



TEXAS TALK

FEBRUARY 2009

A Publication of the Auxilliary to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters

FROM YOUR STATE PRESIDENT BETH NICHOLS



Holidays are over and it is time to start thinking about ATSAFF Scholarship, dues and convention. We all should try really hard to contact our members who are in the need of our scholarship, get with them and get the application filled out as soon as possible. You will be receiving a copy of the application with this newsletter and it is also available on our website or you can contact Gia Robinson at giarobaux@yahoo.com and she will email you the application and answer any questions you might have regarding the scholarship.

As you should know our dues, officers list, membership list and scholarship donation were all due January 31st. If you have not sent yours in, please do so as soon as possible. Remember your officers list and membership list are both very important as we use these to keep in contact with your auxiliary; send out reminders, information and without the correct list of officers we may send the information to the wrong person. Also we are trying to update our email address so that we can try sending our newsletter by both mail and email.

Convention will be here before you know so start getting your reports, Member of the Year and scrapbooks together. The reports and scrapbooks are really a great tool for other auxiliaries to look over and through during convention to get ideas as to what works for others. Convention will be July 13th through July 17th in Richardson, this year. We are going to try and have a parliamentarian speaker for everyone to ask questions about their bylaws, state bylaws or whatever you might have a question about. Began talking with your members to see what they would like to know or ask about. Start gathering up your questions and you may email to me any time before convention and I will have them ready for our speaker. If you will not be attending convention but have questions, please send them as well and we will get back with you after convention with the answer. We are planning a very special treat for our luncheon, several have requested a shopping trip, and so we will be going to Grapevine for lunch and shopping. Bring your walking shoes. Kelli is working on new stuff for our raffle. She will be getting with everyone with the details. Again we will be raffling cash as well as some prizes.

Last but not least, I will not be seeking re-election at this convention. I feel it is time for someone else to step up so be talking with your members to see who would be interested and if anyone would like to talk or ask questions about what all is expected of the presidents position, please feel free to call me at 254-709-0260 or email me at nich478aux@hotmail.com. I have enjoyed my terms as officer with ATSAFF, enjoyed working with each of the officers I have had the opportunity to work with and would like to thank each one for their time and friendship. I will truly miss everyone. Enclosed in this newsletter will be what is expected of each officer, please share with your members so that anyone interested in running for office will understand what is expected from each office.

Sincerely,

Beth Nichols
ATSAFF President

**FROM YOUR 1ST Vice President
Gia Robinson**



Happy New Year 2009

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New. This year has started off with a bang. We were blessed with a joyous Christmas with family and friends and another new year has come upon us. We are so very thankful for all that the Lord has done for us. We just can't thank Him enough. Though going through the "storm and rain", we are still here...

I would like to first of all thank everyone for your phone calls, emails, texts and most of all your prayers during our revitalization after Hurricane Ike and my mom's recent surgery. She is on the road to a great recovery. We have had a busy home here for the last three weeks or so. She has now gone back to her place where she says "she can get some much needed rest."

With the devastation that Hurricane Ike has left our county with and others along the I45 corridor and the surrounding areas, the act of just surviving is all that can be done at the moment. Our city is going through some very trying times. Our ER has closed and the hospital has had lay offs of over 3000 employees. We have had three schools to close for the remainder of this school year and possibly all of next school year and in the near future there will be pay cuts and more lay offs throughout the city as a whole. We are all just blessed to have an income, food and shelter. FRUSTRATION city... We have a ways to go!

Hopefully, we have all started with our scholarship applications for this year. As stated previously, the ATSAFF will award two (2) \$750.00 scholarships to qualifying children of auxiliary members that will graduate this year or that graduated last year and or auxiliary members desiring to further their education. If you need assistance with completing the application or have any questions or concerns, please give me a call. Let's try to get awards out this year to our deserving seniors and auxiliary members. A copy of the scholarship application paperwork has been included with this newsletter (pages 13—15). For your convenience, each auxiliary president will also receive a copy in the mail. The deadline to submit applications is April 1, 2009.

The 2009 TSAFF Convention is scheduled for July 12-17, 2009 in Richardson, TX. I look forward to meeting and greeting old and new acquaintances.

Continued Blessings!

Gia Robinson,
1st Vice President
ATSAFF
8017 Fallen Oak Lane
Texas City, TX 77591
HM: (409) 316-9516
Cell: (409) 771-2402
WK: (409) 765-7633
Email: giarobaux@sbcglobal.net

"God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change... Courage to change the things I can and Wisdom to know the difference."

FROM YOUR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Meara Sabala



Greetings to all and I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that your new year is off to a good start. In this new year of hope and change for our country let us wish our political leaders our best, regardless of our politics. And let us remember it is up to all of us to make change happen. It starts at the ground level and works its way up to the State and National levels. The politicians cannot, nor should not, do it alone. We all need to do our share.

I would like to give a big Texas welcome to Steffani Moskovitz and the ladies from Frisco (Local 3732) for their first of hopefully many contributions to this newsletter (page 11). It is so good to hear from you and of the wonderful deeds you are doing in your corner of the State. Keep up the good work.

Elsewhere around the State, please continue to keep our fire fighter and auxiliary families along the upper Texas Gulf Coast in your prayers as they try to rebuild their lives after last season's devastating hurricane. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the families of the Kilgore fire fighters who were killed in that tragic training accident last month. Although they (Kilgore) are not part of the TSAFF they are in the IAFF and part of our larger extended family. Our condolences also to the families of former TSAFF Vice-President Ozro Hernandez, Floyd F. "Bear" Bryant (Irving, Local 2073), Richard Smith (McKinney, Local 40170, Gilbert Herrera (Universal City Local 4073), Gilbert Contreras (Baytown, Local 1173), Phillip Sensinger, Ret. (Corpus Christi, Local 936), Ignacio "Nacho" Cantu (Mission, Local 3609), Oklahoma City firefighter Tom Riddle, T.T. Moreno (San Antonio, Local 624), and Baldemar "Baldy" Saenz, Ret. (Corpus Christi, Local 936). And best wishes for a speedy recovery to Albert White (Abilene, Local 1044), and TSAFF 4th. District Vice-President Darrell Gonzales recovering from back surgery.

Looking forward, it is once again time to start preparing for our State Convention which will be held in Richardson, just outside of Dallas. If you have not done so already, it is time to start putting together your convention reports. The cover page should include the name of your auxiliary and the number of member plus the number of members in your IAFF local. Also include the date you were organized, your meeting dates and times, and the amount you pay in dues. The inside pages should be a breakdown of the number of hours and people that participated in the following service categories: Public Service, Auxiliary Programs, Union/Department Assistance, Public Relations, Legislative Action, and Ways and Means. I know that this seem like a lot of trouble for work you are doing from your heart but it is vitally important that we be able to account of our good deeds to get the continued support of our locals. The deadline for getting your convention reports in is June 1st. See AUXILIARY REPORT INFORMATION on pages 24 and 25.

And finally, we would also like to see some applications for our ATSAFF scholarship this year. Last year we had no takers and we are just itching to give that money away. It is also time to put together your nominations for our ATSAFF Auxiliary Member of the Year. If you know of a worthy candidate please let us hear from you. The NOMINATIONS GUIDELINES are included in this issue and can be found on page 17. The deadline for nominations is also June 1st.

Meara

**FROM YOUR 3rd Vice President
Kelli Tucker**

**The 2009 State Convention in Richardson will be here before you know it and we
need T-Shirts from your Local!**

With 2009 well underway, the "Countdown to Convention" clock is ticking!! Fundraising during our state convention provides a main source of revenue for our State Auxiliary. At this year's convention, we will raffle off a top-notch hand crafted custom quilt made from an assortment of t-shirts donated by the Texas Firefighter Associations that support the TSAFF.

In order to accomplish this mission, we need your help!

**Please mail your t-shirt(s) to:
Kelli Tucker
P.O. Box 966
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620**

Firefighters love trading shirts, so as another raffle prize, a basket filled with a mixed assortment of t-shirts from across the state is also on the raffle list...so please show us the pride of your Local by collecting and sending in your T-shirts.

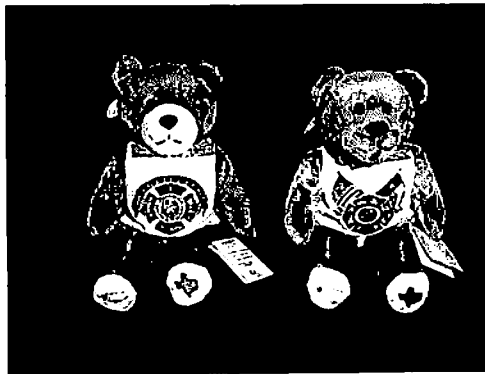
SALE! SALE! SALE!

Our cuddly Holy Bears benefiting Texas burn camps, remain on SALE!

Red Bear - ATSAFF 50th Anniversary Special Edition

Blue Bear - TSAFF Holy Bear (retired)

SALE PRICE: \$8.00/EA !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Please feel free to call with any questions!

**Kelli Tucker, 3rd VP ATSAFF
512-587-0413**

GREETINGS FROM YOUR SECRETARY-TREASURER*Joan Dubiel*

Dear Texas Auxiliaries,

I hope your 2009 is a great year! As you sit down with your group to plan your year remember to make plans for convention in your goals. This is convention year and plans have been started at the State level to make your convention in Richardson a great one. In order for it to be successful it is going to take all of us to work together. Please make plans to send delegates from your auxiliary to attend participate and help your ATSAFF grow.

It is also January 2009 and it is time to pay your ATSAFF dues. You will need to get current with your dues in order to sit any delegates you plan on sending. A dues form is included in this newsletter on page 16 for each auxiliary and I have mailed a dues form to each auxiliary. ***It is required to send a current officer list and membership list from your Treasurer with your dues payment.***

If you should have questions or need any help I'm here to help. I can be reached by email or phones so don't hesitate to call.

I would also like to encourage each member to consider running for an officer position on the ATSAFF Board. It is a learn as you go position but also filled with many past officers willing to step up and help should you need it.

I will not be seeking reelection to the office of Secretary-Treasurer to the ATSAFF. I will step down at this convention and ask some other auxiliary member to step up and make a difference. I have enjoyed each term and the many officers that I have been lucky enough to work alongside of. I want to thank them for their friendship and please know I will miss all of you deeply. It is time for new members and others to step up and help your organization by becoming an officer. Lend your time and love to the ATSAFF and you will be rewarded. Feel free to call ask questions should be interested in running.

Thank you for all you do to make a difference in the fire fighter families and the fire fighting profession. See you soon in Richardson!

Joan

**Joan Dubiel, President
Auxiliary to the International Association of Fire Fighters**

Dear Texas Auxiliaries;

It will not be long before your ATSAFF Biennial Convention in Richardson will be here. I want to encourage and challenge each of you to prepare by sending delegates to represent your group. If your president can not attend you can vote in another qualified member. Consider voting to send a new member to allow them to learn and grow. Please make it a priority to have a voice for your auxiliary present at your convention.

Our Texas Auxiliaries have always been strong and supportive at all of the AIAFF conventions. We need your input in many areas. Your ATSAFF Executive Board has been busy making plans over the last months to make your visit informative and enjoyable. Please don't disappoint them by not sending a delegate to convention.

I will be attending and I will also be available in the evenings should you need help with any AIAFF problems. I will have organizational packets available if needed.

I want to say thank you once again for your support in the football raffle. Texas Auxiliaries and Texas Locals did their part! This fundraiser done only once every two years is important to the AIAFF. We need to have working capital to grow more auxiliaries. We also want to be able to help each auxiliary out there but it takes funds to do that. We are still proud that even with the dues increase we have low dues.

You are a very IMPORTANT link in our network. I look forward to visiting with many of you at convention. Enjoy your summer and your family vacations and please keep in touch.

Joan

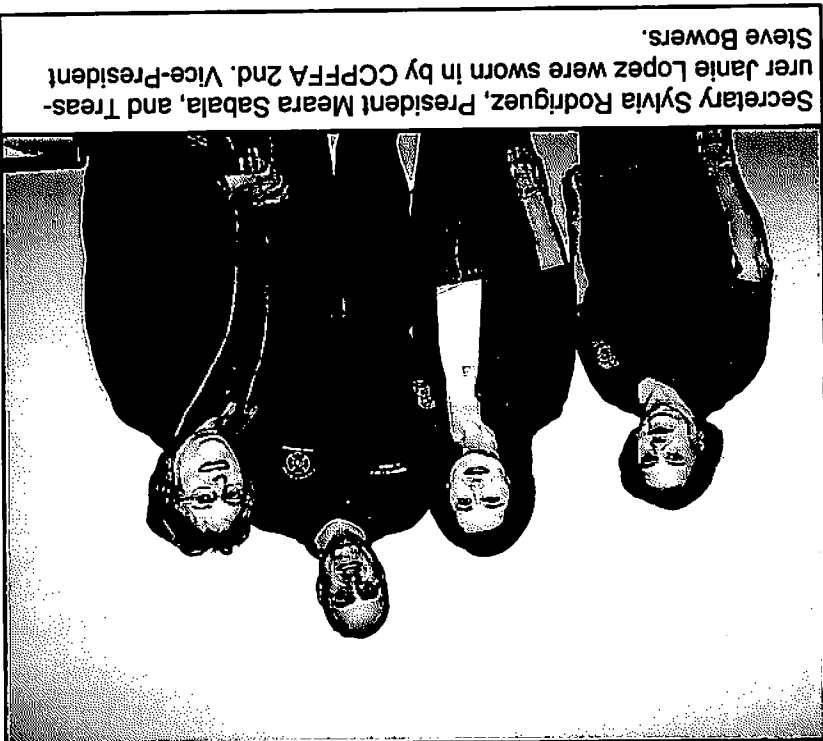
The Auxiliary to the Corpus Christi Professional Fire Fighters Local 936



What's been happening in the Corpus Christi Professional Fire Fighters' Auxiliary????

Nominations for 2009 officers were held at the November 11th 2008 auxiliary meeting, and in January of 2009 the following women were made officers for the Auxiliary to the Corpus Christi Professional Fire Fighters Association. President: Meara Sabala, Vice-President: Bethany Gravel, Secretary: Sylvia Rodriguez, Treasurer: Janie Lopez, and Historian: Margie Rivera. We are excited about bringing new ideas and are hoping to bring in a lot of new members into the auxiliary this year.

On December 6th 2008 the fire fighters Christmas Party was a huge hit. A full house of over 70 people filled the union hall, the tables were full, the food was good, and decorations adorned the tables. There was dancing and great conversation. The newly retired fire fighters were honored with retirement plaques and each member was recognized with their years of service by union president Carlos Torres Jr. and Chief Richard Hooks of the Corpus Christi Fire Department.



Secretary Sylvia Rodriguez, President Meara Sabala, and Treasurer Janie Lopez were sworn in by CCPFFA 2nd. Vice-President Steve Bowers.

We are always seeking new members and are excited for the 2009 fire fighter academy class to graduate and would welcome any spouse, sibling, parent, or child of any active, retired, or deceased member of the Corpus Christi Fire Fighters, Local 936. The auxiliary is a great place for networking, socializing, and providing a community for others. Please feel free to come to an auxiliary meeting. We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the union hall. We look forward to meeting you.

Bethany Gravel, Vice-President
Corpus Christi Fire Fighters Auxiliary

Fun Quotes-
"I think it's the duty of the comedian to find out where the line is drawn and cross it deliberately."
- George Carlin
US comedian and actor (1937 - 2008)

A Big D hello from Dallas

The fall and winter were so fast upon us and how quickly 2009 arrived. We hope the Holidays were happy and full of good memories for everyone. There are so many things to share, where can we start? This fall found our Auxiliary truly honored to visit with past members and charter members at our 50th Anniversary celebration. The luncheon was held in one of the lovely ballrooms at the Melrose Hotel in Dallas. The program was filled with warm greetings and memories. We are deeply indebted to the past members for their immeasurable contributions through these fifty years. Because of the foundation they created we can continue the tradition which is so vital to our dedicated firefighters. Speaking of hard work, the anniversary committee, who spent hours digging through old records and pictures, our honored guests were welcomed to a wonderful display of photographs of events, past members, scrapbooks and many wonderful memories of past auxiliaries. The celebration could not have been more lovely or festive. Thank you to all that attended and made it a special day.



It was a pleasure to see all the smiling faces and renewing of friendships at the Museum's Board's annual hamburger luncheon for retirees at the Dallas Fire Fighter Museum this October. The gathering was a great success with a large turnout this year. We helped serve, register and provide deserts. Everyone seems has a great time at the Barnes & Noble Kick-Off Potluck Dinner prior to our regular meeting in October and why not, the food was great. At this meeting we signed up for our annual fundraiser at local Barnes & Noble. Our November meeting held nominations and voting for 2009 Officers. We have new officers this year: President, Linda

Mikkelsen; Vice President, Courtney Rendahl and returning as Secretary, Debbie Carlin; Treasurer, Gail Bielefeldt, and as Chaplain, Ann Fields. Courtney and I feel honored to be able to help continue the hard work of such a dedicated group of members. We were busy again this December at two local Barnes & Noble Book stores gift wrapping books and gifts for tips. Not surprising this year the shoppers were in smaller numbers, but we still find it worthwhile to participate, spend time with each other and get into the Christmas spirit. Our Appreciation Dinner and Installation of Officers was held in early January at Popolos Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed good food and great fellowship. It was a chance to show appreciation to our members and thank them for their many hour of service. Our January meeting was spent preparing candy filled cups that will be delivered to our firefighters at the stations and support staff for Firefighter Appreciation Day on February 13th and 14th, we also continued working on plans for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt "Eggstravaganza" which is to be held March 28. Each year we have such a great time with about 200 children of our firefighters and retired firefighters. We will have more to share about hiding eggs and visiting with the Easter Bunny in our next note about our egg hunt and festivities to all of you.

The Auxiliary to the Dallas Firefighters Association
Linda Mikkelsen, President

Happy 2009 from Austin!!!

We pray the past few months have been good to all of you...and that 2009 will turn out to be the best year for you, your family, your firefighters and your Auxiliary!

Last quarter kept us on our toes! One of our members, Lisa Murphy, began a relief drive for the Hurricane Ike victims in Galveston...our Auxiliary jumped right in to help! Before we knew it, the firefighters of L975 were contributing their time and effort as well. Truckload upon truckload of necessities and household items were delivered to the Galveston area. The devastation was heartbreaking, but the resolve of the firefighters was truly inspirational.

Once again, we participated in the Blue Santa Toy Parade. We escorted the AFD float and fire engine as they followed the parade route. Our Auxiliary members proudly wore our "I Love My Austin Firefighter" t-shirts and gave stickers to all the little children along route.

The annual Senior Holiday Luncheon was a success once again! We assisted firefighter Tim LaFuenta as he prepared we helped serve a holiday meal for 350+ Austin senior citizens!

Our 2nd Annual Breakfast with Santa was a hit! We added a raffle to the day's events and made room for Santa's Sleigh outside....a big red fire truck! The kids loved getting pictures with the truck (and Santa!! J)

ALSO: Congratulations to our new Auxiliary to Austin Firefighters L975 Officers!!

Kelli Tucker ~ President

Laura Caswell ~ 1st Vice President

Kristen Wade ~ 2nd Vice President

Lisa Murphy ~ Secretary

Christy Bearden ~ Treasurer



Greetings from Lubbock!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are super excited about 2009 and hope this note finds everyone happy and healthy! Our Auxiliary has kept busy over the past few months with member get-togethers, family friendly gatherings and lots of holiday cheer.

In October we sponsored one of our members as she walked 60 miles in The Susan G. Koman 3 Day Walk against breast cancer. The Auxiliary not only donated money but also supplies, prayers and much needed support on her journey. We were proud to support such a worthy cause. In November we nominated new officers for 2009 and made plans for our annual Christmas Party/Officer Induction to be held in December. A great time was had by all as we laughed and traded for the best Firefighter ornaments. Billye Scott, a member for 34 years did the honors of ushering the new officers in. She told a beautiful story of what it meant to be a firefighter's wife, to belong to "the family" and how much the Auxiliary has meant to her over the years. She had us all in tears by the end. Heather Nelson, who has been our president for the last 3 years, passed the gavel to me. I speak for everyone when I say thank you to Heather for your countless hours in making this group what it is today. We thank her for all of her hard work and are thrilled to keep her on the Executive board as our treasurer.

January's meeting was full of information for the year and interested new members were invited to join. February is our annual Valentines party and silent auction. Since February hosts Burn week all proceeds from the auction will go to send a child to burn camp at I-THONKA-CHI. in June. April will bring back the Auxiliaries very own Easter Bunny and an egg-stra-special egg hunt for the kids. Besides promoting friendships within the department thru family style gatherings we also participate in the following community services and Association sponsored events. The following is what we will participate in between now and May.

- We donate cookies every month to the Ronald McDonald House.
- We will hold a silent auction to sponsor a child to go to burn camp
- We will collect much needed household goods to donate to The Ronald McDonald House.
- We participate in the MDA Fill the Boot campaign
- We will work closely with the Association and their fundraiser with the Circus.
- With each new class we serve refreshments and sell t-shirts at the Rookie graduations. We also have information about the Auxiliary including our scrapbook and invite interested family members to attend a meeting.

We have a very busy year planned and would love to see members of other Auxiliaries join us at any of our events.

Please contact me for details.

Blessings,
 Stacy Bobo
 President
 Auxiliary to LPPFFA Local 972
 806-778-1383
bobocuisine2@hotmail.com

Our FIRST hello from Frisco, Texas!

What began as a vision by our President DeAnna Beck, "to promote closer friendships and build relationships in support of our Frisco Fire firefighters and their families", has come to fruition!

Since our formation in October 2007 with 46 members, the ladies' of the FFWA have been busy! January started off in full "stride" as we joined the team "Courage Under Fire" and helped raise over \$4,000 by participating in the MDA Stride & Ride event held at Grapevine Mills Mall! This team was formed by member Mamie Woods whose brother, Calvin, lost his life to Muscular Dystrophy in his teens.

Some of our other fundraising activities have included a garage sale to raise funds for the auxiliary with a portion of the proceeds going to Frisco Family Service; a "Family Night" at a local bounce/laser tag party place where we raised over \$2,900 to benefit a local firefighter and his family as his wife battles cancer; and in May, some of our ladies were able to assist the association during their Fill-The-Boot campaign, where over \$40,000 was raised for MDA!

Our hospitalty committee, headed by Stacy Brown, has been busy this year as we have had numerous babies born within the fire department! We provide meals for births as well as deaths that occur within our "firefighter" family. We were also able to assist the McKinney auxiliary by providing support during the tragic loss of their brother, Richard Smith.

Each month, the ladies like to get together in a social setting to get to know one another better....in February we decided to invite our "sweeties" to come along and went bowling at the local Strikz. Love was in the air!

In addition to our monthly socials, we implemented "Dinner groups" to help promote closer friendships throughout the auxiliary. Participation is optional and those who sign up are grouped into 3-4 and must meet once during a 3 month period. This rotates every 3 months and has proven to be a GREAT way to get to know ladies you would otherwise not get a chance to know!

In December, Tony and Mamie Woods so graciously opened their home for our annual Christmas party! Fun times were had as the ladies exchanged gifts and the guys watched football and played ping-pong!

2009 will prove to be a busy year as well! We plan to kick-off with a meeting in January, along with Stride and Ride. We are also working on a website for the auxiliary! We are really excited about the formation of our auxiliary and looking forward to many years to come! A special thanks to the board for their dedication to making this auxiliary a success!

President: DeAnna Beck
 Vice-President: Amy Allen
 VP Hospitality: Stacy Brown
 VP Social: Mamie Woods
 VP Fundraising: Amy Valentin
 Secretary: Steffani Moskovitz
 Treasurer: Donna Walker

Until next time,
 Steffani Moskovitz, Secretary
 Auxiliary to the Frisco Firefighters Association, Local 3732

Hello, Hello from WACO

Here we are in a New Year and as busy as ever. In September we helped with the MDA Telethon and if you have not tried it, you must. The feeling you get when you get your first donation and then surprise you get a larger one. It is so much fun to see the seamy side of the TV station... We are all so proud of our JOANN BEENE; she received President Emeritus of the Auxiliary to the International Association of Fire Fighters at the International Convention. This may have already been in a previous newsletter, but we are so proud of her.

In October we took goodies to the stations to remind the firefighters we are here for them. They are like our special small children and love cookies, brownies or whatever we take them to munch. We also helped with the Miracle Match Marathon. Just to think about the lives we might save if there were more chances for us to help someone somewhere have a better chance to life. It is rather awe inspiring isn't it.

Of course our fire fighters participate in blood drives and go in to the blood centers. It often remind my youngest son I am here thanks to someone who cared enough to donate blood to help me. Blood and gold cannot be made and believe me the blood is like liquid gold and by lots of folks a hunk of Fort Knox. It is a difficult feeling to express the need for and the use of blood a stranger has added to your life. THANKS. Okay off my soapbox now.

We got our goodies together at the training station and filled nine (9) boxes for our annual Shoe Box Christmas. We munched on salad and packed and repacked the boxes. You know this is a feeling too of knowing you did something not locally, but far far away and way way afar and you don't know how many lives we touched. What we take for granted, they may have never even seen. You know we do good work!!!!!!!!!!!! All of the Auxiliaries make a difference and new know where it might happen.

We had our annual Chinese Christmas Party and had six (6) members and children at the home of Shelane and David Sauer. She is our New President. We took finger foods munched and unwrapped packages or stole from another person. It did get quite comical at points. We wrapped packages for Barnes and Noble, seems like we really did well. However due to not being able to meet in January, we will get final figures at this month's meeting. Personally I think we did rather well. I was confined to a wheelchair with a fractured pelvis as I fell while "Pole Dancing" (ha ha gracefully sat down). Believe me it is not fun to fix the fanny. Best close and get this to Beth to transmit.

Hope the New Year has been good to you and your families to this date and may it continue to do so. Personally, I just want to get up and walk without pain. It will just take time is what I was told. I have valentines for my stations and get to go stick heart lolly pops to them for my group of firefighters.

See ya later.

Respectfully submitted,
Loucene Harris, 3rd VP Waco

AUXILIARY TO THE TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTER'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Originated Aug. 1958

Revised Mar. 1975, Sept. 1978, July 1991, July 1993, July 1997, July 1999, July 2003, Mar. 2006,
July 2007

ELIGIBILITY:

Eligibility applies to all children and stepchildren of members of the Auxiliary to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters and auxiliary members who are in good standing with the Texas State Auxiliary. The auxiliary member must have been a member for a minimum of one (1) year. The applicant's parent or spouse must be in good standing with the Texas Fire Fighters' Labor Union. If the applicant is an auxiliary member, the child or stepchild of a deceased or retired fire fighter, the parent or in the case of the applicant being an auxiliary member, the spouse, must have been in good standing with the Fire Fighters Labor Union.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

The applicant must be a graduating high school senior or have graduated from high school or have obtained a GED within the last two (2) years in which the scholarship is awarded. He or she must meet the admission requirements, academic and or otherwise, of the particular institution that the candidate plans to attend or is attending at the time of the application. If the applicant does not receive the scholarship, he or she may apply again within the two (2) year period, providing all requirements are met.

BASIS SELECTION:

1. The scholarship committee of the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, San Antonio, Texas will select a recipient on the basis of results of any standardized tests (such as but not limited to SAT and ACT), GED certificates, and high school and college transcript(s).
2. Letter of acceptance from the institution the applicant is applying to which will be due before scholarship money is to be mailed out.
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation from teacher, advisor, pastor, clergy, coach, scout leader or other affiliations.
4. A 250 word typed essay stating why education is important and the applicant's goal.
5. Community Service involvement (where and how many hours)

AMOUNT AND DISCRPTION:

Two (2) scholarships of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) each shall be given annually (one of which is in memory of Paul Kelly), for the purpose of providing assistance to qualified and worthy children and stepchildren of members of the Auxiliary to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters and/or auxiliary members that desire to further their education.

The scholarship is to be used at any accredited junior or senior college or university. It may also be applied at any accredited beauty, vocational, business or technical school. The amount is to be used only as needed for tuition, required fees, books, and supplies. The scholarship may be used only one time for each student to enter, or while in attendance at an accredited junior or senior college, university, beauty, vocational, business or technical school.

Should the recipient not use the full amount of the scholarship, the scholarship shall be canceled and void with the remaining amount reverting back to the Auxiliary to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters' Scholarship Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation.

APPLICATION:

The Auxiliary to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters will issue scholarship application forms to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters' local auxiliaries to all eligible applicants. Both the local fire fighters' union secretary and the local auxiliary secretary must sign each application.

Send results of any standardized test, letter of acceptance, high school and college transcript(s) and other required materials to the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

DEADLINE (APRIL 1st):

Applications must be returned along with the required materials no later than April 1, 2009. Notification to the winners and awarding of scholarships will be made in May. Applications should be mailed to:

MINNIE STEVENS PIPER FOUNDATION

Bexar County Scholarship Clearing House

ATTN: Fran Rabe

1250 NE Loop 410, Suite 810

San Antonio, TX 78209-1539

Phone: (210) 525-8494, ext. 21

Email: frabe@mspf.org

Also, please send a copy of your application to Scholarship Chair 1st Vice President of the Auxiliary to the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters:

Gia Robinson

1st Vice President ATSAFF

8017 Fallen Oak Lane

Texas City, TX 77591

HM: (409) 316-9516

Cell: (409) 771-2402

Email: Giabaux@yahoo.com

If you should have any questions, please feel free to call.

AUXILIARY TO THE TEXAS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTER'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Mr. /Mrs. / Miss _____
Last First Middle

Home Address: _____ Telephone :() _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Fire Fighter's Local : _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____ - _____ - _____

High School or GED Program attending/attended: _____

Parents' Names (if applicable): _____

Are your parents in favor of your attending college (if applicable)? _____

Name of Institution you plan to attend and for how long? Please explain: _____

Applicant's Signature

Texas Fire Fighter's Signature

(Parent/stepparent or Spouse)

Auxiliary Member's Signature

(Parent/stepparent or self)

The above candidate is eligible for consideration.

Auxiliary Secretary's Signature

Fire Fighter Union Secretary's Signature

ATSAFF DUES & SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT FORM

To be paid in full on an annual basis BY January 31st.

Auxiliary Name: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Local Number: _____

| Year 2008 | No. Members | Rate | Total \$ |
|-----------|-------------|------------|----------|
| January | X | 40 cents = | |
| February | X | 40 cents = | |
| March | X | 40 cents = | |
| April | X | 40 cents = | |
| May | X | 40 cents = | |
| June | X | 40 cents = | |
| July | X | 40 cents = | |
| August | X | 40 cents = | |
| September | X | 40 cents = | |
| October | X | 40 cents = | |
| November | X | 40 cents = | |
| December | X | 40 cents = | |

Total _____ Membership TOTAL \$ _____

Scholarship Donation

All auxiliaries shall make a donation each year to:

ATSAFF Scholarship.....Amount \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

President receives one copy.

Individual Members may also purchase ATSAFF newsletters cost \$5.00 a year

Send a list of names and addresses of those wanting their own copies with payments.

Newsletters..... @ \$5.00 each _____

Auxiliary ATSAFF Pins..... @\$5.00 each _____

Please Make All Checks Payable to: ATSAFF
Mail to: Joan Dubiel, Secretary-Treasurer ATSAFF
 8826 Black Horse Road
 Baytown, TX 77523
 Home 281-573-32385

Please remember that the updated **Officer List & Membership List** must be included with this form and your payment.

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| Office Use | | | |
| check # | Rec'd | check date | deposited |

ATSAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR
NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. At each State Convention, an Auxiliary member will be recognized as the ATSAFF Member of the Year.
2. Nominations are made by the local Auxiliary in resume form stating all qualifications of the nominee. The resume is to be submitted by the local Auxiliary with a letter of recommendation signed by the President and Secretary of that Auxiliary. Each Auxiliary is limited to one nominee per convention.
3. The Member of the Year will be selected by a committee of three persons appointed by the 2nd Vice-President. The committee will be comprised of individuals from outside the state who are knowledgeable of the purpose and value of Auxiliary membership to the fire service.
4. Current state officers are not eligible.
5. Resume must be limited to three 8 ½" x 11" typed, double spaced sheets.
6. The nominee's name, the Auxiliary name or city of the Auxiliary member shall not be used in the resume.
7. An individual may receive the Member of the Year award only once, but there is no limit to the number of times a member may be nominated.
8. **The following must be received by the ATSAFF 2nd Vice-President no later than June 1st.**
 - a. One cover sheet that includes the nominee's name, the Auxiliary name, the City and Local number
 - b. Five copies of the resume
 - c. The resume should contain the following information:
 - Years of service in the Auxiliary
 - Offices held and Committee assignments
 - Community service
 - Outside activities – not connected to the Auxiliary
 - Any outstanding accomplishments which may distinguish the nominee as a member worthy of receiving this award.

Send to:

MEARA SABALA, ATSAFF 2nd Vice-President
6118 Killarmet Circle
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
mearasabala@yahoo.com
361-852-7842

ARTICLE VII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1- President It shall be the duty of the President:

To preside at all regular meetings and all Executive Committee meetings.

2. To appoint all necessary committees, except those stipulated by these By-laws.

Act as an ex-officio member of all committees.

To co-sign all checks of the treasury when mandated to do so by the State Auxiliary.

To call a meeting of the Executive Board Committee, when necessary, by notifying each officer and Auxiliary in writing ten (10) days prior to the meeting date.

To make a biennial report during the State Auxiliary Convention.

The President, by virtue of office, shall serve as a delegate to the Convention of the Auxiliary to the International Association of Fire Fighters. The expenses of the President to the State Convention shall be paid upon presentation of a State Auxiliary itemized expense form.

Section 6: The President, First Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall administer the Scholarship Fund. It shall be their duty to seek the greatest return of income.

The above is just a brief description of what the President's responsibilities are. Here is a short outline of what other duties are included.

Submit articles to each ATSAFF Newsletter (3 per year)

Submit articles to each TSAFF Newsletter (4 per year)

Correspond with Auxiliaries as needed

Correspond with Local w/o Auxiliaries (for leads on new auxiliaries)

Welcome new Locals to introduce State Auxiliary/new lead

Welcome new Auxiliary; attend meeting if possible, present Charter

Check Web Site and provide up-to-date information

Serve on Stonecutters Award Committee

PLAN STATE CONVENTION TO COINCIDE WITH TSAFF

Contact speakers, select speakers gift

Appreciation gifts for TSAFF Officer's

Contact MDA staff for MDA Breakfast

Arrange ATSAFF Breakfast

Appoint Committees/Chairman's, Chaplain & Sergeant-at-Arms

Set-up Meeting Room

Set-up Registration Table

Set-up Raffle Table during registration/convention

Convention Notebooks

Work w/all officers on planning convention

Work with host Local and Auxiliary

At the end of convention compile information obtained from each auxiliary and create report to send to ATSAFF Officers, each auxiliary and TSAFF Officers as to what all the state auxiliaries' accomplishments were for the past two years.

ARTICLE VII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 2- First Vice President The duties of the First Vice President shall include:
 Management of the Auxiliary Scholarship.
 Management of all Legislative activities.
 Parliamentarian.
 Presentation of a biennial report during the State Auxiliary Convention.

If the Second Vice President is unable to publish a newsletter, the First Vice President shall publish it.

Section 6: The President, First Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall administer the Scholarship Fund. It shall be their duty to seek the greatest return of income.

The above is just a brief description of what the First Vice President's responsibilities are. Here is a short outline of what other duties are included.

As Management of the Auxiliary Scholarship:

Send out Scholarship Applications

2. Work along with Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation regarding scholarship applicants.
3. Submit applicants to Secretary to assure eligibility.
4. Notify scholarship recipient
5. Send plaque and certificate to recipient
6. Notify Executive Board of scholarship recipient
7. Notify Auxiliaries of scholarship recipient

As Management of the Legislative activities:

Work with Legislators on Fire Fighters Issues

Keep Auxiliaries up-to-date on legislative issues

Contact Legislators to speak during convention

As Parliamentarian:

Parliamentarian at convention

Additional duties:

1. Submit articles to each ATSAFF Newsletter (3 per year)
- Correspond with Auxiliaries as needed
 Correspond with Local without Auxiliaries (for leads on new auxiliaries)
 Welcome new Auxiliary; attend meeting if possible, present Charter
 Provide up-to-date information for Web Site

WORK WITH PRESIDENT ON PLANNING STATE CONVENTION TO COINCIDE WITH TSAFF.

Purchase a gift for the President.

ARTICLE VII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 3- Second Vice President The duties of the Second Vice President shall include:

Reporter

Public Relations

Historian

Shall be Awards Chairman

Responsible for the Member of the Year Award and Report Awards.

Presentation of a biennial report during the State Auxiliary Convention

The Second Vice President shall also be responsible for compiling, editing and publishing a newsletter composed of news sent by the Executive Committee and by Local Auxiliaries, plus any appropriate legislative material that might be available. The newsletter will be published every February, June, and October. The three deadline dates for submissions of articles will be published in each newsletter. If the Second Vice President is unable to publish a newsletter, the First Vice President shall publish it.

The above is just a brief description of what the Second Vice President's responsibilities are. Here is a short outline of what your actual duties are.

As the Reporter those duties include:

Submit articles to each ATSAFF Newsletter (3 per year)

Contact Locals/TSAFF Officer's/Auxiliaries for Articles in Newsletters

Send Newsletter to all auxiliaries, ATSAFF Officer's, TSAFF Officer's and President of AIAFF

As a member of the Stonecutters Award TSAFF Committee:

Form Auxiliary Committee

Research past auxiliary members for consideration

Submit names to TSAFF Committee

Attend meetings to select Stonecutter awards

Make hotel reservations for award winner or family of award winner.

As Awards Chairman:

Send out information to auxiliaries on Reports and MOY

Form judging committee for MOY

Select and purchase necessary trophies, certificates and/or gifts for winner of MOY and scrap-books

Present Awards to Member Of The Year and Reports at luncheon

As Historian duties include:

Update and maintain the State Scrapbook

Additional duties include:

Correspond with Auxiliaries as needed

Correspond with Local without Auxiliaries (for leads on new auxiliaries)

Welcome new Auxiliary; attend meeting if possible, present Charter as needed

Provide up-to-date information for Web Site as needed

WORK WITH PRESIDENT ON PLANNING STATE CONVENTION TO COINCIDE WITH TSAFF

ARTICLE VII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 4- Third Vice President The duties of the Third Vice President shall include:
Ways and Means Chairman.

Presentation of a biennial report during the State Auxiliary Convention.

The Third Vice President shall place all proceeds from raffles into the general fund.

The above is just a brief description of what the First Vice President's responsibilities are. Here is a short outline of what other duties are included.

As Ways and Means Chairman:

Responsible for **ALL** Ways and Means projects
Large Raffle

During last quarter of year prior to convention send out letters to businesses requesting raffle items for convention

Follow-up letter to businesses on raffle items

February/March send letters to auxiliaries concerning raffle items (large and daily)

Keep current "Raffle List" on Web Site

Pre-sale raffle contest

Post ticket prices

Work with officer's to decide prize for pre-sales contest

Drawing for raffle items and deliver to winners

Keep list of winners and post on Web Site

Thank you letters to businesses for raffle items

During Convention give daily reports for Large Raffle, Daily Raffle and HolyBears

Count money each day, sign-off and turn money over to Secretary/Treasurer or President to be kept in Safe Deposit Box at convention hotel

Work with officer's on design of new HolyBear

Contact Burn Camps for information

Select Committee to elect Burn Camp for donation

Additional duties:

Submit articles to each ATSAFF Newsletter (3 per year)

Correspond with Auxiliaries as needed

Correspond with Local w/o Auxiliaries (for leads on new auxiliaries)

Welcome new Auxiliary; attend meeting if possible, present Charter

Provide up-to-date information for Web Site

WORK WITH PRESIDENT ON PLANNING STATE CONVENTION TO COINSIDE WITH TSAFF

Section 5- Secretary-Treasurer The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

Maintain a membership roll of each Local Auxiliary, receive all dues, and keep a record of all money received and expended.

The books shall be in balance at all time and ready for submission and for audit if needed by a committee appointed by the President.

The sum of \$25.00 shall be allotted the Secretary-Treasurer for petty cash.

The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for maintaining all Auxiliary funds in an interest bearing account.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be furnished bond in the amount of at least \$500.00. The premium will be paid from the treasury.

Shall send each State Officer and each Auxiliary in good standing an annual financial statement of the scholarship fund.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall supply each Auxiliary in good standing with the delegate credential forms to be submitted prior to the call of each convention.

Presentation of a biennial report during the State Auxiliary Convention.

Section 6: The President, First Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall administer the Scholarship Fund. It shall be their duty to seek the greatest return of income.

The above is just a brief description of what the Secretary-Treasurer's responsibilities are. Here is a short outline of what other duties are included

Additional duties include:

1. Submit articles to each ATSAFF Newsletter (3 per year)
2. Keep a current Membership & Officer roll for each auxiliary
3. Correspond with Auxiliaries as needed
4. Correspond with Local without auxiliaries (for leads on new auxiliaries)
5. Welcome new Auxiliary; attend meeting if possible, present Charter
6. Keep current Dues Binder that lists the status of each auxiliary, with a current President and Treasurer to provide to Officers when needed.
Information kept: addresses, phone numbers and e-mails addresses.
7. January collect Dues and Scholarship donations
8. Notify auxiliary if they become past due.
 - a. Notify auxiliary when delinquent one (1) year by notice going to the Local President – Auxiliary President – Auxiliary Treasurer.
 - b. When an auxiliary becomes two (2) years delinquent they are suspended and a letter is sent stating that their charter needs to be surrender to the Secretary-Treasurer.
 - c. If an auxiliary request to be reinstated and is approved. They will need to fill out a rein statement form and pay \$10.00 fee. Secretary-Treasurer will notify auxiliaries of the rein statement.
9. Keep all accounts current and balanced.
General Checking
Scholarship Checking
Scholarship CD
Bear Burn Camp Checking
10. Have ALL checks countersigned by the president.
11. Prepare the official ATSAFF Charter
 - a. Receive charter money update ATSAFF records for both Secretary and Treasurer Files. Notify all the officers. Send copies to the President.
12. January prepare and send each Officer and Auxiliary President financial statements for the year.
13. January send out financial statements to the Scholarship Committee (President – First Vice

President – Secretary-Treasurer). As the CD matures make any changes needed. Fund scholarships given EACH year.

14. Attend Executive Board meetings
15. Chaplain duties are the responsibility of this office between conventions

WORK WITH PRESIDENT ON PLANNING STATE CONVENTION TO COINCIDE WITH TSAFF

Work with other officer's and HolyBear contact to make changes for new HolyBear and place order prior to convention.

Have books ready for audit at the time of convention

At the close of each day receive cash for daily raffle, large raffle and HolyBear sales from 3rd Vice President, and sign-off in convention notebook. Keep all money in Safe Box at convention hotel.

Receive a copy of each motion made during convention

Read Convention Rules on 1st day of convention, make motion to adopt Convention Agenda and motion to adopt Officer's Reports that are enclosed in Notebook.

Disburse officer's expenses at convention

7. CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

- a. Check Credentials against current ATSAFF membership list
- b. Confirm number of delegates & alternates from membership list
- c. Confirm Endorsement for Office
- c. Furnish Credential Committee a list of all current auxiliaries with number of members, officer's and member's list

8. Convention Call mailing to be mailed by May 1st

- a. Delegate and Alternate forms
- b. Endorsement for Office
- c. Form for Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms during convention

9. By-laws changes

- a. Submit any By-laws – received by the Executive Board.
- b. By-laws changes submitted by auxiliaries send a copy to the President and Second Vice President for the May newsletter

10. Handle all money received at convention writing receipts for cash to place money in correct accounts.

11. Submit biennial report along with Financial Statements for all accounts

12. Minutes Chairman

- a. Take notes during each session
- b. Conduct meeting at the close of each day to draft Minutes
- c. Type Minutes for the committee to approve at next meeting
- c. Compile each days minutes for the final draft on the final day of convention for each member of the Minutes Committee to sign off approved.
- e. Keep copy of all drafts (corrected drafts) and approved minutes from each day in the notebook. Keep copy of approved minutes signed off by each committee member in notebook.
- f. Return committee notebook to President after committee signs off on the final draft of the convention Minutes.
- g. At the close of convention send draft of Minutes to the President for approval. Upon approval send each auxiliary a copy of the minutes.

13. Disburse officer's expenses at convention

14. Prepare a certificate and check to present to host auxiliary from previous convention. Check is made payable to IAFF Burn Foundation for \$35.00 donated in the name of the auxiliary.

15. During convention work with Audit – Scholarship – Ways & Means Committees when needed.

AUXILIARY REPORT INFORMATION

The purpose of the Auxiliary report is to provide statistical data to the State and International Auxiliaries, and to provide a means for sharing and learning from one another. Remember there is no competitive nature of the reports. We need each and every Auxiliary to submit their report regardless of whether or not they send delegates to the Convention each year. There will be no places awarded. There will be no completion for hours worked. The size of your Auxiliary will have no bearing on the meaning behind the statistical data of your reports. We want to see the reports used as the Learning Tool they were intended to be!

The Executive Board of the ATSAFF will study the reports and look for interesting and unusual but effective methods that have been used to further the goals of the Fire Service and the Community. Those auxiliaries may be asked to speak to the Convention about their fundraisers or their event that brought the recognition. We will also recognize one Auxiliary for their outstanding commitment based on those ideas and premises. This Auxiliary will have their state dues paid by the ATSAFF for one year just for sharing their report and being recognized for their special effort. We all have something to share or we wouldn't exist to start with. Your participation and sharing helps make it possible for another Auxiliary to find new success in their organization. Think about it!

Reports should be kept as brief as possible and still cover all of your activities. The activity should only be reported once (with the exception of Ways and Means). This report will cover the two (2) year period prior to the State Convention. You may choose your own start and end dates. Just be sure you cover 24 months.

All reports should be compiled as follows:

Cover Page – This should include the name of the Auxiliary, the number of members, number of honorary members, meeting date, time and place of meetings, when your Auxiliary was organized and annual dues paid by each member

Activity Categories:

1. **PUBLIC SERVICE** – To include all Muscular Dystrophy projects, hospital and charitable endeavors
2. **UNION/DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE** – To include activities within and for the Union and/or Fire Department and Benevolence within the department.
3. **PUBLIC RELATIONS** – To include all news articles, all public events and all safety and fire prevention projects
4. **LEGISLATIVE** – To include all Local, State, and Federal projects. This included anything you did that helped in any political campaign backed by your local.
5. **AUXILIARY PROGRAMS** – To include all programs presented at Auxiliary meetings. Tell us what you do at your meetings; speakers you have had, and projects you might have covered.

6. **WAYS AND MEANS** – Include all money making projects for any purpose.

By June 1st , one copy of the report should be sent to:
MEARA SABALA, ATSAFF 2ND Vice-President
6118 Killarmet Circle
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
mearasabla@yahoo.com
361-852-7842

SCRAPBOOKS

Scrapbooks will not be judged but are encouraged as this is another learning tool for other Auxiliaries. It is a great way to show your accomplishments and to show the pride of your Auxiliary.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Meara Sabala

Eighty-first Legislative Session Begins in Austin

Just as one political season ends, another one is starting up. Though your efforts we were able to make historic changes for the direction of our country this past general election and now it is on to the business at hand. This new year begins with it the hope that we can repair our broken economy and rebuild the tarnished reputation of our great nation. But our political leaders cannot do it alone. It is up to all of us together, beginning at the grassroots level, and getting involved in our local politics to make changes happen. Are you up to the challenge?

On Tuesday, January 13th several fire fighters from around the State ventured to Austin for the opening of the 81st State Legislative Session. Fire fighters will also be returning to Austin for Fire Fighter Appreciation Day at the State Capital on April 1st and 2nd. This will also be another good opportunity to meet with your Representative and Senators to give them input on the issues important to fire fighters and their families. There are several bills we hope to see passed this session including presumptive illness legislation for fire fighters who contract hepatitis C and MRSA. I will provide more of an update on the progress of bills that are working their way through in the next newsletter.

Locally there are many city councils and mayoral elections coming up. You are all encouraged to organize and/or attend political candidate forums and educate yourselves on the issues, especially the ones that affect your careers and livelihood. Find out which candidates support your issues and make contributions to local PAC funds. Do block walks for your candidates and work the polls on election day. There are many ways we can get involved locally.

2007—2009 ATSAFF Officers

President

Beth Nichols
1410 Kilgore lane
Waco, TX 76705
254-709-0260
nich478aux@hotmail.com

1st Vice President

Gia Robinson
8017 Fallen Oak Ln.
Texas City, TX 77591
409-9080469
409-7657633
giarobaux@sbcglobal.net

2nd Vice President

Meara Sabala
6118 Killarmet Circle
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
361-852-7842
361-877-0352
mearasabala@yahoo.com

3rd Vice President

Kelli Tucker
P.O. Box 966
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
512-894-0840
512-587-0413
kellituckera975@cs.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Joan Dubiel
8826 Black Horse Rd.
Baytown, TX 77520
281-573-3285
713-252-7857
d1hopfast@aol.com

**ATSAFF
Website**

www.atsaff.org

Newsletter Deadlines

May 30, 2009

September 30, 2009

January 30, 2010

Upcoming Events

FIRE FIGHTER DAY

AT THE CAPITOL

April 2nd, 2009

Austin, Texas

ATSAFF 41st.

Biennial Convention

July 12—17, 2009

Richardson, Texas