

January 5th, 2015 Meeting Notes - R.F.A.

1st VP Joe O'Neil called the January 5th meeting of the R.F.A. to order at 11:05 AM at Local 36's meeting hall with 23 members plus two board members in attendance. He reported that Marion Sánchez has stepped down as President, which means per our by-laws, 1st Vice President Joe O'Neil has now assumed the duties of President. Also 2nd Vice President Stephan Ventura has moved on up to 1st Vice President. Currently our 2nd Vice President and Secretary's positions are vacant

President O'Neil temporarily suspended our usual order of business so Local 36's President Ed Smith could discuss a few topics. First, all of the recent candidates in the last D.C. Elections that L-36 backed won their positions, Mayor included

Also, several actions of The District of Columbia Retirement Board (DCRB) and The Department of the Treasury's Office of D.C. Pensions (ODCP) needs to be discussed

1st is DCRB which concerns "...two significant systemic benefit payment errors..."

#1: DC Firefighters, Police Officers and teachers are impacted by the so called D.C. Code Max 80 error that potentially affects retired DC police and F/F's who retired prior to 2011. Prior to 1975, our members' salary was capped to 80% of their **basic salary**, later changed by code to **average salary**. (Beginning in 2011, the law is being applied correctly to retirees). Anyway, the DCRD's meeting on December 18, 2014's meeting voted "not to take any action that will result in benefit reductions for impacted District retirees, including recovering benefit overpayments from the retirees". Note! This is not the current ODCP's position.

#2: Also impacts DC members of both the Police and Fire Plan and the Teacher's Plan who retired between February 15th, 1980 and September 1st, 1997. Their retirement is funded by the Federal Government only and not DCRB. This error concerns approximately 414 police, firefighters and teachers. This problem is the two (2) Cost Of Living adjustments (COLAs) that were received when the members were only entitled to one. Again, this has nothing to do with DCRB, but is an ODCP decision

2nd is ODCP which concerns the Look back COLA error and also the Max 80 Error

The above plan to send out a notification letter to all involved by the end of January 2015 explaining the above and how they plan to correct the above problems

And ODCP & DCRD has found some underpayments and will correct

Obviously the Police Union, Local 36, IAFF and the RFA are staying on top of this and will fight any wrong actions of both the ODCP and DCRB

President's Report – Joe O'Neil talked about how well Stefan Ventura is handling www.DCRFA.com, our web site, especially how he's sending out emails about upcoming functions and how he polled members on how to vote on our recent "location and start times" for our monthly meeting

Joe also talked why we changed our time and location for our monthly meetings

He also mentioned how he and a few others help the surviving spouse with their paper work. Our members should help out and get the proper paper work ahead of time (see our website www.DCRFA.com) for what is needed. Marriage and if appropriate divorce papers, birth certificates etc. Another problem is that on page 15 of our current "2013-2014 Address Book", we have to put in our **Average pay at time of retirement!** This is needed so the surviving spouse can compute their pension

Joe discussed our sick members and the 2 recently deceased's services. Hugh Barnes didn't have a service

Joe also visited Bobby Mann in the hospital and requested anyone to go by and visit

He brought up about the upcoming changes to our By-Laws and several copies of the current proposals. See our web site to read and notify Joe of any other ideas or changes

Joe is now using PG County School system to decide whether we have our monthly meeting or not, on snow days

Deceased members –President Joe O’Neil: There were 3 deceased members since our December 1st meeting: Hugh Barnes was appointed July 1st, 1950 to E-25, retired July 1st, 1972 as ME from FB and passed December 11th, 2014

Mike Greene was appointed July 1st, 1967 to E-31, retired October 1st, 1975 from E-21 and passed December 24th, 2014

Tony Orhelein was appointed July 15, 1950 to E-14, retired June 1st, 1974 from E-9 and passed December 28th, 2014

The President called for a moment of silence for our deceased member and our troops serving our country

The minutes of the December 1st meeting – George Kenney: Doug Wheeler read, motion made to accept, seconded and approved

Applications for membership – George Kenney: None

The Secretary / Treasurer Report & Correspondence – George Kenney: November and December’s Treasury report was read, motion made to accept, seconded and approved

Committee Reports:

Sick – President Joe O’Neil: Leonard Adams, Steve Adams, Bill Andrews, Carroll Ashbrook, Jim Bojalad, Mickey Bridgett, Charlie Butler, Kelly Butler Jr, Ken Cox, Ralph Creel, Michael Daras, Walter Diehl, Jim Eschbacher, Raymond Gist, John Goff, Jim Greco, John Grolig, Lester Hansen, Red Heflin, Freddie Heller, Mike Malone, Bob Mann, Irvin Poole, Ken Propst, Rudy Radisch, Ben Self, Danny Stedman, Kenneth R Stevens, Tom Tait, Bob Talbert, Jim Tanis, John E Tippet and William Van Fossen

Honor Guard – Vinny Austin: Absent. See above President’s Report

Entertainment – Vacant:

Several events and upcoming functions were brought up by a couple of members

www.WashingtonEmeralds.org/

Delegates to Local 36 Board of Directors – Butch Oliff and Jim Snyder: Butch discussed several items.

L-36 had requested our help in handing out winter coats to school children that needed them. Several of our members helped out at the Union Hall on December 19th. Eventually, 500 coats will be given out. It was very moving to see the children’s eyes and actions when they realized they could keep their jackets. Some thought they had to be returned at the end of winter

DCFD - after years of not buying enough apparatus - has received 10 new wagons and should receive 5 new trucks beginning in March. Some of the old O.O.S. trucks are slowly being repaired and returning to the streets – about one per week. Currently there are 14 trucks In Service out of the normal 16

Check Local 36’s website www.iaff36.org/index.cfm?section=1

Members attending their first meeting – Larry Lee and Frank Tremel

Old Business – Joe O’Neil: See above President’s Report. Jim Embrey talked about how FFA and DCFD’s Interim Chief Jones celebrated their 150th Anniversary at Engine Co 3. Engine 1, 2 and 3 showed up. Truck Co 1 failed!

Those were the companies that comprised DCFD in 1864

Joe and his committee has updated and rewritten our current Constitution and By-Laws. He discussed why each was made. Go to our website to see the proposed changes

New Business – RFA picnic news. RIP Gardner told everyone that it will be held at St. Michael's, 17502 Aquasco Rd, Baden MD 20613 on Saturday in September. He's bringing back roast beef and will also have chicken etc. And the wives are invited to bring dessert. More details later
Tom Scherer made a motion to not put "Non-members" by names of retired Non-members when they are listed as being mentioned as either sick or had died. Discussed, voted and passed

Put on your calendar next years' Florida Reunion dates, Friday April 17th thru Sunday April 19th, 2015. Same location etc. Again, one doesn't have to be retired to attend; just a member in training is all it requires! Questions contact AJ Winterwerp or see updates at www.dcrfa.com as it gets closer

Good & welfare –

As usual, check out www.DCFD.com and www.dcRFA.com for updates and more details

NOTE: !! February's meeting will be at 11:00 am at L-36's hall. See below

Remember our snow policy, changed per Joe O'Neil, if snow closes Prince George's County school system, no RFA meeting that day

Inactive Committees:

Entertainment Comm -

Vocal Alarm Comm -

Retired Comm -

Safety Comm -

Legislative Comm -

There being no further old or new business, we'll see you on February 2nd again at our Local 36 Union Hall. President Joe O'Neil adjourned this meeting at 12:25 PM

Below are the **2015** Tentative Dates: February 2nd meeting to be held at **11:00 AM At Local 36's Union Hall, 2120 Bladensburg Rd NE Washington, DC 20018-1498** - Check later for future times and locations!

Feb 2 nd	Mar 2 nd	Apr 6 th	May 4 th	June 1 st	Oct 5 th	Nov 2 nd	Dec 7 th
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If you know of anyone who has retired and would like an application for membership in the DCFD Retired Members Association, go to:

<http://www.DCrfa.com>

Please think about attending L-36's monthly membership meeting on the 4th Monday of the month at 9AM
Check <http://www.iaff36.org/> or www.facebook.com/IAFF36

Don't forget the weekly "Board of Director's" Meeting at Edgewater's Coconut Joe's, 48 South River Rd Edgewater MD 21037 at 4:00 PM ish on **Fridays**. Stop by and enjoy the evening. Contact George Barksdale for any other details. <http://CoconutJoesUSA.com/>

Luncheon if you're in the Myrtle Beach SC area on the **first Monday** (February 2nd) of each month at 11:30 AM. Contact Richard Hunley at ItsMerhh@yahoo.com concerning the details. It's held at Calli Baker's Firehouse Bar & Grill in the Myrtle Beach Mall, 10131 N Kings Hwy Myrtle Beach SC 29572. www.CalliBakersFireHouse.com/

Don't forget the monthly luncheon held on the **first Wednesday** (February 4th) of each month, at 12:00 noon at Station 7 Restaurant, 7456 Gumboro Rd Pittsville, MD 21850. For a head count, let Bob Gilbert know that you're coming - RPGilbert1@mchsi.com. To check the menu and for directions – www.Station7Restaurant.com/

Another monthly luncheon is held on the **second Tuesday** of each month (February 10th) at 12 noon at Champion Billiards Sports Cafe, 5205 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick, Maryland 21704 www.FrederickChampions.com/home.html. Call Paul Stottlemeyer for further details. Or you're welcomed to just show up as there is plenty of room

The Southern Maryland Area Firefighters Luncheon will be on the **last Wednesday** of the month (January 28th and February 25th) at the American Legion Post 238, 6265 Brandywine Rd, Hughesville, MD 20637 at 11:30 AM. Contact Ricky Moore RLMoore@comcast.net so he can give a head count to the kitchen. www.ALPost238.org/

The Guns and Hoses crew in Ocean City MD meet the **last Saturday** of the month (January 31st and February 28th) at 12 noon to warm up for the 1:30 PM meeting at the Elks Lodge #2645 located at #13708 Sinepuxent Ave Ocean City MD 21842-4553 (adjacent to the Fenwick Inn). The Elks Lodge is 1 block off Coastal Highway at 138th St. Call Pat Johnson for further details <http://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2645>

For other information or details, check out our web page www.dcRFA.com

And that's the truth as Skip Ramsey usta say...
Doug