

the Council Connection

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Published monthly by the WSCFF & provided to WSCFF Member Locals

Operation Warm—Heroes on the Front Lines

Firefighters are the engine behind the move to American coat manufacturing, contributing to more jobs for Americans, and impacting the lives of children throughout their communities.



IAFF Local 1805
Firefighters, courtesy The
Columbian Newspaper
November 10,
2016"Operation Warm".



A BRIEF HISTORY

In 2012, at the IAFF General Convention in Philadelphia, a resolution was unanimously passed to partner with Operation Warm. The resolution created a new program, Firefighters Coats for Kids. It outlined a USA-made coat program, branded and designed specifically for IAFF affiliates, with the goal of bringing jobs back to North America. IAFF affiliates who've adopted the program have received tremendous publicity and positive reinforcement from their communities and local dignitaries.

WHY A NEW COAT? A new winter coat can be **#morethanacoat**. It can inspire happiness and warmth within a child, while also increasing peer acceptance both inside and outside of school.

SELF ESTEEM: Giving a child something brand new creates a sense of pride in ownership that fosters self-confidence in children who may feel insecure.

EDUCATION: The #1 way to break the cycle of poverty is through education. New coats help children get to school more often on cold and rainy days.

WELLNESS: It's hard to play outside, make snow angels, or just be a kid without a warm coat. All children should have a chance to stay active year-round.

Year after year, more households across Washington State will associate the IAFF with the exceptional support they provide to those less fortunate. A partnership of this magnitude could one day help to eliminate the issue of warmth amongst children living in poverty, forever branding firefighters as the catalyst.

THANK YOU TO OUR WASHINGTON FIREFIGHTERS!

We encourage you to get involved and help children feel warm and valued this winter. Contact:
Laura Wisneski Laura@operationwarm.org 610-388-2500 x117. If you want to talk to a fellow WSCFF member to find out how the program has positively impacted their local, contact:
Dean Shelton (L3219) 10thdist@wscff.org, or Hunter Chumbley (3520) hunter.chumbleyji@gmail.com.

December 2016

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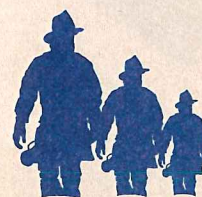
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ANOTHER REASON TO BE THANKFUL FOR OUR WASHINGTON FIREFIGHTERS

The National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA), is widely known as a codes and standards organization – that's the backbone of what they do, and its mission is to provide the fire and EMS community with the information and knowledge needed to do the job well in today's ever-changing environment. This article is written by Casey Grant, Executive Director of the Fire Protection's Research Foundation.

-OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT unveiled last year proclaims NFPA “the leading global advocate for the elimination of death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.” While some of this was already familiar, a noteworthy addition is the inclusion of the word “economic.”



Just as fire has a cost, safety is not free. Every community and public safety agency must ask itself how many resources it is willing to commit to the pursuit of safety. Just as important is understanding the cost of not deploying those resources. Today's firefighters do a lot, and we need to say it more. The safety community needs to demonstrate its value more often than it does, and we need the tools to do so.

Everyone knows it costs money for a fire department to respond to a fire. But what would the economic cost be if there were fewer firefighters deployed to the fire? What if no firefighters arrived? We can now provide hard numbers for comparing outcomes under different scenarios by using proven methods such as quantitative risk assessment, life cycle assessment, sensitivity analysis, and cost-benefit analysis.

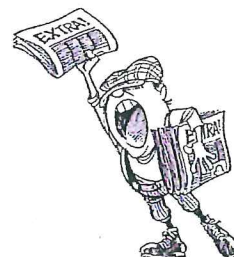
Historians and media often focus on the many fires throughout history with disastrous economic consequences, such as the 1953 motor vehicle transmission plant fire that shut down the U.S auto industry or the 1967 Apollo 1 launchpad fire that redefined the space race. But it's also critically important not to lose focus on the smaller fire events that make up the bulk of our annual fire loss. **It's even more important to not lose focus on the saves, where firefighter intervention ensured that losses did not occur.** Where is the hard credit for all this good work? Every small fire extinguished is one less potential major catastrophe.

Placing a dollar amount on the social and human cost of fire is a challenge; but when budget cuts loom on the horizon, justifying the role of those who save lives and property is paramount. The harm to the community needs to be quantified, and the story told. Providing these measurements is imperative. Without them, the justification of the intrinsic value we bring to the community will remain elusive.

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Changes to your roster? New officers?
Or...just to help make sure our new hire,
Laura, knows who you are!
Call her at (360) 943-3030 or email
Laura@wscff.org. She is currently striving to
improve our member database while
updating our officer and member information.



CURRENT CONTRACTS



Per Resolution 0-3-22, the following is a list of WSCFF affiliate locals that do not have current contracts on file. If your local is on this list and you have a current contract, please send us your updated information. **You may do this via email to Laura@wscff.org or regular mail to :**

1069 Adams Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

This list will be updated in every Council Connection per the resolution. Please let us know if your records differ from ours.

Note: Please remember to send in your new contract if your last one we have on file has expired.

Local	Local Name	Exp	Local	Local Name	Exp
0027	Seattle	2014	2694	Snohomish Co. 4	2014
0046	Everett	2014	2776	Raymond	2013
0404	Walla Walla	2015	2781	Snohomish Co. Union FF's	2015
0437	Bremerton	2015	2876	South Kitsap Dist. 7	2011
0469	Yakima	2013	2898	Seattle Fire Chiefs Association	2014
0656	Port Angeles	2010	3427	Skagit Co. Paramedics	2006
0726	Pierce County Prof. FF	2012	3931	Enumclaw	2014
0864	Renton	2015	4075	Grays Harbor Fire Fighters	2012
1352	Valley Regional Fire	2015	4111	Burlington	2015
1604	Bellevue	2015	4118	North County Professional FF's	2015
1758	Ellensburg	2014	4197	Douglas County #2	2012
1828	Snohomish Co. 1	2009	4299	Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue	2012
1892	Pullman	2015	4440	McNeil Island	2009
1919	Cheney	2015	4447	Cowlitz Co. 5	2001
2109	Ocean Shores	2014	4459	Orting	2015
2299	Clarkston	2014	F-282	Puget Sound Federal FF's	2015
2328	Toppenish	2013	F-283	Fort Lewis Fire Fighters	
2545	Kirkland	2010	F-304	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	
2595	King Co. Medics	2014			
2639	Aberdeen	2015			



If you don't have your professional fire fighter license plate, now is the time to get one. Each purchase or renewal of a set of special plates generates a tax-deductible \$28 donation to the WSCFF Benevolent Fund. For more information, refer to the WSCFF website: www.wscff.org.



Safe Call Now is a resource for public safety employees to speak confidentially with officers, former law enforcement officers, public safety professionals and/or mental healthcare providers who are familiar with your line of work.

MAKE A SAFE CALL NOW: 206-459-3020

Safe Call Now provides public safety employees, all emergency services personnel and their family members nationwide with a simple and confidential way to ask for help and is staffed by officers, former law enforcement officers and public safety professionals. These trained peer advocates will provide assistance and referrals for any public safety personnel and their families who are experiencing an emotional crisis or desire a need for someone to listen. Safe Call Now is also a registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and is not funded at the state or federal levels.



**Washington State
Council of Fire Fighters**

Send letters & submissions to:
Washington State Council of Fire Fighters
1069 Adams Street Southeast
Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: 800-572-5762, 360-943-3030
Fax: 360-943-2333
Website: www.wscff.org
E-mail: wscff@wscff.org
Affiliated with AFL-CIO, IAFF, WSLC



UNION MADE



**WSCFF STAFF
OPEIU23/AFL-CIO**



What is Northwest Fire Fighter Trust (NWFFT)?

The WSCFF launched the NWFFT in 2013, bringing fire fighters and their families comprehensive, affordable and sustainable health plans. NWFFT creates a "like risk" pool of fire fighters throughout the Northwest that provides access to both active and retiree health insurance. NWFFT is currently available to any IAFF participating Local in the 7th District and surrounding areas. Currently, there are 26 locals participating.

For more information, visit www.dimarinc.com/fire-fighters

For Medicare eligible retirees and their spouses there are Medicare Advantage options as well as traditional Medicare Supplement plans.

New higher education benefits for IAFF and immediate family members.

IAFF member benefits include:

- \$210 per credit for all Kaplan University undergraduate programs.
- \$249 per credit for IAFF immediate family members on all Kaplan University Undergraduate programs.
- Application and technology fees waived for IAFF members and immediate family.
- 15% tuition grant on Kaplan University Master degree programs.
- Free prior college transfer credit evaluation in determination of courses remaining for degree completion.
- Articulation (mapping) of courses using IFSAC / ProBoard certifications..
- Courses to develop portfolios of life experience that can count as university-level credit.
- Kaplan University holds a Regional Accreditation and is FEHSE recognized and accepted.



(The specific credit the student may receive would depend on the courses they have completed and what is currently listed in the ACE Guide.

Kaplan University built a dedicated landing page for IAFF Members at www.iaff.kaplan.edu as well as a dedicated phone number for partners 1-866-583-6765.



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 6 | WSCFF Holiday Party—Mercato Ristorante, Olympia |
| 6,7 | Executive Board Meeting |
| 9 | WSCFF Scholarship Application Opens |
| 23-Jan 2 | Council Office Closed for Holidays |



Coming in 2017

WSCFF Legislative Conference – Hotel RL Olympia

Board Meeting: January 29 & 31

Conference: January 30-31

IAFF 7th District Fire Ops 101 – HAMMER, Richland WA

Reception: March 23

Fire Ops: March 24

IAFF/WSCFF Educational Seminar– The Davenport Hotel, Spokane

Board Meeting: April 24 & 28

Seminar: April 25-27

WSCFF Annual Convention – Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

Board Meeting: June 18, 19 & 23