

San Antonio Fire & Police Pensioners
311 Roosevelt St. San Antonio, Texas 78210
Pensioners Newsletter- 8 February 2011
By Vick Abate

WELLNESS REPORTS

FIRE—by S.B. ‘Breezy’ Briseno

(Anyone having information about deaths or illness involving fire department personnel, retirees or relatives, is invited to call Breezy Briseno @ (210) 654-3580) with information.

ILL OR INJURED: Merlin Garcia, recuperating at home from stomach surgery; Robert “Bob” Scott, at home recovering from cancer treatment; Donald Fey, recuperating at home from spinal surgery; Geroge Ybarra, at home recuperating from 4- way heart bypass surgery.

DECEASED: Manuela Lambert, 93, 1/10/2011. She was the mother of retired District Chief Jose “Joe” Garza. She died peacefully in her sleep in Boerne, TX where she resided; Elida Moreno, 87, 1/3/2011, who was the mother of Delia Cardenas and mother-in-law of Hector Cardenas, retired FF/Paramedic; Oscar Villarreal, 76, 1/17/2011. He entered SAFD 12/1/56, retiring 3/23/93. The highlight of Oscar’s life was first and foremost, his family—Susan, Patty, Oscar Jr. and Patty. His second love were his brother firefighters. His main goal was to keep his brother FF together with Oscar’s Breakfast Club. It is composed of 60 retired FF and meets at Estella’s Restaurant on Martin St. The club had a humble beginning that started in the 70’s with four retired FF—Oscar, his brother Rudy, Frank Ibarra and Dave Moreno. “Breezy” Briseno recalls first attending it 14 years ago when the attendance was about 14 men. It grew through the years with Oscar as it’s driving force. At Oscars Jr.’s (Bubba) it will continue to thrive in his honor. He will be missed by many; Josefina Hewitt, 97, 1-28-2011. She was the mother of David Perez, retired Fire Engineer and the grandmother of active FF of Ray Perez who is assigned to F.S #3 at SA International Airport; Charles T, Hines, 91, 1/28/2011. He was the father of Lt. Ronnie Hines, retired FF, now assigned to the Recruiting and Applicant Processing division of SAFD; Marjorie Ruth Fulbright, 96, 1/31/11. She was the widow of Garland Fulbright, who died in 1989. Chief Fulbright served as the first Assistant Chief, under Chief Milton Rogers in the ‘60’s and ‘70’s.

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POLICE--- by Bill Turner

Anyone having information about deaths or illness involving police department personnel, retirees or relatives, is invited to call Bill Turner @ (210) 525-9962 with information.

ILL OR INJURED: none reported

DECEASED: none reported

SPEAKER: The speakers for the retirees today were Karina Barrera and Jessica Newman, sales reps for COSTCO who related information about the company and how COSTCO differs from other retailers. Benefits are now being offered now that were not available when the membership was originally issued. The mark-up on Costco products is from 5% to 9%. Costco caters more to families, as opposed to businesses. Costco also has a pharmacy, automotive, clothing, appliances, office supplies, and regular food and staples. Katrina and Jessica stayed through the end of the meeting and assisted members who

wanted to sign up for memberships. All Costco stores in our area are all in the north part of the city and they are studying other areas to be considered for stores in the future.

PRESIDENT: Mike Trainer expressed goals for the year and re-emphasized that we want to be vigilant in the protection of our benefits. Also we should set up a procedure to express a consistent acknowledgement of our members that pass on by presenting a flower arrangement at their funeral service. Also to enhance our benefits to members so that we may attract new members. [Editors note: 40 persons were in attendance today. This is not a good representation of the association to those who may interpret low attendance as a weakness in the organization]

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE: Larry Reed reported the fund at approximate +7% YTD. This is an election year for some board members: (1) One police retiree position currently held by Alex Perez; (2) One active fire position, now held by Don Wagner; (3) One active police position now held by Jim Smith. The election notification will be mailed on March 3, 2011 with filing on March 21-25, 2011, for those desiring to run for any of these offices. The COLA for 2010, was 1.5% and 1.1% for those retiring after 9/30/99. The audit was completed, receiving a “good” rating. The actuarial report is completed showing our unfunded liability at 9.09 years vs. 10.4 years last year. The new building is still on target for an April move-in.

PENSION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: CURTIS FRANZ presented a you-tube presentation by IAFF President Harold Schaitberger on the political and legislative threats that are appearing across the nation and how the IAFF is actively monitoring and reacting to these threats on behalf of it’s members. Curtis reported that Texas is a ‘right to work’ state, that should not be affected as some of the other states could be. He explained how all of the benefits we now have would not be possible without unions and their collective bargaining contracts. He advises that that we maintain vigilance on how labor unions are treated so the workers are not hurt by these attacks.

PRE-FUNDED HEALTH COMMITTEE: Henry Trevino reported the fund is up by 5.91% YTD and is a great recovery from our previous low.

PRE-89 HEALTH INSURANCE: Bertha Bernstein reported that the pre-89 retirees that signed a voucher with Humana to have their premiums taken from their bank accounts should be very vigilant and check that the amount does not also come out of your payroll deduction. President Mike Trainer advised he would check to make sure the forms are either destroyed or returned to the members so they are not double charged.

Website: The S.A. Fire & Police Pensioner’s Association has a web-site. The URL is: <www.safppa.org>

NOTABLE UTTERANCES

“It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that it’s influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn” *George Washington*

