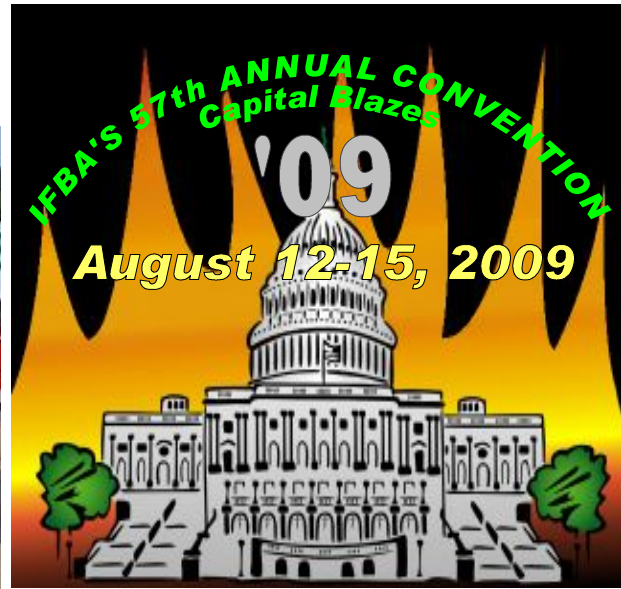


# CONVENTION ISSUE



# TURN OUT

# WASHINGTON DC

# 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.”**

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### **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, 2009 - **Submission deadline NOW**  
Publishing date May 20, 2010—**Submission deadline May 1, 2010**



# 57th Annual IFBA Convention Report

By Vito Maggiolo

Photos by Mark Burke, Chuck Liedtke, Chris Oliphant, Vito Maggiolo, and Ed McMichael

In what has been described as a highly successful event by many of its participants, the Friendship Fire Association hosted approximately 150 guests attending the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the International Fire Buffs Associates here in Washington.



Joyce Boblitz and Debbie Hooder work at the registration table. ID lanyards included the members photo

Attendees from buff organizations around the country and Canada gathered at the Capitol Hill Liaison Hotel, next to Engine 3 and FFA head-

quarters, August 12<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> for four fun filled days of business and fire buffing activities.



Chris Oliphant prepares the photo ID badge for convention attendee Brady Grim.

The opening ceremony on Wednesday included stirring music from the DC Fire Department Emerald Society Pipe and Drum band. DC Fire and EMS Deputy Chief Kenneth Crosswhite welcomed the group on behalf of the department, and the in-

vocation was administered by the Department Chaplain, Father Peter Weiss.



(Above) Members of the DC Fire Department Color Guard present the colors for the Pledge and United States and Canadian national anthems. (Below) The DC Fire Department Emerald Society Pipe and Drum band perform at the 57th Annual IFBA Opening Convention Ceremony.



DC Fire and EMS Deputy Chief Kenneth Crosswhite

Later that afternoon, the conventioners were bused to the waterfront, where they boarded the yacht Celebrity for a trip down the Potomac River. Not only were they escorted by DC fireboats 1



Father Peter Weiss, chaplain.

and 2, with a water display, but Alexandria Va. Fireboat 201 and Prince Georges



(Above and cover) Conventioneers were treated to a four fireboat salute during their Potomac River cruise.

building for a guided tour. After lunch, the group headed off to Alexandria Va. where they toured the Friendship Fire museum in Oldtown, as well as the city's oldest active fire station, 201, and the new station 209 under construction, which features apartments built above and designed to provide affordable housing for public safety personnel.

From Alexandria, the next stop was the quarters of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in Montgomery County, Md. The assembly was provided with a catered dinner, and then addressed by Ron Siarnicki of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. A tour of the squad and its varied apparatus, along with additional units from the Bethesda and



Charlie Womack Conroe FD, Houston, TX, Vito Maggiolo and others at the Phillips Restaurant ... waiting to be crabs?

County Md. Fireboat 858 also put on a show when the Celebrity reached the Wilson Bridge. Upon return to shore, everybody enjoyed a buffet dinner at Phillips Restaurant along the Washington Channel.

Day two featured an all day event at the DC Fire and EMS Training Academy. The group saw demonstrations that included a foam unit attack on a vehicle fire, a mock box alarm at the burn building, and a high angle rescue simulation on the drill tower by Rescue Squad 2. They were also able to view and photograph a wide array of DC apparatus. After a delicious lunch provided by the DC Fire Department BBQ team, additional apparatus was brought in from Prince Georges County and other southern Maryland departments for the attendees to admire and photograph. There was also antique apparatus on display.

Friday began with a morning trip to the Capital



Convention attendees listen intently as they are given some of the history of the US Capital building. Later, upon leaving, many members had a long-distance observation of DC police and fire response to a suspicious package.

Chevy Chase Fire Departments, followed. Saturday saw a series of seminars, including fire photography by District Chief Chris Mickal of New Orleans, Rehab protocols by DC Fire and EMS Medical Director Dr. James Augustine, Website development by DC firefighter Chris Hebert, Museum management by FFA curator Mark Tennyson, and canteen construction by Jim Krammes and Frank Brewer.



# A Day at the Academy



The first sight of dark smoke caught the interest of convention attendees. Upon further investigation, a class of actual recruits were being directed at the art of extinguishing a car fire.



DC fire recruits wait for their turn to advance a hose line to extinguish a fully involved car fire. Several car drivers on the road bordering the training facility stopped to watch the training. The academy gets wrecked cars as needed for training. By the time they are returned to the scrap yard, all contaminants—oil, gas, and paint—are gone.



(Left and right) DC firefighters demonstrate the positioning of apparatus and personnel during a mock box alarm. Hose lines were stretched, the building was laddered, and firefighters conducted searches and fire containment as they would on a working incident. (Below right) A DC pumper is hooked up and ready to supply water as part of the box alarm demonstration.



(Left) Vickie Mokros tries her hand at driving an engine. Fortunately, it was a simulator, and this reporter has been sworn to secrecy regarding her performance.



Following the seminars, the convention saw presentations by representatives of clubs hosting future conventions in 2010, 2011 and 2012, which will be in Nashville, Northern New Jersey and Toronto, respectively.

The convention culminated Saturday evening with the annual banquet, where new officers for the year were sworn in



Ramon, our bartender at the convention banquet, was fully stocked and ready to mix "magic." His specialty: "martini's."

and the "Fire Buff of the Year" was named. FFA was extremely pleased that our very own Hal Bruno, who had been nominated by the Association, was the winner of the award. Despite recent ill health, Hal was able to attend and personally receive the honor, which included the presentation of a pewter chief's speaking trumpet. DC Fire and EMS Chief Dennis

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## Meet your new President: Ron Huff

How many of you can say that you live in the same city as you were born, and that you know what the Old L&N, Family Line, Seaboard System, and CSX all mean?



Your 2009 IFBA president, Ron Huff, can make that claim. He *worked* for and was paid by all of those names. Ron retired from CSX Railroad after 35 years of railroading. He started with L&N, and through buyouts and mergers, ended up at CSX.

Along the way, he served for ten years as the local president of the Railway Workers Union (Freight Car Inspection division).

He and wife Karen have been married 27 years. Their daughter Amy lives in Murfreesboro, TN. Not wanting to just sit after retiring, he keeps busy at least two days a week working at an auto auction in nearby Lebanon, TN. After school, Ron served for three years in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Viet Nam and finished up in Germany.

He became a fire buff about "20+" years ago, serving as president of the Box 55 Association four

times. Most recently, he was IFBA Region 8 vice-president. He was very involved in funding and designing their larger canteen. Nashville runs two rehab units. They are dispatched automatically on second alarm or larger incidents. In addition, the Box 55 Association responds to natural disasters and special requests.

The Club meets once a month on the third Thursday, rotating among area fire stations. "Visitors are always welcome," Huff stated.

He and the Nashville buffs are looking forward to hosting the 2010 convention, September 22-25. Besides visits to the Jack Daniels distillery, optional Grand Ole' Opry performances, a lunch cruise on the General Jackson Showboat ("a must see" —*ed.*), Ron promises fire buffing activities, station visits, and "good food and fellowship." The selected convention hotel, Radisson at Opryland, 2401 Music Valley Drive, was the convention gathering point in 1996. See information about it at [www.radisson.com/nashvilletn](http://www.radisson.com/nashvilletn).

He also promises classes in talking "Southern" for those that need to sharpen their skills. Thanks to Ron for his past service, as we look forward to a pleasant 2010 marked by southern hospitality.





Hal Bruno accepts the Fire Buff of the Year award, the pewter firefighter's speaking trumpet, from Phil Reid (left) and DC Fire Chief Dennis Rubin (right). IFBA members in attendance saluted Bruno's choice with a standing ovation. Bruno, a long-time fire buff and volunteer firefighter is an expert on fire safety and fire journalism.

Rubin, the guest speaker of the evening, joined in the presentation to Hal.



Ron Huff (right, standing) is sworn in as the 2009/10 IFBA President. Adminstrating the oath of office is IFBA Executive Vice-President William Mokros, as outgoing 2008/09 IFBA President Mark Platek (far left) looks on. Seated, left to right, are Walter Gold and DC Fire Chief Dennis Rubin.

Mark Tennyson and Vice President and DC fire historian Jim Embrey, also opened its doors to the convention. In addition, buffing trips around the city were arranged, with our guests driven around by various FFA members and in courtesy cars provided by Frank Brewer of Criswell Chevrolet.



Regional Vice-Presidents are sworn in by Executive Vice-President William Mokros. Left to right: Wally Banks, Jim Williamson, Kurt Jakobson, Gary Wignall, Noel Kerkhoff.

All in all, it was a whirlwind four days enjoyed by both hosts and participants. Walter Gold and Vito Maggiolo served as co-chairs for the event, and other key players included Chris Oliphant, Mike DeWalt, Debra Hoover, Mark Tennyson, Jim Embrey, Tammy Bianchi, Elliot Goodman, Curt Elie, and Jim Sullivan. Association members Joyce Bobitz, Joe Sullivan, John Gaskins and Todd Bianchi also lent a considerable helping hand.

In addition to all these varied events, FFA members hosted a hospitality room at the hotel, where the assembled buffs could enjoy snacks and soft drinks, swap stories, and watch fire videos. The FFA museum, staffed by Curator

## CONGRATS TO HAL BRUNO-IFBA FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR!

Hal Bruno, life long Firefighter, Journalist and Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, was honored last week by the IFBA (International Fire Buff Association) [www.ifba.org](http://www.ifba.org) as their 2009 Fire Buff of the Year at their convention in Washington, D.C.

As a tirelessly dedicated Firefighter, Journalist and SUPER Buff, Hal was always the "firefighters friend" in reporting as well as working the political scenes nationally.

As the deeply connected Political Director of ABC News, Hal was responsible for campaign and election coverage on the ABC television and radio networks for 19 years and as much as he loved his news career, his greatest love was ALWAYS The Fire Service. While well known in literally all fire service circles, Hal was especially known for his FIRE POLITICS column in FIREHOUSE Magazine as well as his research and writing about the OUR LADY OF ANGELS FIRE, Chicago, Dec 1, 1958, when a total of 92 kids and 3 nuns were killed in one of the worlds most "historic" fires. Hal was in Chicago and at that scene.

[Reprint from "The Secret List" a fire service e-mail newsletter managed by Chief Billy Goldfeder]



Recruits at the DC Fire Academy advance with a hose line to extinguish a fully involved vehicle. Conventioneers were able to observe the recruits during several phases of their training: practical exercises like the one pictured, as well as physical conditioning exercises and "lunch at the firehouse."



Convention Co-Chair Vito Maggiolo enjoys the moment while helping to supervise events at the training academy.





Various pieces of apparatus were brought to the Training Academy on Thursday for viewing and photographing. DC Firefighters were pleased to answer any questions ... and to position their rig j-u-s-t right for no sun shadows!



The editors are speechless! Our friend Gordy ... how does he do it, year after year??



Springfield Virginia Canteen 422 serves at the D.C. training academy. It was a warm day, and convention attendees, as well as recruits and firefighters, enjoyed a cool drink.



(Left) Alexandria, VA Fire Station 201, with Engine 201, was visited on Friday. Station 201 is Alexandria's oldest active station. (Right) Artist's rendering of under-construction Alexandria Station 209. Notice the apartments being built above the station, taking away any excuse for being late to work!



(Front three left to right) Larry Quick, Ron Huff, and Susie Quick visit the Convention Buffet line.



(Top) DC Fire/EMS Chief Dennis Rubin poses proudly with a group of IFBA conventioners. (Bottom left to right) Unusual pieces of apparatus on display for attendees included the Bomb Squad and Fire Investigations unit.



## EDITOR'S THOUGHTS:

I was not able to attend the 2009 Washington convention since my doctor said I couldn't. Convention dates were right in the middle of my 43 weekdays-in-a-row of radiation treatment for confirmed prostate cancer. An annual PSA test had shown increased numbers that led to a biopsy that led to a decision about treatment. I chose radiation.

As of my first follow-up, my PSA is reduced markedly and the radiology people say I have turned it around. Subsequent quarterly testing for the next year will hopefully show a continuing lower PSA .

As our group of mostly men advances in both age and a greater chance of prostate cancer, I urge each of you and the women who care for them to take the test. Go ahead, ladies, be pushy until he goes for a blood draw that can prove to both of you that there is not a problem.

My doctor told me he has treated men as young as 39, and he has seen PSA scores of 800 (4.0 is a warning level). The system worked for me. I expect to see you at Nashville, New Jersey and each year thereafter. Don't ignore a very simple test that can keep you alive, too.

—Jerry Traub, *editor*



# International Fire Buff Associates

## 2008 / 2009

### Necrology Report



▪ ALLYN BRENNER, SR.	MEMBER	FIRE ASSOCIATES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY
▪ JIM CAMPBELL	PAST PRESIDENT	BOX 43 ASSOCIATION, HAMILTON, ONTARIO
▪ WILLIAM A. "BILLY" DONOVAN	MEMBER	BOSTON SPARKS ASSOCIATION
▪ ROLAND L. ERWIN	MEMBER	BOX 41 ASSOCIATES, LYNN, MA
▪ JEAN-CLAUDE FRÉDÉRICK	FOUNDING MEMBER	CLUB APPEL 99, QUEBEC CITY, CANADA
▪ KENDALL T. GRENIER	PAST PRESIDENT MEMBER MEMBER	ESSEX COUNTY FIRE WARDENS, BOX 52 ASSOCIATION BOSTON SPARKS
▪ JIM HARMON	LIFE MEMBER	BOX 61 CLUB PORTLAND FIRE BUFFS
▪ STAN KELSO	SECRETARY	FIRE ASSOCIATES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY
▪ LEWIS "DUANE" KESTERSON	MEMBER	BOX 15 CLUB ASSOCIATION, COLUMBUS, OH
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