

AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL

Serving Federal Firefighters through Knowledge and Strength



80 F. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

CEO Administration: James Hill
CEO Policy/Program: Tina Bryant
Legal Counsel: Sandra Adams-Choate

February 6, 2011

MEMBERS OF AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTEND DEFCON 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

CEO – Program and Policy, Tina Bryant; Eastern US At-Large Regional Liaison Fred Kraft; 12th District Regional Liaison Tony Simpson were amongst the firefighters who attended the DEFCON 2011 Annual Meeting.

DEFCON is “an advisory body empowered to make recommendations to the AFGE National President.” Its membership consists of Locals that voluntarily decide to “...become a participant in DEFCON.” (Taken from DEFCON’s Articles of Procedure.) This year’s meeting began with breakout session for the purpose of electing Chairs and Co-Chairs for DEFCON’s non-Council Caucus. Following the breakout sessions, the group reconvened in Plenary Session at which time Chair Don Hale announced DEFCON’s intention to create working groups: one for law enforcement officers and security guards; a second for medical professionals and a third for firefighters. The stated reason for these working groups was to build better communications. Mr. Hale emphasized that each working group should decide how it wanted to function and in what way it wanted to establish communications. Those in attendance then moved to breakout session for each of three proposed working groups.

There were representatives from about 16 locals that attended the firefighter working group breakout session plus several NVP’s and other interested persons. Art Murtha was selected as Chair for this working group and Tina Bryant was elected co-chair. After discussion, the group unanimously agreed upon its purpose and structure with a short document written to memorialize the decision and to present at Sunday’s Plenary Session. It is as follows:

DEFCON Firefighter Working Group

February 5, 2011

Chair – Art Murtha/DEFCON Liaison

Vice Chair – Tina Bryant/AFGE Firefighters Council

Purpose of the working group is to facilitate and improve communication between DEFCON and the Firefighters Council. It is not the objective of the DEFCON Firefighter Working Group to interfere with the business Firefighter Council.

Tasked with:

1. Identifying Locals with Firefighters

*completed by Firefighters Council identifying 104 DoD Locals with firefighters. Information will be forwarded to the Working Group Chair. Information is also available on the Firefighter Council website.

2. Identifying firefighter issues

* DOD firefighter issues identified by DEFCON will be forwarded to the Firefighter Council for discussion and input then sent back to the Firefighter Working Group Chair. DOD firefighter issues raised with the Firefighter Council will be addressed by the Firefighter Council and forwarded to the Firefighter Working Group Chair..

3. Improving communications and involvement of Local Presidents with DoD firefighters.

* we will collectively compile a list of contact information of the Firefighter Working Group members and Firefighter Council Executive Board members and make available to Local Presidents

The meeting afforded an excellent opportunity for members of the AFGE Firefighters Council to meet with Local President's, members and other groups and it was a particular reward for all who attended to be told personally by those from places as widely separated as Alaska, California, Alabama, etc. how much they appreciate the many various efforts (organizing and membership, legislative, informational and educational, communications, etc.) that the FF Council consistently undertakes for the betterment of all AFGE Firefighter members.