deibler was honored as the 2008 Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year. He was awarded an engraved pewter speaking trumpet.



Out-going President John Degenhardt expresses his thanks for the members support during his tenure.

(Right) Past recipients of the Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of Year award that were presnet at the 2008 IFBA convention were (left to right): Stuart Nathan , Bill Celentano, Paul Schaetzle, Steve Hansen, Jerry Traub, Bob Deibler, Bill Mokros, Ralph Decker, Len Williams, and Phil Reid. Seated is Keith Franz.







Kenosha, WI Fire Department vehicles display the now required reflective tape pattern, protecting their personnel while parked at accident scenes. They are often called to interstate incidents.



Kenosha FD operates this 1984 Oshkosh P-19 from Station 7, serving the Kenosha Airport.



Convention attendees visited the former Peter Pirsch & Co., Kenosha, WI site where the Pirsch fire apparatus was manufactured. The company operated from 1900 to 1992. Shown above are two locally owned Pirsch apparatus.

# Meet our new President *Mark Platek*

Mark was born in Baltimore, MD in 1962. He finished Calvert Hall High School in 1980. He has been interested in the Fire Service since the 5th grade, because of EMERGENCY! and a short-lived series called "Firehouse." In 1981, he became an EMT with the Baltimore Volunteer Rescue Squad. This unit's primary function was the transportation of premature infants (neonatal). In 1982, he became a volunteer firefighter with the Arbutus Fire Department in Baltimore County, MD. At the time, he was a bank teller during the day.

He became a dispatcher with the Baltimore City Fire Department in 1990 and continuing until the present. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant in 2000. He has been a member with the Box 414 Association for approximately 10 years.



In 2001, he married Karen, the daughter of a retired fire chief from Hagerstown, MD. They have been to every IFBA convention since that time.

Congratulations and best wishes to our new IFBA president!



Pleasant Prairie, WI Fire Department has this 2005 Pierce Quantum capable of carrying 2000 gallon of water. "It's big!"



# International Fire Buff Associates

## 2007 / 2008

### Necrology Report

- MARK S. ADAMS, MEMBER PHOENIX SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO
- WILLIAM J. BLAIR, MEMBER BOX 414, BALTIMORE
- BOB BOMAR, MEMBER BOX 55 ASSOCIATION, NASHVILLE
- ARTHUR V. BURNS II, LIFE MEMBER, DIRECTOR BOSTON SPARKS ASSOCIATION
- PRENTICE "CUSH" CUSHING JR., MEMBER FIRE BELL CLUB OF NEW YORK
- JOHN FISKEN, CHARTER MEMBER & PAST PRESIDENT SEATTLE FIRE BUFF SOCIETY
- WESLEY GERALD, MEMBER FRIENDSHIP FIRE ASSOCIATION, DC
- JAMES A. HAYNIC, MEMBER BOX 414, BALTIMORE
- ROBERT A.(BOB) HILTON, MEMBER GREATER TORONTO MULTIPLE ALARM ASSN  
THE ONTARIO FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES
- MIKE HOCHFELDER, MEMBER 5-11 CLUB, CHICAGO.
- WILLIAM G. IRVIN, RETIRED SECRETARY FRIENDSHIP FIRE ASSOCIATION, DC
- STAN JAKALSKI, MEMBER 5-11 CLUB, CHICAGO
- BOB KOETZ, MEMBER EXTRA ALARM ASSOCIATION OF THE TWIN CITIES
- ALLEN KREINIK, MEMBER BOX 414, BALTIMORE
- ROBERT L. KREUZBERGER PHOENIX SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO
- JUSTIN MATTS, HONORARY MEMBER BOX 54 TEANECK, NJ
- RICHARD G. MARQUIS, MEMBER BOX 52 ASSOCIATION, INC  
ESSEX COUNTY FIRE WARDENS  
SPAAMFA
- JEFF MILLER. MEMBER BOX 15 CLUB, LOS ANGELES
- BOB MORRISSEY, MEMBER MIDDLESEX COUNTY FIRE WARDENS  
BOSTON SPARKS ASSOCIATION  
BOX 52 ASSOCIATION
- CLIFFORD QUICK, MEMBER MOLINE SECOND ALARMERS
- AL SASSUS, MEMBER PHOENIX SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO
- NORMAN F. STONE, SECRETARY ESSEX COUNTY FIRE WARDENS
- FREDRICK THIEL, MEMBER MILWAUKEE FIRE BELL CLUB
- MORRIS TORF, IFBA PAST PRESIDENT, LIFE MEMBER BOX 52, BOSTON
- DR. COLEMAN REED TUCKSON, PAST PRESIDENT FRIENDSHIP FIRE ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON DC
- FRANK L. WONG, MEMBER PHOENIX SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO

