



IABPFF SMOKE

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

January 2006

Vol. 1, No. 1

IABPFF LETTER TO SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)



www.iabpff.org

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

Office of the Executive Director
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www.iabpff.org

Michael Chertoff, Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenues, NW
Washington, DC 20528

September 5, 2005

RE: Offer to Serve as a Resource to Individuals Impacted by Hurricane Katrina

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

The Executive Board and members of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) express our deepest concern for the anguish and suffering of the thousands of families affected by the national tragedy known as Hurricane Katrina. We also commend the efforts of the numerous organizations, volunteers, emergency response personnel and countless others that have come together to respond to the overwhelming needs of everyone impacted by this devastating event.

The IABPFF has a membership of over 5200 fire fighters, chief fire officers, emergency medical personnel, emergency management specialists, hazardous materials technicians, fire safety educators and countless other fire service professionals from the United States and abroad. As fire service professionals we are well aware that Hurricane Katrina left its greatest toll on the same segment of our population that is also known to suffer the highest number of fire deaths – the poor and people of color.

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters is available to serve a resource as the nation moves into the various phases of response, recovery, and rebuilding as a result of Hurricane Katrina. We understand that you will need trained technicians and professionals that can assist with the response and recovery processes.

If our organization can be of assistance please contact Teresa Everett, IABPFF Executive Director, at 786.229.6914 or myself at 216.702.4395.

Sincerely,
Johnny Brewington
Johnny Brewington
IABPFF President

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DIRECTORS/BOARD MEMBERS/MEMBERS:

FROM OUR HEARTS:

I hope each of you and your family's have had a joyous and spiritual Holiday! There is much peace and blessings from the SCR Family of the IABPFF to each of you. Allow me to thank each and all for your prayers, thoughts, helping hands and out pouring of love and financial generosity to the members of my region (Katrina/Rita). Know that God knows of his children's good hearts.

Fraternally,

James F. Hill, II
Director, South Central Region

KATRINA RELIEF FUND

Make check payable to Katrina Relief Fund
Mail to IABPFF c/o Samuel Aubrey, Jr., Treasurer
4014 Rosewin
Circle, Texas 77047-2846

DONATION: \$5000.00 to \$7000.00

Sana Clara County Black Fire Fighters Association Chapter
Brother Russell Hayden, retired member, went to distribute \$6,000 in gift certificates at \$50.00 each to the members of BANOFF and \$1,000 in clothing to the general public.

DONATION: \$2500.00 to \$5000.00

African American Fire Fighters & Paramedic League
of Chicago Chapter
CCE Construction
F.I.R.E. St. Louis Retiree Association
F.I.R.E. St. Louis Chapter
Houston Black Fire Fighters Chapter
San Francisco Black Fire Fighters Chapter
South Central Region
Vulcan Hall Foundation Retiree Association of New York City

DONATION: \$1000 to \$2500

Dallas Black Fire Fighters Association Chapter
North Central Region
Port of Seattle Minority Fire Fighters Chapter

DONATION: \$250.00 to \$500.00

AAFRO Ft. Worth Chapter
BRAMFF Baton Rouge Chapter
Buchtell High School Students & PTA; Akron, Ohio
Minneapolis African American Fire Fighters Chapter
North East Region
P.R.I.D.E. Kansas City, KS Chapter
Society of Minority Fire Fighters Flint, MI Chapter

Individual Members Donation: \$25.00 to \$500.00
\$500.00 (3), \$300.00 (1), \$200.00 (2), \$125.00 (2),
\$100.00 (22), \$75.00 (2), \$50.00 (5), \$25.00 (2)

Two public donations came from CCE Construction
and Buchtell High School
PTA (Akron, Ohio)

The IABPFF has dispensed \$36,000 to hurricane evacuees. BANOFF, our New Orleans Chapter membership or their relocated family members in Houston, Dallas, and various other cities were the first recipients of a donation. The week just before Thanksgiving, in New Orleans, ninety (90) members of BANOFF received \$200.00 each from Brother Samuel Aubrey, Treasurer; with assistance from Brother Freddie Jackson, Sgt.-at-Arms.

Brother Russell Hayden, retired member, travelled to New Orleans and distributed \$50.00 gift certificates to members of BANOFF.

A donation request form was left with BANOFF for members not available during the IABPFF visit to New Orleans.

Three (3) members in the South East Region (1 in Jackson, MS and 2 in Mobile, AL) received \$500.00 each from the South East Region's fund.

The chapter from Birmingham collected a tractor trailer load of supplies and distributed them among the various areas affected in the Alabama area. Chapter President, Brother Ernest Miller, led this effort.

Members from the South East Region drove to New Orleans to deliver school supplies and provide a contribution to Xavier Preparatory School. This was a joint venture with the students from immediate former President, Brother Theodore Holmes' area that wanted to help. The students collected funds and we matched the funds.

The Elizabeth Fire Department joint activity of IABPFF, IAFF and FMBA members collected 14 tons of goods/clothing and netted over \$54,000. Deputy Chief, Brother Donald Peterson, was a key factor in the success of this effort.

Goods and clothing were donated to the New Orleans Mission Inc., a nonprofit shelter that caters to the needs of 46% of the homeless and needy in the New Orleans area.

Of the funds that were collected, \$10,000 was given to families in Monroe, Louisiana — who are being sponsored by the Second Macedonia Baptist Church of Elizabeth, in the name of the Elizabeth Vulcan Society Chapter.

TO: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

SUBJECT: THANK YOU


Dearest Family,

From the President, Vice President, Executive Board, and membership body of The Black Association of New Orleans Fire Fighters (BANOFF), we would like to give a very heart felt thank you to those that have offered up prayers, and contributed monetarily to the people in our organization in our time of need. On August 29th Hurricane Katrina devastated our city with 125 mph winds and a 20 foot storm surge, with broken levees that would soon follow that allowed 20 to 25 feet of water in some low lying areas in the city. Needless to say this catastrophic event has severely compromised our way of life by separating our families, destroying our homes, and in many cases killing the ones we love.

Ahead our organization will face new challenges on the local front. Not only are we trying to rebuild a city and lives but also a number of our members have left the fire department, and the city for good and will not return. Also we have experienced one round of city lay-offs that effected administrative support positions, but deeper cuts to suppression are eminent.

In conclusion, I would be at the least neglectful if I did not mention the people and organizations that came and worked with us and supported our members here in New Orleans and where members that had been evacuated to.

THANK YOU!



President Johnny Brewington
Regional Director James Hill (SCR)
Houston Black Fire Fighters (You took care of many)
Baton Rouge Black Fire Fighters
Dallas Black Fire Fighters
The (Entire) South Central Region
Brother Russell Hayden
(Santa Clara County Black Fire Fighters)
Sam Aubrey and Freddie Jackson (Houston)

All those individuals who participated in USAR teams that we didn't get a chance to see face to face.

If we didn't get a chance to mention you name or organizations please forgive us, god will not forget your contribution.

Yours very truly,

Quentin C. Brown, President
Black Association of New Orleans Fire Fighters



LETTER FROM THE IABPFF PRESIDENT

Dear Member,

Before he was a United States Representative, before he was the President of the NAACP, Kweisi Mfume knew the harsh realities of the streets. When he was growing up, he knew poverty and hunger. But he faced down those doubts, overcame the odds, and went from the streets of Baltimore to the halls of the U.S. Capitol.

Facing uncertainty and tremendous hurdles, he never would have dreamed that one day he would have the chance to serve in the United States Senate.

Since the inception of Congress there has only been 5 African-American Senators. Kweisi Mfume can make history as only the 6th African American ever to serve in the Senate if you help today. Never has two African-American Senators served simultaneously.

Now he has that opportunity – and you can help make it happen. The International Association of Black Professional Firefighters have pledged to help Kweisi reach the U.S. Senate with our fundraising efforts.

Here's How It Works: Please Make a generous contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or whatever you can, on the MfumeForSenate.com secure site and then forward this message to 10 of your friends and ask them to do the same. You can also send checks to 505 Park Avenue, Suite 200. They should be made out to “Mfume for U.S. Senate.”

Your investment now will make all of the difference tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Johnny J. Brewington

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

Authorized by MfumeforSenate.com

Kia Heath, Treasurer

PHOTO PAGE



Photo Caption



Baltimore City's Fire Department First All-Female Engine Crew: Sharone Stewart, Pump Operator; Machelle Eagle, Firefighter/Paramedic; Rachelle Lucas, Firefighter/Paramedic; and Theresa Jones, Acting Lieutenant.



Photo Caption



Photo Caption



Photo Caption



Photo Caption



Photo Caption

MENTORING & RECRUITMENT

"Every people should be originates of their own destiny." Martin R. Delany (1852)

MENTORING PROGRAMS

Black Chief Officers Mentoring Guidelines

<http://www.iabpff.org/pdf/mentor.pdf>

Richmond Youth Academy

A youth development and mentor program, which uses positive role models from the fire service, and other professional careers to assist youth in the areas of academic achievement, community service, and self-discipline.

<http://www.rbffa.org/page6.html>

EMT Program For Inner-City Youth

High school seniors and inner-city youth of Oakland.

http://www.acgov.org/PublicHealth/organization/divisions/ems/Resource/Newsletter_12_2003.pdf

Martin Luther King, Jr. School for Law and Municipal Careers

Pathway to Implementation Fire Technology and Emergency Medical Technology Vocational Career Track developed by The Vanguard of Cleveland in association with The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

<http://www.iabpff.org/pdf/ezsummarypacket.pdf>

Finding the Fire Within

Growing up on the rough streets of East Cleveland, YO! Cleveland member Jovon Warren spent most of his free time picking fights with others. Less than a year after being introduced to YO! Cleveland and its fire fighting internship program, Warren has decided he would rather spend his future fighting fires.

<http://www.yocleveland.org/Extranet/Publishing/ViewDoc.asp?ShowListLink=True&PublishingCategoryID=6FD15DC6%2D5818%2D4E9A%2DB7B8%2D131C09177328&DocumentID=3FE2CDF6%2DEE6F%2D45A6%2DA2C9%2DDDB4BD98BF625>

Dayton Fire Apprentice Program Does Not Violate City's Charter

In the realm of professional pursuits, firefighters occupy some pretty high ground. Adults respect and admire the work they do, and little kids regard them as heroes and dream of ...

<http://www.marionstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060121/OPINION02/601210324/1014>

Compton Is Fired Up Over Emergency Response Fleet

Los Angeles Times: More than 180 Compton teenagers who have come through the Explorer program have gone on to work as emergency medical technicians, and more than 90 are active firefighters, either in Compton or elsewhere in the country, Coleman said.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/state/la-me-compton22jan22,0,5421292.story?coll=la-news-state>

Lesson Today, Rescue Tomorrow

A 2-semester class fuels High School students' passions by teaching the skills they'll need as firefighters.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/carroll/bal-ca.training22jan22,1,655594.story?coll=bal-local-carroll>

The Montgomery County, Maryland High School Fire Science Program

A national award winning one or two year program for high school juniors and seniors to educate and train students to become firefighters and/or emergency medical service (EMS) providers in Montgomery County.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firtmplasp?url=/content/fire/rescue/pstal-fire-science/index.asp>

Lakeville Students Try Being Firefighters For A Day

Area Learning Center (ALC) and Lakeville firefighters took recently with the school's eighth and ninth-graders.

<http://www.mnsun.com/articles/2006/01/20/news/c319firestudents.txt>

Sitka Youth First Responders Win Spirit of Youth Award

Members of the Sitka Youth First Responders youth rescue team strike a pose during a fall 2005 weekly meeting at the Sitka Fire Department in Sitka, Alaska.

http://www.sitnews.us/0106news/010606/010606_youth_award.html

Are You Struggling to Find Ways to Enhance Diversity in Your Department?

Are you willing to wait a few years for your efforts to pay off? Camp Inferno may be what you need.

<http://industryclick.com/magazinearticle.asp?magazineid=157&releaseid=13705&magazinearticleid=233528&siteid=26>

Mass. Students Provide Daytime EMS

When the Bolton Ambulance Service started looking for solutions to its daytime staffing problem, the Nashoba Regional School District stepped up to the plate. That was in 1987. Stepping out of the box to address a critical issue required a joint effort. In addition to the school and ambulance company, Bolton elected officials and the state also embraced the project. In 1989, the students won a waiver allowing them to take the EMT exam at 16 instead of the usual 18.

<http://www.emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=2791>

BLAZE Fire Camp for Young Women: Fire Camp for Young Women

<http://www.campblaze.com>

Fire Service Exploring

A worksite-based program for young men and women who have completed the eighth grade and are 14 years of age, or 15 years of age but have not yet reached their 21st birthday.

<http://www.learningforlife.org/exploring/fire>

500 Future Firefighters Attend Exploring Event

<http://firechief.com/news/future-firefighters-attend070805/index.html>

The St. Louis Fire Department Explorer Div. 9402

<http://www.exploring.org/stll/posts/stlfdel/miss.htm>

Young Minds In Motion

“Young Minds In Motion” is a reading program that is designed to help youth/young teens improve their reading skills.

<http://www.youngmindsinmotion.com>

Career Clusters

<http://www.careerclusters.org>

WORKPLACE DIVERSITY:

2004 employment information by gender and race scroll down to protective service occupations: Firefighters

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.pdf>

Firefighting and Fire Prevention

Occupations by women and race, 1983 to 2003.

<http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=955&itemID=23601&URL=Research%20&%20Reports/Fire%20statistics/Fire%20service>

Firefighting Occupations

Employment of fire fighters is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2014. Most job growth will occur as volunteer fire fighting positions are converted to paid positions in growing suburban areas. In addition to job growth, openings are expected to result from the need to replace fire fighters who retire, stop working for other reasons, or transfer to other occupations.

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos158.htm>

Grow Faster Than The Average

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco20016.htm>

Table 1

Fastest growing occupations and occupations projected to have the largest numerical increases in employment between 2004 and 2014, by level of postsecondary education or training. Long-term on-the-job training - Firefighters (Scroll down to locate).

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocotjt1.htm>

Table 1

National employment and wage data from the Occupational Statistics Survey by occupation, November 2004 . Employment mean wages median (Scroll down to Protective service occupations)

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm>

NPFA COALITION FOR FIRE SAFE CIGARETTES

NPFA is organizing the Coalition for Fire Safe Cigarettes with the overall goal to get tobacco companies to produce and sell only fire safe cigarettes in every state in the U.S. The coalition will include fire service, health, consumer and other organizations committed to eliminating the threat of cigarette-ignited fires.

The coalition effort will be national, but we will be targeting specific states to pass similar legislation to that passed in New York, California and Vermont requiring fire-safe cigarettes.

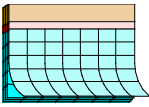
Specifically, we would like to include the IABPFF name/or logo on the Coalition's letterhead, include your name or logo in other Coalition publicity, and link the IABPFF website to the Coalition's website, <http://www.firesafecigarettes.org/>.

Other ways that you can be involved, if you choose, include participating in press events, getting grassroots member support, attending hearings and other legislative events, and publicizing the fire-safe cigarettes initiatives through IABPFF publications and web site.

I will send you a follow-up letter requesting you to formally sign on to the coalition.

Thank you,

Lisa Braxton
NFPA Public Education Project Manager
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2006 BCOC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AND MEETING

Las Vegas, February 7-11, 2006.

Conference: http://www.iabpff.org/regions/2006_symposium.pdf.

Hotel: http://www.iabpff.org/regions/2006_hotel_registration.pdf

IABPFF DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) is planning an IABPFF Day on Capitol Hill on April 6, 2006, in conjunction with the South East Regional Spring Conference in Washington, DC. Each year members of the Association should come to Capitol Hill to educate their Members of Congress about issues relating to the Fire Service Profession and the status of the communities that we serve. After many years of discussing this as a possibility and necessity, it is now time to move on your repeated request. Please join the Executive Board, the SER membership, SER Director Plummer and myself, for this great opportunity to present our special issues first hand. Through the seminars and issue papers you will gain and share valuable information that your Representative can impart to their home communities. We certainly hope that you will consider being present for this unique experience. Should you have any questions about the IABPFF Day on the Hill, call me at 877-213-2170 #1 (VM). *Tentative agenda for Wednesday and Thursday:*

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

(Arrival and check-in at the Marriott at Metro Center)

3:00 - 3:50 p.m.

Wildland/Urban Interface Fires – Hilton Wash. Hotel – CFSI

3:00 - 3:50 p.m.

Health & Wellness – Hilton Washington Hotel – CFSI

4:00 - 4:50 p.m.

Understanding the Legislative Process – Hilton Wash. Hotel

NOTE: The following workshops are off-site and transportation will be arranged.

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

IABPFF Pre-Capitol Hill Visit Reception

Thursday, April 6, 2006

“IABPFF Day on the Hill” (Class A Uniform/Business Attire)

8:00 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Seminars on the Hill. Location TBD. Host: CFSI (A series of free concurrent professional and legislative presentations). Go to “www.cfsi.org” for the most up to date schedule.

1:30 p.m.

IABPFF Photo Opt. – (On the steps of a House Office Building)

1:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Pre-scheduled visits to the offices of key members of Congress, including your Congressional District Representative. Go to “www.iabpff.org/southeast” for more conference information.

8 — International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Clark Atlanta University

Saturday, June 10, 2006 thru Friday, June 16, 2006

<http://www.edionline.net/dates.html>

2006 IABPFF CONVENTION

Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Hosted by the South East Region.

Convention Dates: Monday, July 31 thru Friday, August 4, 2006.

Social Gathering at the Beach: Sunday, July 30, 2006.

The Westin Fort Lauderdale

400 Corporate Drive

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33334

Phone: 954.772.1331 or 800.937.8461

Fax: 954.491.9087

Personalized IABPFF convention website for Westin Fort Lauderdale. STAR GROUPS WEBSITE OPTION.

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=0502016952&key=69B87>

Room Block, Room Reservation Procedures, Cut-Off Date Rates, Early Departure Fee, Room Deposit, Parking, Convention Registration Form.

<http://www.iabpff.org/conventn/conv.htm>.

IABPFF SMOKE

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If you have comments or would like to contribute to the next issue of the IABPFF SMOKE, please contact Johnny Brewington at 877.213.2170 #1 (voice mail) and via our website at www.iabpff.org.