



FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 311 QUARTERLY

President's Update



A recent study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found that 68% of firefighters will contract cancer. This contrasts with the 22% of the general population that will get cancer in their lifetime. This number might be shocking to some, but it is likely no surprise to many of us. We all know men and women who we work with or have worked with in the past who got cancer, some who beat it, and some who succumbed to the disease. The new reality for firefighters is that we are more likely to die from the cancerous effects of what is burning than from the fire itself. We need to face this challenge head-on with new strategies, ideas, and fresh innovation. The IAFF, PFFW, and Local 311 are working hard to spearhead efforts for our members.

As part of this effort, Vice President Sherry, Sec/Treasurer Higgins, and I went to Washington, D.C. in March for the IAFF Legislative Conference. The conference is an opportunity for union leaders from across the United States to gather and hear from our elected officials. We also had the opportunity to go to Capitol Hill to speak with our elected officials and lobby on matters that specifically affect firefighters. This year, as last year, the focus of our lobbying efforts was to secure funding for the Firefighter Cancer Registry. The Registry would compile cancer data from across the country, allowing scientists to better understand the causes of firefighter cancer and recommend prevention strategies. The bill was introduced on February 7th with 76 bipartisan sponsors, and we think we have a good shot at it passing both houses.



Here in Madison, our Safety Committee is working diligently to help our members protect themselves. They have identified areas that need improvement and have made recommendations to our administration. These include every member being issued a second hood and second set of gloves so that we can swap out our hood and gloves after a fire. To this point, we have been promised a new hood for everyone, which is good news. We are also looking into wipes to clean exposed areas around our masks and gloves.

First and foremost, we need to police ourselves and look out for each other. Gone are the days when it is cool to have dirty gear, soot covered faces, and a firehouse that smells like a "job" the morning after. These are the things that are killing us! Wear your mask for overhaul, car fires, and dumpster fires, and take a shower when you get back to the station. Take steps to lower your risk for cancer and remind your crews to do the same.

Battle of the Badges



Madison Fire Hockey Club faced off against Madison City Police in the annual Battle of the Badges. MFD Hockey took home the trophy with a 7-2 victory. The turnout was incredible this year with around 2000 fans in attendance. This year's event raised \$5,000 that goes to benefit Safe Communities of Madison-Dane County. Safe Communities of Madison-Dane County is a local non-profit coalition that brings together public and private sector partners to save lives, prevent injuries, and make our community a safer place. The donation will go toward the 'ED to Treatment' program for opioid addiction. Thus far, the program has been 80% effective.

Executive Board

In March we swore in several new members of our Executive Board. They will serve a one year term until March 2018. Our new members are Shawn Behnke (Station 2), Reggie Williams (Station 9), Ethan Dade (Station 10), Chad Powell (Station 12), Kevin Hembrook (Station 13), Kara Nelson (40 Hour), Jon Yaskal (Deforest), and Bryan Adler (Middleton EMS). Thanks to these members for stepping up to serve!

President Mitchell officially began his second three year term as President in March.

Charities



We hosted a lunch for 90 attendees and staff from the Young Adult Burn Survivor Conference (YABC) at Station 1. YABC is a national conference for burn survivors put on by the Wise Foundation that focuses on steering young adult burn survivors towards a source of assistance, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society after enduring a burn injury. This year's conference was hosted by the PFFW Charitable Foundation. The lunch provided by 311 at Station 1 included station tours and gear demos.

Thanks to Sam Yackel and the crew from 1B for organizing and helping out at the event.



Upcoming Events

- Retirement Party - April 18th
- Fire On Ice - April 21-23
- Police and Fire Ball - November 4

