

AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL

Serving Federal Firefighters through Knowledge and Strength



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MEMBERS OF AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL ATTEND DOD's WORLD-WIDE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CONFERENCE, ATLANTA, GA

CEO – Program and Policy, Tina Bryant; 5th District North Regional Liaison Bobby Clark, 5th District South Co-Regional Liaisons Greg Warren and Brandon Luckado, 12th District Regional Liaison Tony Simpson, and Legal Counsel Sandy Choate were amongst the 1,500 fire and emergency services personnel who attended DoD's World-Wide Fire and Emergency Services Training Conference held August 22-26, at the Hilton Atlanta, GA.

By splitting up, they were able to cover as many of the Service Component Sessions as were possible obtaining valuable information as well as having an opportunity to discuss some of the Council's primary concerns.

Tina, Tony, Bobby and Sandy participated with other members of the Navy's Well/Fitness Initiative Task Force in show-casing the work of the Committee. The presentation was accomplished by way of an "Improv Theater Production" that told the audience how the Task Force had accomplished its work. The production (without rehearsal) set a light mood for the very serious topic and it was well attended by those who want to see resolution of a viable Physical Fitness/Wellness program for DoD firefighters.

Sandy attended the Army Day General Session. The keynote speakers included the budget guru's who explained, in-depth, the budget process for Army Fire and Emergency Services. It was an eye-opener and should lead to much more accurate requests and funding in the future.

Tony and Tina attended both the Navy and Marine Corps General Sessions where much focus was placed on Regionalization and staffing.

The culmination of each year's conference is the Annual Awards Banquet. It is a formal affair and an impressive ceremony with the posting of the colors, the Service Component songs, the National Anthem, and the Fallen Firefighter Ceremony. Guest Speaker, Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent, National Fire Academy enlightening remarks preceded the actual awards. The DoD winners in the various categories are chosen from amongst those who were individual service component winners. In was especially great to see that many of the winners were Fire Departments or individuals at Departments where the firefighters were members of an AFGE bargaining unit including: Mr. Karl A. Schultz, Civilian Firefighter of the Year, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK (AFGE L-1101), Assistant Chief Paul Purdy, Civilian Fire Officer of the Year, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, CA (AFGE L-

1482), Captains Peter Wolf and Tracy O'Bryan, Firefighter Heroism Award, Fort Carson, CO (AFGE L-1345) and Chief Jesse Halterman, Assistant Chief Damien Johnston, Firefighters Steven Beecham, Christopher Bowlan, John Brigman, Brett Stokes, LL, Mark Skipper, Jimmy Higgins and Christopher Dindl, Naval Support Activity Mid South, TN (AFGE L-1698).

The Council hopes that more AFGE firefighters will be able to attend the Awards Banquet next year on August 3, 2012 in Denver.