

THE NICKEL LINE

Caring for our Firefighters for over 100 years!



SUMMER 2021 EDITION

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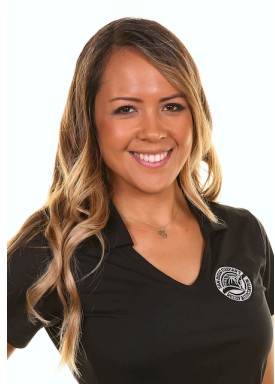
Want to be featured in our next newsletter?

San Diego Fire Relief Association
10509 San Diego Mission Road
Suite F
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Our Dedicated Staff



Marisa Nunes
**Manager of
Operations
SDFRA**

2



Amber DeBartolo
**Member Engagement
& Claims
Representative
SDFRA**



Susan LaNier
**Accountant
SDFRA**



Sara Berns
**Executive Director
of SDFRA &
FirefighterAid**



Gabby Rockwell
**Community
Engagement
Representative
FirefighterAid**

Board of Directors



Brandt Truver
President



Arnell Garcia
Vice President



Kelly Doan
Treasurer



Geof Cummings
Secretary



Dan King
Board Director



Kenneth Barnes
Board Director



Sean Brambir
Board Director



John Brubaker
Board Director



Ben Vernon
Board Director



Corey Teng
Board Director



Jeff Williams
Board Director



Jon Handley
Trustee



Lorraine Hutchinson
Trustee



Jeff Carle
Trustee

We're dedicated to you, your families, your profession, and our community.

Letter from the President



SDFRA Members,

Once again, I find myself writing to you amid change; this past year and a half have been a time of almost constant change. We as firefighters have experienced this on such a large scale as the COVID-19 pandemic changed virtually everything about the way we do business. 1 in - 3 out on medical aids, there have been twice a day station and apparatus decon, no multi company drills, and socially distant promotional ceremonies. Now we know that firefighters only hate two things: change and the way things are, and while these changes are not what any of us would have wished for, we accepted them, adapted, and continued protecting our fellow citizens.

The most recent change has been the vote of the membership to change this organization's name to the San Diego Fire Relief Association. I want to say publicly that this is by far one of the best and most positive changes we as a membership have ever accomplished. Not only does this change allow us to partner with the department, but it also makes all our members feel like this organization fully represents them. So, from the entire SDFRA team, thank you for meeting the moment and passing this much-needed initiative.

I want to take a moment to address the notion of tradition regarding our name. The name has never been our tradition; our tradition is caring for each other and those we leave behind. This past year has been a great example of that; we assisted the families of four firefighters, one SDFRA member, and three active firefighters in San Diego county as they planned their loved one's funerals. We provided hundreds of meals and comfort bags to our members in isolation due to the pandemic. Now we have partnered with the department to offer asymptomatic COVID testing for our retirees. We would not be able to do any of these great things without the support of the membership, so thank you for your continued membership with SDFRA. Together we can continue to provide timely and much-needed support to our fire family.

As we move into what is sure to be a busy fire season, I hope that each of you can find time to do the things that you enjoy and get rest between shifts and deployments. Stay safe out there.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brandt Truver".

Brandt Truver, President

Executive Director Checking In



Hello everyone, I am happy to finally introduce myself. My name is Sara Berns, and I was hired as the Executive Director of SDFRA and FFAid at the turn of the new year. My background includes a Master's degree in social work with a specialization in community organization and program administration. I have spent the majority of my career in non-profit management and policy in a variety of settings including school districts, mental health, and most recently I spent the last 12 years working for a non-profit focused on small businesses and economic development. I've worked closely with all levels of government agencies and have a strong familiarity working alongside the City of San Diego.

As I was looking forward at "the next 10 years" and how I wanted to spend my energy, it was important to me that I get back to helping people more directly and align my experience with my values. I am thrilled that I was able to find this

position for an organization that fits those goals. When not at work you can find me spending time with my family and keeping up with my very active 4-year-old, Waylon. Like most people, I picked up a 2020 quarantine hobby of gardening. This spring I'm feeling confident enough to move past the tomato farmer phase and welcome any good gardening advice!

While starting a new position during a pandemic has been challenging, I spent a lot of time getting to know the organization, talented staff, and dedicated board members via a small square on my computer screen. I am looking forward to meeting many of you in person and at events as we head back to normalcy. Pending any changes to the public health order, we plan to open the office July 5th with normal business hours 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During the last 6 months, the office remained closed due to public health regulations, however we have stayed busy helping firefighters in isolation due to COVID-19 and upgrading our claims system to make receiving benefits more efficient for our members. Many members may not be aware in the 1970s the SDFRA Board purchased the building that our offices are in. It is a great source of passive income and much of this year has been spent working with our tenants to help them through the pandemic and managing to keep the building almost fully leased.

Of course, the biggest news of the last 6 months is our name change. With changing our name, it was an opportunity to update our logo with a little color. Look out for the new and improved SDFRA logo!

Moving forward into the latter half of the year, I hope to help our organization grow our programs. CAPP has been a huge success, but there is still much work to be done. We plan on spreading cancer prevention awareness beyond SDFD so that firefighters from all over the county know the "Three Cs" and know how to reduce their risk of contracting cancer.

We have also been on the forefront of the conversation regarding mental health services and giving our members the assistance they need to remain both physically and emotionally healthy. Through our Fire Family Services programs, we plan to grow new partnerships to develop the options and information for members who need mental health services. And of course, we will continue assisting fire families in their times of need.

I am excited to be part of an organization that at its core prioritizes helping one another and has the flexibility and resources to do so effectively. I am looking forward to bringing my skills to build on our mission. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Stay safe and healthy,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara Berns".

Sara Berns, Executive Director



Jeff Williams, Board Director

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as a board director for the San Diego Fire Relief Association. With an organization that has served our members for 114 years, my hope is that I can carry on the SDFRA's mission of providing assistance to our firefighters and families in their time of need. From a young age, I have always been drawn to the fire service. I joined the San Diego Fire Cadet program at the age of 16 and couldn't believe that becoming a firefighter could be a career. On October 13, 2001, I achieved my dream of becoming a San Diego City Firefighter by graduating from the 57th Fire Academy. Almost 20 years later, I feel honored to go into work everyday to work with my peers and serve the city I was born and raised in.

Family will always be my number one priority. My wife Aimee and I have two incredible kids, Bryce and Taylor. They continue to be an incredible source of inspiration for both Aimee and me. I believe it's important to have an organization such as the SDFRA that can positively impact our fire family. The personal stories that I have heard throughout the years have had a lasting effect on me. That's a big reason why I wanted to become a board director for the SDFRA. I hope to have a positive impact on our members and the organization through the coming years.



Lorraine Hutchinson, Trustee

I was honored to spend 25 years in the fire service, doing what I loved. Making a difference in people's lives, whether they were strangers on their worst day or firefighters who needed a little comfort or guidance. I believe it is important in work and life that people know not how much you know, but how much you care. Therefore, I am honored to serve as a trustee with the San Diego Fire Relief Association. When I was told that my job would be to support our firefighters and their families well, who would not want to do that? That's what I do, and it comes very naturally to me.

The San Diego Fire Relief Association supported me when I was diagnosed with breast cancer in a way that made me feel so very special. Now I get to give back by showing support and kindness to members of our fire family who are in need.

Since I don't know what the word "RETIREMENT" means, I continue to support firefighters through my position as the Fire Technology Director at Southwestern College. Helping others achieve the dream of becoming a firefighter while helping train firefighters for vacancies in various fire agencies makes my heart feel good.

I look forward to continuing my service to my Fire Family, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Jeff Carle, Trustee

I began my fire service career as a volunteer firefighter for the Poway Municipal Water District while still in high school. In 1975, I was hired by the Encinitas Fire Protection District, serving for five years. In 1980, I was hired by the SDFD and became a member of the SDFRA. I retired at the end of March 2012 and have enjoyed every day with my wife, Joi (she is also a retiree from SDFD!). We have five grandchildren, and we both look forward to traveling again and spending time with family.

I am looking forward to giving my service to care for our members of the SDFRA.



By: Jeff Williams



On October 13, 2001, I graduated from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's fire academy, ready to take the skills that our instructors taught us and apply them to the fire ground. We were excited to work at the various fire stations throughout the city and make a positive impact. We were hungry to fight fire and learn from the senior members of the SDFD. As a brand new probationary firefighter, I remember walking into Fire Station 14 at 0700 to relieve the off-going firefighter on Engine 14. As I placed my gear next to Engine 14, the senior firefighter came up to me and said I would be relieving him of duty on Truck 14. Not five minutes later, we got dispatched to a working apartment fire. I vividly remember riding on Truck 14 to the working structure fire, completely stressed out because I had not had a chance to look over the apparatus or even introduce myself to the crew. As we pulled up to the fire, I saw smoke coming from an apartment on the second floor. I got off the rig, located what I thought was my SCBA, and went to grab a tool. The Fire Captain on Truck 14 stopped

me in my tracks. He quickly took me aside and told me in his thirty plus years in the fire department; he had never had a firefighter take his SCBA. In an instant, I realized my mistake of taking the Fire Captain's SCBA, and I saw my reputation, career, and any chance of working at one of my dream stations come crashing down. Then the Fire Captain smiled, told me he was kidding, and said, "Let's go get to work." In this article, we will discuss fire ground leadership. My early experience with the fire captain really taught me about what makes great fire ground leadership including good communication, sound decision making, and trust. These characteristics are essential to fire ground leadership.

As I look back to the Fire Captains I have worked with over the years, I think about the traits and qualities that made them successful fire ground leaders. As a firefighter, I was fortunate to work with several senior Fire Captains at great firehouses throughout the city. As I reflect on the time that I worked with those fire officers, they shared many of the same qualities and traits that made them great leaders. They were all great communicators both on the fire ground and at the firehouse. They always provided their leader's intent, although usually with their style, so we always knew what was expected of us. Communication is an essential element for any fire company to be successful on the fire ground. Without proper communication from and within the team, a fire company can fail. Communication starts at the top, with Chief Officers quickly relaying their strategy and tactics and assigning them to incoming resources. Successful company officers then communicate the tactics they were assigned with clear and concise orders to their crews. Everyone must understand the leader's intent on the fire ground. Fire ground leadership and good communication come from all ranks, from firefighters working together stretching a hose line or forcing a door to an engineer locating a hydrant for a supply line.

Another trait that makes a successful fire ground leader is sound decision-making. Many of us have discussed the slides that we have from previous fires, classes, or training that we have attended. How do successful fire ground leaders make sound decisions? Most firefighters have developed or learned the risk management process. Leaders can quickly identify the immediate hazards on the fire ground through their situational awareness. Firefighters then assess the hazards, such as how the current fire dynamics of the structure fire are negatively affecting the building construction.

We also take into account risk versus gain. Is there a known rescue, or is the building abandoned? We then develop our control measures and make risk decisions. Over time, we develop and learn trigger points that tell us when we may need to change the strategy and tactics. This decision-making process is developed over time and experience. As leaders in the fire service and on the fire ground, we must constantly train and prepare our crew members for personal and professional growth. Sound decision-making happens on all levels of fire ground leadership. Many different aspects go into sound decision making from risk management to risk assessment. Every leader on the fire ground is conducting a decision, from the Chief Officers developing the strategy to company officers implementing the tactics to the firefighters making it happen.



Finally, trust is a critical component of fire ground leadership. You must have trust in your officers to communicate the sound decisions that will impact the incident. We have all heard the adage “trust is developed over a career and can be lost in a moment.” We build trust amongst each other, starting at the firehouse. Officers typically build trust with their crews through team-building training exercises such as hose lays, ventilation, and fire ground survival. Crews develop trust between each other by developing a playbook that outlines the roles and responsibilities amongst the crew members based on the incident. Understanding what each member’s role is on the fire ground helps to make any operation seamless. Once the playbook is established, the crew members will practice the plays through training, just as any successful sports team would do. If there is a lack of trust amongst the fire company members, it can have a dramatic and negative effect on the fire ground. Although we can’t prepare for everything that comes our way at a fire, we can create trust within the team by understanding each other’s expectations on the fire ground.

Many different traits can define fire ground leadership. Good communication, sound decision making, and trust are just a few traits of great leaders on the fire ground. Leadership on the fire ground comes from all ranks in the fire service, from the senior firefighter to the experienced fire engineer to the new company officer. Leadership is defined as a person who guides or directs a group. In the fire service, it is much more. We lean on our leaders to make tactical decisions based on their training and experience.

As I look back to the Fire Captain on Truck 14, I think of an officer with a brand-new probationary firefighter. That officer lowered the stress and excitement from a brand-new probationary firefighter, communicated a basic plan, and created trust within the team. That came from years of developing his risk management plan. Fireground leadership is essential to the success and safety of everyone on the fire ground.

91st Academy

By: Marisa Nunes



Keep it up SDFD 2nd to None, 91st Academy! February 20, 2021, was just the start of your career. It will not only change your life but the many others that you will impact during your careers in the fire service. We are looking forward to meeting you in a few more weeks on your final day of the academy and to congratulate and invite you to join the SDFRA membership.

SDFRA Academy Signup day is a chance for all cadets to join our fraternal organization. There are no dues owed the first year of membership. We work alongside the Local 145 to provide a tasty lunch with cool refreshments while we introduce what our membership has to offer its members. Our programs not only assist the firefighters, but also assist their families. In the past, we have had probationary firefighters utilize their benefits within the first year of their membership.

Member Services Update



First, I want to share my hope for the health and safety of our San Diego Fire-Rescue fire family. Our SDFRA team continues to show dedication and kindness during these extraordinary circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. These unprecedented times have been heartbreaking and taxing for us all. I would like to express my warmest thank you to you all for your willingness to continue as members. This organization has and will always be near and dear to my heart, and I have always wanted to give back to our SDFD firefighters. Growing up in the stations and seeing my father's crew become part of our family had such an impact on my life. Being able to connect and serve my fire family is such an honor.



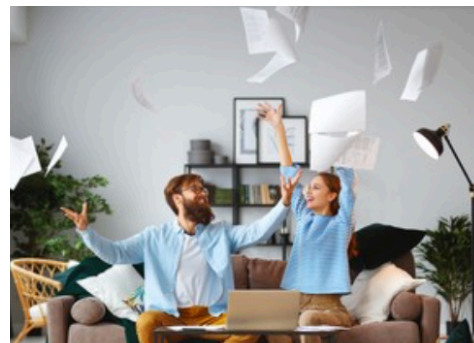
In 2020 and 2021, SDFRA focused on assisting, supporting, honoring, and remembering our firefighters in their times of need and helped families rebuild their lives. I am so grateful for all of your kindness, patience, and generosity shown by our membership. It has been a long time coming and we look forward to seeing our fire family in-person come July. We would like to extend a special thank you to the City of San Diego COVID-19 Vaccination Program and Retired Fire Captain Ron Moskowitz for helping the SDFRA get our retirees, widow(er)s, and their loved ones vaccinated.

When the pandemic hit last spring, we had no choice but to close the office to our membership. Our team has dedicated the last year and a half finalizing a now two year claim portal application for the membership. As you may have noticed on our website, under the Claim Portal tab is access to a new feature that will be released this summer. It will allow you as the member to submit claims online. It uses state-of-the-art encryption to protect your information, and our hope is that it allows for a quicker turnaround in receiving your reimbursement.



We hope that you will be pleasantly surprised at how streamlined the process has become. The different functions that we have uniquely created help answer what can be submitted for reimbursement and provides your claim benefit balances. The turnaround time used to be 2-3 weeks, but now it is 5-7 days. The reimbursement will come in the form of a check made out to the member and address on file.

We have received feedback that the process is quick and painless. We have even more good news, and that is if claims are submitted via the portal, the Reimbursement Claim form does not need to be filled out! We can already hear your excitement, because we are excited too! As for those who would like to continue to mail or fax us your claims, you are welcome to continue to do so, but we ask that you continue to utilize the form. As for emailed claims, they will no longer be available as the portal will be taking the place of the email option.



We are happy to set up a call or Zoom meeting to walk you through each step of the activation or submission process. If you have not received your activation link or have questions about the new system, the process of how to submit a claim, claim reimbursement benefits, or need to add a dependent, please contact Amber DeBartolo or myself, your Member Services team. We are happy to assist you with your needs.

Claim Portal Application Release

With our claim portal application release quickly approaching, we are excited to present an overview of the general online application. We want to make sure you have all the information you need to benefit from the new features. This includes how to activate your account, what can be reimbursed, your benefit balances, how to submit claims, and where you can explore more information.

Activation & Login

- An email will be sent to your email address on file. It will come from "Marisa Nunes" with the subject line, "Xinnect with San Diego Fireman's Relief Association."
- Please create a password and make a note of it for future use.
- Once activated, go to our SDFRA website and select the Claim Portal tab. Please bookmark the link for easy access to this information.

What can be reimbursed, and for who?

- Claim benefits are based on a calendar year and up to \$1,000 per member account for out-of-pocket expenses.
- Claims requests have to be in by the 183rd day from the date of service (DOS).

Scenario 1) Member account with dependents.

- Members are allowed up to \$400 on (doctor visits, co-payments, and prescriptions). Co-payments include massage and chiropractic.
- Dependents are allowed up to \$300 on (doctor visits, co-payments, and prescriptions).
- Flex Fund is shared amongst the family household up to \$300 on (vision, dental, up to \$50 for home/auto, or up to \$50 for gym).

Scenario 2) Member-only on the account.

- Members are allowed up to \$700 on (doctor visits, co-payments, and prescriptions). Co-payments include massage and chiropractic.
- Flex Fund is allowed up to \$300 on (vision, dental, up to \$50 for home/auto, or up to \$50 for gym).

Benefit Year Balance

- Once logged in, select "create."
- Midway down the page, you will see "Remaining Benefit Balance (at the time of submission)."
- Select the benefit year that you would like to use for your balance.
- You can view the previous or current benefit year. Anything beyond will not be accessible.

Submitting Claims

- Select "create."
- Ensure your information is up-to-date because that is the information our team will use to reimburse your claim.
- Scroll down to "Medical and Flex Claim" and select the individual the supporting document is for.
- Benefit type is the service or item the claim is for.

Example:

- A prescription reimbursement requires an RX number, which is the prescription description.
- Enter the day's supply, and your out-of-pocket payment.
- Upload a copy of the supporting documentation that includes (patient's name, date of service, patient responsibility, provider name, and day's supply).
- The portal will auto-populate the reimbursement amount and what the SDFRA will reimburse.

Lastly, the system stores your estimation of benefits (EOB Reports), which are the reports sent with your reimbursement check and itemizes your reimbursement details. Another great feature is the live portal status updates of the claims that are submitted. We understand this is a ton of information. Our team is looking forward to helping you navigate and explore how the claim portal application can provide easy access to frequently asked questions. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and your families.

Continuing Your Membership



Why should you continue to be a member of this fraternal organization? Because even though you might not use your claim reimbursements, your monthly contributions assist your fellow members of SDFRA and their families.

In 1907, the SDFRA was created, because back then the City of San Diego firefighters did not receive benefits on the job. Often times, they were injured or killed on the job. The poor and working class could not pay for burial costs and funerary expenses for the firefighters who died in the Line of Duty.

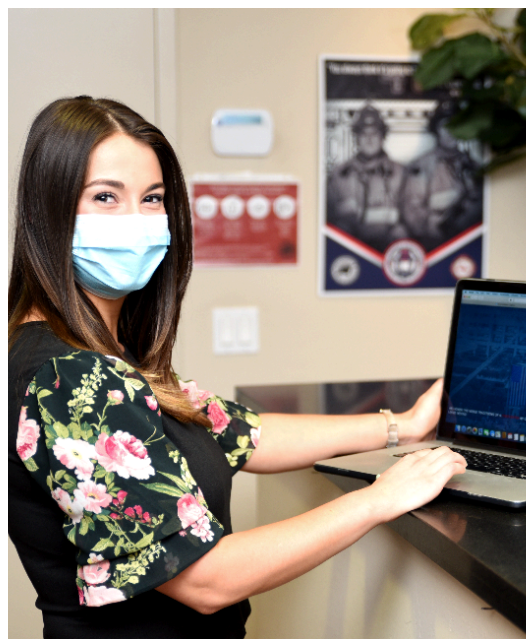
Our organization has come a long way in 114 years. Throughout the years, the board has come together to provide programs to assist our members and their families in their times of need. If you wonder where your contributions go if you do not submit claims, I can assure you that they are going to those who need it.



In 2021, your contributions have assisted six members and their families. That is six families that you have had a direct impact on changing their lives forever. The assistance provided ranges from mental health, cancer treatment support, meals, ADA bathroom alterations, and funeral policy advocacy that provides supportive care for surviving loved ones.

Also, dues go towards the SDFRA building and its repairs. Our building is for the membership and once we reopen our doors, this will remain a safe place for you and your families to visit.

If you are about to retire, please contact us by phone (619) 281-0354 option 2 or by email, Marisa Nunes, mnunes@sdfra.org. Those looking to continue their membership into retirement will need to fill out the following packet (membership information form, deductions for San Diego City Employee Retirement System, San Diego Firefighters Credit Union, beneficiary, and the retirement benefit packet). You must submit documents to continue as a member. We have received feedback that individuals thought that they were members and they or their loved ones were surprised to hear that they were not. It is important to our board and staff that this does not happen. Thank you for your commitment to the SDFRA mission; to be there for one another in the moments that matter.



San Diego Fire Relief Association Address:

10509 San Diego Mission Gorge Rd. Suite F
San Diego, CA 92108

Office:

(619) 281-0354 Option 2

Fax:

(619) 281- 8325

Retired Corner

By: Arnell Garcia

There has been a lot happening since our last newsletter. Our Board of Directors and staff have been quite busy with member assistance, building updates, committees, and we even added two additional Trustees to our board. Lorainne and Jeff are great additions and will offer a lot of helpful insight.

COVID-19 has put a few of our projects on hold, like Apparatus 1114. We are following the CDC guidelines, and once those who would like to be vaccinated have the opportunity, we will come up with a plan to begin work on this project again. A special thank you is in order for San Diego Fire-Rescue Department for offering COVID-19 vaccines to our retired members, and their families and for the assistance of Ret. Ron Moskowitz and his email notifications.

I am fully vaccinated and look forward to normalcy in the future with my friends and family. 2021 will bring all my fellow retirees closer together and allow us to share many laughs and hugs with loved ones. Below are the names of the firefighters that passed away in 2020 and 2021, many of which I had the honor of working with. It was a pleasure spending time with your families during the holidays at the stations. You will be missed by many.

Until next time, stay well!

Arnie

Last Alarms

RET. ENGINEER, THOMAS QUIJENCIO
LAST ALARM DECEMBER 31, 2020

RET. CAPTAIN, JAMES "MIKE" STEWART
LAST ALARM JANUARY 01, 2021

RET. BAT. CHIEF, GEORGE STEPANOF
LAST ALARM FEBRUARY 08, 2021

RET. FIREFIGHTER, DAVID PEARMAN
LAST ALARM MARCH 01, 2021

RET. FIREFIGHTER, ARTHUR J. CASTRO
LAST ALARM MARCH 16, 2021

RET. ENGINEER, RONALD "BUDDMAN" FREEMAN
LAST ALARM APRIL 02, 2021

RET. CAPTAIN, EARL M. SHEPARD
LAST ALARM APRIL 08, 2021

RET. CAPTAIN, WILLIAM GRAHAM
LAST ALARM MAY 11, 2021

By: Gabby Rockwell



January marked the start of a new year and a new, national initiative called Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. This digital movement shares ways to #FightFFCancer in stations across the country using educational resources from Firefighter Cancer Support Network and International Association of Firefighters. Mixing their resources with our own, we spent the month sharing how fire stations can implement our Cancer Awareness and Prevention Program into their daily station life with the focus on the 3 Cs: Clean Air, Clean Gear, Clean Body.

We created a new CAPP video to share with the world that was featured at the top of the IAFF resources page! It featured some old faces and some new cancer warriors to highlight that this is an ongoing issue that will only get worse if we don't step up and change firefighter culture now.

With nearly 1,000 views in the first few days of its launch, we know this video is encouraging firefighters to fight occupational cancer by knowing their risks, getting regular examinations, and continuing to educate themselves on best practices.

Special thank you to MADE by J.Curtis for his help in producing a beautifully, impactful video to help in the fight against firefighter cancer and for Local 145 and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department for supporting us during FFCAM. It was a perfect way to kick off the new year and share CAPP with stations nationwide!

Sharing Some Love With Our Surviving Spouses



This year has made getting together to share love and support with our fire family a bit of a challenge, but we take it all in stride together. Valentine's Day is normally when we gather to celebrate the strength, love, and admiration that we have for our Surviving Spouses of Firefighters. We couldn't do our usual Day of Love date, but we were able to mail nearly 100 boxes filled to the brim with love, sweets, and kindness!

Inside of each box, we put games and puzzles to help pass the time until we can all be together again to hug, laugh, and listen to one another's stories. We are sending an extra special thank you hug to Ursula Sorenson who created beautiful cards for these wonderful spouses in our lives!

COVIDKindness



For just over a year, we've been living in an era of COVID-19 precautions. Through it all, our firefighters have been on the front lines, continuing to keep our communities safe from fires, floods, injury, illness, and more. We're so grateful for their selflessness and sacrifice, especially in a time like this.

Across the county, FirefighterAid has been making safe, socially distanced deliveries of comfort bags and meals to our firefighters in an effort to take care of ill crew members. From Chula Vista to Rancho Santa Fe to Oceanside to San Diego City and everywhere in between, we've been making our rounds to get comfort bags into the hands of those who need it most. These bags contain COVID symptomatic relief as

We've also provided meals for some families who were isolated and unable to leave their homes to go to the grocery store. We've gotten a lot of great feedback to continue tailoring the bags to what is needed most, and we have received a number of kind words from our recipients who have gotten better and are back on the job.

Thanks to our community partners and donors, we've delivered over **300 comfort bags** and over **400 meals** to Firefighters and their families and departments who've been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to our community partners and donors. We want to extend a huge thank you to Farmers Insurance and the Century Club of San Diego! They recently donated over one 1,000 water bottles and Gatorade AND \$80,000 from their 14th hole birdie competition during the 2021 Farmers Insurance Open! This will go a long way to help ensure all San Diego County firefighters are taken care of during this pandemic.

COVID is still out there, still affecting our firefighters, so we continue fundraising to be a hero to a hero in their time of need. If you'd like to support this initiative, please feel free to donate by mailing a check or cash to our offices at 10509 San Diego Mission Road, Suite F San Diego, CA 92108 at FirefighterAid's attention.

SD911MSC



We regret to inform you that we have made the incredibly difficult decision to cancel the 2021 San Diego 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Events of this magnitude take months of staff time, resources, and planning in advance. Due to the unknown factors regarding the public health orders at this time, our team felt it was best to postpone the event to 2022.

As you're well aware, this is more than just an event - it's a living memorial - and it's vital that the integrity and experience of our event remain to the highest standards to properly honor such an important day in our history, particularly on its 20th anniversary. We determined that we do not have enough information to do that effectively this year. Please stay connected as we're committed to finding the best way to honor the 20 year anniversary of 9/11 in a community collaborative effort.

In the meantime, FirefighterAid continues to support our Firefighter families in their time of need. We've delivered over 300 hot meals and 450 comfort bags to San Diego County firefighters in isolation due to COVID-19 exposure, we're expanding our Cancer Awareness Prevention Program across the county, and we're still assisting firefighters and their families in their times of need.

FirefighterAid wouldn't be able to accomplish this without the support of our donors. We welcome you to visit our website, FirefighterAid.org, to find out more about our programs and ways you can support us in caring for our firefighters.

Golfing for a Good Cause



On January 28-31 2021, it was rainy, windy, and hailing in Torrey Pines. But the dismal weather didn't stop the 2021 Farmers Insurance Open or dampen their generosity! In a year of change - no fans, social distancing, limited staff on site - the Open ran beautifully with Patrick Reed winning the tournament with a birdie to seal his victory. It was fitting as birdies play a big role in FirefighterAid's relationship with Farmers Insurance at the Open.

The 14th hole is the First Responders Hole that celebrates, thanks, and honors our San Diego

County First Responders for their sacrifices, service, and selflessness in their career and outside of it. Normally, FirefighterAid would be there sharing our services, celebrating our incredible Firefighter supporters, and building bags full of donated items to give to our fire families in their time of need - COVID, Strike Team deployment, and cancer treatment. Instead, Farmers made it into a donation competition: anyone who got a birdie on the hole would have money donated to FirefighterAid!

Those pros are truly pros because all of their birdies resulted in \$80,000 donated to support our COVID-19 outreach, CAPP growth, and fire families in need! A huge thank you to Farmers Insurance and Century Club of San Diego for choosing to give back to our Firefighters and their families with us. We missed being with everyone and seeing some of our Firefighter friends on the greens, but we're excited for 2022 and all of the added joy that it will bring when we can be together for next year's Open.

You Are Invited!

By: Marisa Nunes

Columbia Sportswear Company
EMPLOYEE STORE

FIRST RESPONDERS HAVE YEAR-ROUND ACCESS

- Must show a work ID for access
- 4 guests included per visit
- Columbia Employee Store Pricing: 40-50% OFF retail

LOCATION & HOURS
3209 Lionshead Ave
Carlsbad, CA 92010
Mon - Sun: 10A - 7P

Columbia Sportswear has provided our SDFRA members, along with four other guests, year-round access to their employee store. For the safety of their employees and our members, they have set up precautions to ensure safety while you shop.

- Sanitization of checkouts
- Sanitization of fitting rooms
- Hand sanitizer stations
- 6' marked checkouts
- Limited in-store customers
- Employee/customer face coverings
- Contact-less payment options
- Plexiglass safety shields at each register



San Diego Fire Relief Association
10509 San Diego Mission Road
Suite F
San Diego, CA 92108