

# 1<sup>st</sup> District Report - January, 2012

**SAFER FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE TO LOCALS-** AFTER Congress has approved the \$742 Million Dollar Grant for Safer Funding for FY 2011 & 2012; we now must turn our attention to assisting locals with the application process. The \$405 million dollars allocated for the FY 2011 grants is waiting on the final stages of processing and review before the applications are released by FEMA. We believe the approval is imminent and the process period is just around the corner. A IAFF NEWS BLAST will notify you as soon as we know the date the applications will be released.

As you know the Safer Grants assist with Layoffs, pending layoffs, attrition and staffing shortages. There are no retention requirements which in the past hampered the cities from agreeing to this free money. The Grants will provide full salary and fringe benefits for 2 years at no cost to the municipality. The cities must apply and no IAFF affiliate can apply on their own. However during the 2010 round of Safer applications the IAFF worked collaboratively with municipalities, fire chiefs, City Officials and our affiliates to provide successful applications in 90% of the applications reviewed.

In this the 2011 round, our Administrative Grant Director will be available to assist our Local leaders as well as staff to field questions and phone calls on putting the applications together properly.

Any local who may have experienced layoffs or know there will be layoffs in the near future or who have lost members through attrition or are short manpower can reach out to our Grant Director Jennifer Stewart at 1-202-824-8631.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to keep your manpower up and your safety enhanced. A grant application get ready guide will also be available from FEMA by calling the help desk at 1-866-274-0960.

**Congress increases funding for USAR Teams-** The new USAR appropriations from Congress is now \$41.25 million dollars an increase of over \$6 million, making it one of the very few programs receiving a funding boost for FY 2012. It is part of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The 28 USAR teams are funded locally by their respective local governments and these additional monies will go a long way in relieving much of the burden currently being absorbed locally. Our teams have responded to numerous significant disasters in recent years including tornadoes, hurricanes and catastrophic structure collapses as well as to the Japanese Tsunami and the Haiti Earthquake.

**AT&T UNION DISCOUNTS-** AT&T has offered our members significant discounts and are available through AT&T Local and Long Distance programs with savings available for Internet, video and web conferencing and other communications technology services. This program was established through the efforts of the AFL/CIO and will assist to make your members and your locals dues go farther. Go on the IAFF website for more details.

**ALTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE-** WILL BE HELD IN Buena Vista Florida beginning Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> with the H.R. conference starting on 1/22 and the Leadership Training summit following it on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see many of our leadership, especially our newer leaders at these all important events.

**UPCOMING EVENTS-** The Alfred K. Whitehead Legislative Conference will be held March 25<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. For more Details please look for this info on our IAFF Website.

The 51<sup>st</sup> I.A.F.F. International Convention will be held In Philadelphia, Pa. from July 21<sup>st</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>. Any Union leader who has never attended one of these Bi-Annual Events should make every effort to try and attend this important event. There

will be over 2500 of your brother and sister Union members in attendance and they will all be voting on issues affecting the future of this Great International as well as items of interest and concern for you and your membership. If you only choose one event to attend this year, this is the one you should attend. The IAFF Convention is by far the best and most invigorating union event I have ever attended. There is further information on our IAFF website and I am hoping that we have a great turnout for this, my final Convention as your 1<sup>st</sup> District Vice President.

I'd like to wish each and every one of you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year and I hope this year brings us a more improved position economically, so there won't be a need for any more cuts in the Fire service . Stay Safe and I am available to address any issues you or your locals may be facing. Feel free to contact me by e-mail or by telephone and I will respond at my earliest convenience.

I WILL SUBMIT THIS AS MY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2012

Fraternally,

Kevin Gallagher

IAFF 1<sup>st</sup> District Vice President