

AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL

Serving Federal Firefighters through Knowledge and Strength



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WELCOME LOCAL 1035 GOODFELLOW AFB FIREFIGHTERS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO LP RAY CANTU, 10TH DISTRICT WEST REGIONAL LIAISON JAMES HILL, AND LOCAL LIAISON OLIN MALONE

The AFGE Firefighters Council's CEO for Administration, James Hill, joined with the new Local 1035 President, Ray Cantu, and AFGE Firefighter Council Local Liaison, Olin Malone to host a Lunch and Learn at the Goodfellow AFB Fire Department. The event was a smashing success!

The story behind gaining almost 100% membership in the Fire Department tells a lot about AFGE's newest members as well as it evidences the great support firefighters can obtain from the Firefighters Council.

The firefighters at Goodfellow were more than frustrated just a few months ago. They knew that AFGE was the union that held the recognition there but they were not able to contact anyone in the Local. Finally, in August, Olin Malone made a phone call to the AFGE Firefighters Council's attorney, Sandra Adams-Choate, not only requesting help but indicating that the firefighters wanted to be involved. Olin agreed to serve as the Local Liaison and Sandy indicated she would have James Hill, 10th District West Regional Liaison, contact them as soon as possible and she would attempt to find out what the situation was with the Local. Within one hour of that first phone call, James and Olin talked. The Local was in fact, under Trusteeship but with Olin serving as the Local Liaison and James helping him out, the firefighters got answers to some of their questions and began to realize that they were not alone—that many of the questions they had could be addressed by the Council.

Within just a few weeks, Ray Cantu President of Local 1035 agreed to fold the former Goodfellow bargaining unit including the firefighters, into Local 1035. Things were up and running. A lunch and learn was scheduled and James traveled from Ft. Hood to be there with Local President Cantu and Local Liaison Olin Malone. The reception was wonderful and the firefighters were enthusiastic. James and Ray answered a lot of questions but there are still numerous major issues that need to be addressed. Ray pledged the Local's support and James pledged the support of the AFGE Firefighters Council. As a result, it will only be a short time before AFGE and AFGE Firefighter Council membership cards are issued to almost every single firefighter.

Welcome Goodfellow firefighters and congratulations to all! We look forward to working with you and having you as active members of the Firefighter Council.