

Resolution #1
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

Whereas: Brother Robert Short has been an active member of the International Association of Firefighters Local 20 in Hamilton for over 60 years, and

Whereas: Brother Robert Short has also been a member of the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters for this period, and

Whereas: Brother Robert has served as President of Hamilton Local 20 for 18 years, and is the only President Emeritus in the history of the local, and

Whereas: Brother Robert Short has served as Secretary/ Treasurer of the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters for two years, and

Whereas: Brother Robert Short has served faithfully as Parliamentarian for the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters Biennial Conference the past 35 years, and

Whereas: Throughout Brother Robert Short's various positions he has steadfastly remained an advocate for the benefit of all firefighters, therefore be it

Resolved: That Brother Robert Short be recognized for his efforts on behalf of every firefighter and for his timeless service and unwavering devotion to the betterment of working conditions, living standards, and retirement benefits for all firefighters and their families, and be it further

Resolved: That the Delegates of the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters adopt this resolution, recognizing the lifetime of hard work, personal sacrifice and dedicated leadership rendered to our organization by Brother Robert Short.

Submitted By:

OAPFF Executive Board:

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #2
Committee Assignment: Legislative

Whereas: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a significant mental health condition that may occur after exposure to actual or threatened death, or serious injury, and

Whereas: According to the American Psychiatric Association, the organization that derives diagnostic criteria for mental disorders, physical injury is not a criterion for diagnosis of PTSD., and

Whereas: Emergency responders witness many traumatic events throughout their careers, and

Whereas: A single traumatic event or the cumulative effect of witnessing many traumatic events can cause a responder to exhibit at least seven of the symptoms across six different criteria, and

Whereas: Under current law, psychiatric disorders such as PTSD must have a correlating compensable physical injury to receive benefits from worker's compensation. now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Delegates assembled at of the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters support the OAPFF's Legislative efforts to allow PTSD claims through the Bureau of Workers Compensation without physical injury.

Submitted By:

OAPFF Executive Board:

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #3
Committee Assignment: Legislative

- Whereas:** Throughout the United States, mental health has come to the forefront of our society's collective conscious, and
- Whereas:** First responders are 50% more likely to develop behavioral health conditions including, but not limited to, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)., and
- Whereas:** Suicide rates for firefighters are 20% higher than the general population, and
- Whereas:** In 2017, the year the OAPFF Peer Support Team was formed more than 250 first responders died of suicide, and
- Whereas:** In a recent survey of Ohio's fire and EMS providers, 81% have experienced signs or symptoms associated with emotional stress, and
- Whereas:** Ohio Revised Code § 2317.02 provides privileged communication with members of a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, and
- Whereas:** Peer support programs are a critical part of supporting first responders who are experiencing a mental health crisis, now therefore be it
- Resolved:** That the Delegates assembled at of the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters support the OAPFF efforts seeking legislative sponsors and cosponsors to amend ORC § 2317.02 to include Peer Supporters in privileged communication.

Submitted By:

OAPFF Executive Board:

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #4
Committee Assignment: Legislative

Whereas: Employer contribution levels to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund have not been increased since 1986, and

Whereas: Whereas contribution levels for employees have been increased several times since 1986 including increases mandated by HB340 in 2013 which brought the employee contribution level to 12.25% of wages, and

Whereas: Appropriate contribution rates provide for the stability of the Pension Fund and therefore allow the Fund to have the resources it needs to provide long term financial security to our members in regard to both pension and retiree health care, and

Whereas: The current employer contribution to the OP&F for fire fighters is set at 24% and the rate for police officers is 19.5%, and

Whereas: The current employer contribution rate to the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System for State Troopers is 26%, now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Delegates assembled at of the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters support the OAPFF efforts to have the Ohio Legislature increase the employer contribution rate for all members of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to 26% achieving parity with our fellow public safety employees at the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System.

Submitted By:

OAPFF Executive Board:

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #5
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

- Whereas:** Brother Russ Brode was called home June 13, 2020 after long and courageous battle with occupational cancer, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode was a long-time labor advocate dedicating his professional life protecting and fighting for the rights of others, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode was an Akron Fire Department Lieutenant with over 28 years of service and past President of Akron Fire Fighters I.A.F.F. Local 330, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode was the President of the Tri-County AFL-CIO Central Labor Body, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode was named the Summit County Democratic Party's Labor Leader of the Year, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode gave many years of dedicated service to the OAPFF Legislative Committee, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode was appointed to serve as the OAPFF State Coordinator for Governmental Affairs, a role he proudly held until the day he passed, and
- Whereas:** Brother Brode fought extensively for the passage of SB27, the Michael Louis Palumbo Jr. Act which made occupational cancers presumptive for Ohio's Fire Fighters, therefore be it
- Resolved:** The members of Akron Fire Fighters IAFF Local 330, the members of the OAPFF 2nd District, and the OAPFF Executive Board recognize and thank the brothers and sisters assembled at this OAPFF 52nd Biennial Conference for your time, support, and friendship in Brother Brode's time of need, and be it further
- Resolved:** The delegates assembled at this OAPFF 52nd Biennial Conference recognize Brother Russell Brode's unwavering commitment to the fire fighting profession and the Union that he proudly served and loved.

Submitted By:

OAPFF 2nd District

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #6
Committee: Resolutions

- Whereas:** Mark A. Sanders had an exceptional career as a professional fire fighter in Ohio spanning over 34 years, including president of the Cincinnati Firefighters Union Local 48 and President Emeritus of the OAPFF, and
- Whereas:** In 2016, Brother Sanders was elected as IAFF 8th District Vice President, continuing the tradition of great union advocates like Tommy Miller and Paul Hufnagel, and
- Whereas:** 8th District Vice President Sanders has improved the communication, services and educational opportunities to the 8th District's 780 local affiliates and 5 state associations, and
- Whereas:** Vice President Sanders serves on the Emergency Medical Services – Grants Administration/HazMat/WMD – Health, Safety and Behavioral Wellness – Information and Technology Systems – Human Relations – Canadian Affairs Committee – Emergency Defense Funds and Legal Services – Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial – Employee Benefits Committee(s) at the IAFF, and
- Whereas:** With Brother Sanders assistance has provided Local affiliates with hundreds of Municipal Financial Analysis (MFA), Geographical Information System (GIS) / EMS integration studies, and contract database comparable reports for affiliates in the district, and
- Whereas:** In support of our local affiliate leaderships efforts to secure just compensation, important benefits and safe working conditions, with Vice President Sanders assistance 8th District affiliates have been awarded nearly \$400,000 in IAFF benefits from the Emergency Disputes Fund program in the form of grants or loans, and
- Whereas:** Union fire fighters throughout the IAFF's 8th District have a principled, honest and loyal advocate with Vice President Sanders representing them on the IAFF Executive Board, now therefore be it
- Resolved:** That the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters at their 52nd Biennial Conference wholeheartedly endorse, support and work for the re-election of our Brother and OAPFF President Emeritus to the Office of IAFF 8th District Vice President, and be it further



Resolution #7
Committee: Resolutions

Whereas: The International Association of Fire Fighters Eastern Region Trustee continues to pursue the common interests of all professional Firefighters, and

Whereas: The Board of Trustees are responsible for reviewing the financial health of the organization and shall engage a certified public accountant to performing auditing services for the Association, and to make an audit of the accounts of the General Secretary-Treasurer once a year, and;

Whereas: Dan Fortuna is currently the First District Vice President of the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, and

Whereas: Dan Fortuna is an elected trustee on the retirement board of the Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago, and

Whereas: Dan Fortuna was first elected to the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS) executive board in 2003, and is currently serving as NCPERS President, and

Whereas: Dan Fortuna during his thirty (30) years of service with the Chicago Fire Department served three (3) terms on the Chicago Fire Fighters Union, Local 2 Executive Board, resulting in two (2) decades of union leadership, therefore be it

Resolved: That the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters at their 52nd Biennial Conference wholeheartedly endorse, support and work for the election of Dan Fortuna to the Office of IAFF Eastern Region Trustee, and be it further

Resolved: That upon the approval of this resolution, the OAPFF will immediately notify Brother Dan Fortuna of the membership's endorsement and support.

Submitted by:

The OAPFF Executive Board

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #8

Committee Assignment: Resolutions

- Whereas:** Larry “Lefty” Sanders had an impressive career that spanned decades, beginning with the Marion City Fire Department in 1965 and continuing through 1980, and
- Whereas:** From 1967 to 1980 Lefty served as President of the Marion City Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 379, a position for which he was declared President Emeritus, and
- Whereas:** From 1974 to 1981 Brother Sanders served the Labor Movement as the 1st Vice President of Marion AFL-CIO under President Bill Burga, and
- Whereas:** In 1974 Brother Sanders was elected Vice President for the First District of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, serving in this capacity for seven years, and
- Whereas:** In 1981 Lefty became President of the OAPFF where he was one of the prime advocates and authors of Ohio’s Collective Bargaining Law, and
- Whereas:** In 1987 Brother Sanders served as a Union Representative for the F.O.P./O.L.C., a position he held until retiring in 1992, and
- Whereas:** In 1995, at the request of AFL-CIO President Bill Burga, Brother Lefty Sanders returned to the Labor Movement working first as OAPFF Retiree Vice President and then as the Ohio AFL-CIO Legislative Director until his “second retirement” in 2003, and
- Whereas:** Throughout both his active years and his retirement years Brother Sanders was sage counsel to numerous generations of Labor leaders, now therefore be it
- Resolved:** That the Delegates assembled at of the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters take a moment to reflect on the life of Brother Lefty Sanders, his devotion and dedication to both the American Labor Movement and especially to Ohio’s Professional Fire Fighters, and be it further
- Resolved:** That we celebrate Lefty’s life as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather, a loyal friend to many, a steadfast union advocate, and as an example to Fire Fighters for generations to come, and further be it
- Resolved:** That a copy of this resolution be printed, framed, and be presented to Lefty’s family.

Submitted By:

OAPFF Executive Board

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #9
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

- Whereas:** Doug Stern served as OAPFF Director of Communications from 2013 through 2018, and
- Whereas:** Doug was an asset to the OAPFF and brought the OAPFF to a new level in communications, and
- Whereas:** Doug played an integral role in our defeat of SB5, and
- Whereas:** Doug aided numerous Locals across the State of Ohio in passing much needed levies and issue campaigns in addition to electing Fire Fighter friendly politicians, and
- Whereas:** Because of Doug's foresight and leadership the OAPFF Communications Department is well situated for years to come, and
- Whereas:** Doug has retired from the Cincinnati Fire Division, and
- Whereas:** Doug is now working for the IAFF in Washington DC where he continues to advance the causes of Fire Fighters not only in Ohio but across the US and Canada, now therefore be it
- Resolved:** That the Delegates assembled at the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters thank and honor Doug for his tireless efforts on behalf of Ohio's Professional Fire Fighters and wish him the best in his new endeavors.

Submitted By:

OAPFF Executive Board:

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #10
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

Whereas: Brother Frank Szabo has been a professional fire fighter in Cleveland, Ohio, IAFF Local 93 since 1993, and

Whereas: Brother Szabo has served the Association of Cleveland Fire Fighters for 14 consecutive years in many capacities, such as Sgt-at-Arms, Trustee, Pension Benefits Coordinator, Vice President and President, and

Whereas: Brother Szabo was appointed to Represent Cleveland as their Metro Representative to the OAPFF for the 2018-2020 cycle, and

Whereas: Brother Szabo has been a demonstrated leader in representing the Metro Locals at the OAPFF Executive Board, serving on various committees, and

Whereas: Brother Szabo has always provided thoughtful insight and trusted counsel to the OAPFF President as well as members of the OAPFF Executive Board, and

Whereas: Brother Frank Szabo has shown to be a friend and dedicated advocate to all Professional Fire Fighters, now therefore be it

Resolved: That the delegates assembled at this OAPFF 52nd Biennial Conference recognize and thank Brother Frank Szabo for his service and dedication to not only the OAPFF as Metro Representative, but to this great profession.

Submitted by:

OAPFF Executive Board

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #11
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

Whereas: This is the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, and0T

Whereas: The 51st Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters was hosted by Columbus Fire Fighters Local 67, as was the 50th Biennial Conference, and0T

Whereas: Columbus Fire Fighters Local 67 did an outstanding job preparing for and hosting each of these events, especially the 51st Biennial Conference, now therefore be it0T

Resolved: That the delegates assembled at this 51st Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters hereby recognize the dedication to excellence and solidarity exemplified by the members of Columbus Fire Fighters Local 67, and be it further0T

Resolved: That the delegates assembled at this 51st Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters thank Columbus Local 67 and the city of Columbus for being such gracious hosts.0T

Submitted by:

OAPFF Executive Board

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #12
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

Whereas: Brother Denny Reiter has been involved with Local 20 and the work of the MDA during his time as an active and retired firefighter, and

Whereas: Denny helped to establish the Local 20 Drawdown, which recently celebrated its 25th year, and

Whereas: The Drawdown annually raises over \$10,000 for the MDA, and

Whereas: Denny has assisted in raising over \$250,000 for the MDA, and

Whereas: Denny has remained actively involved for the entire 25 years, even as a retiree. Doing everything from selling split the pot tickets, to set-up and tear down, and

Whereas: Denny is the current President of the Local 20 Retirees Association and keeps them engaged and involved. He has continued to serve the labor movement throughout his life, now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Delegates, Alternates and Guests, assembled at the 52nd Biennial Conference of the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters, recognize and congratulate Brother Denny Reiter, for his commitment and service to Local 20 and the MDA.

Submitted By:

Hamilton Professional Firefighters
IAFF Local 20

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution # 13
Committee Assignment: Constitution & By-Laws

Whereas: Credentials establish a Local's eligibility to attend Conference, determine the number of Delegates and Alternates, assign voting strength, and are distributed in accordance with the OAPFF Constitution & By-Laws, and

Whereas: The credentialing and registration process is not expressly mandated to be conducted via the U.S. Postal Service, multiple Articles and Sections of the OAPFF Constitution & By-Laws imply a paper process that requires a duplicate be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer for timely registration and the presentation at conference of the "original form" for a delegate to be seated at Conference, and

Whereas: The OAPFF Educational Conference, Legislative Conference, Summer Health & Safety Seminar, and New Officer Academy registrations are all conducted electronically, and

Whereas: The International Association of Fire Fighters has moved to a 100% on-line credentialing and registration process for IAFF Local Affiliates attending the IAFF's Biennial Convention, now therefore be it

Resolved: That Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph 2, Line 5 of the OAPFF Constitution & By-Laws be amended after the word "conference" by adding the following:
"The establishment of a secure electronic credentialing of local affiliate delegations to the biennial conference shall not be prohibited by other Articles or Sections of this Constitution."

Submitted By: Secretary-Treasurer Quinn

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action:



Resolution #14
Committee Assignment: Resolutions

WHEREAS: Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136 represents the professional fire fighters, paramedics and EMTs that protect and serve the citizens of Dayton, Ohio, and

WHEREAS: HR Director Kenneth Couch has promoted himself as a public safety advocate and a supporter of Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136, and

WHEREAS: HR Director Couch has engaged in retaliatory actions and has harassed, interfered with, and attempted to intimate members of Local 136, and

WHEREAS: Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136 has spent thousands of dollars in legal fees in opposition to HR Director Couch's efforts to violate existing Collective Bargaining Agreements and MOUs, and

WHEREAS: HR Director Couch has pursued monetary savings and made revenue enhancement decisions that threatened the safety of fire fighters and the public, through manpower reductions and closures of companies, and

WHEREAS: HR Director Couch has fought every Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136 Cancer Presumptive claim, causing delays in treatment, unnecessary stressors, and additional financial expenses to the members and their families, and

WHEREAS: HR Director Couch having been a past member and former President of Fairborn Fire Fighter's Local 1235, and WHEREAS, HR Director Couch having served in various capacities for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, and

WHEREAS: HR Director Couch through his action has created deception and division between Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136 and Shelley Dickstein, Dayton City Manager, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters join Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136, in censure of Human Resources Director Kenneth Couch.

Submitted by:
Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONFERENCE ACTION:



Resolution # __15_ Committee Assignment: Resolutions

Whereas: in the course of doing their jobs, firefighters are confronted with an array of horrors few others can imagine, and the immediate and cumulative impact of these experiences can result in post-traumatic stress injuries as well as lead to unhealthy or dangerous effects such as marital problems, substance abuse and suicide; and

Whereas: in 2017, the International Association of Fire Fighters opened the first-ever behavioral health treatment facility specifically for firefighters, the IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery; and

Whereas: The International Association of Fire Fighters will soon open their second behavioral health treatment facility specifically for firefighters located in California; and

Whereas: the IAFF Centers of Excellence provide focused and customized clinical treatment and peer support tailored to the specific needs of first responders and conducted in a familiar firehouse environment; and

Whereas: the scope and breadth of incidents faced by firefighters, as well as the large concentration of IAFF members located within the Midwest region, points to a substantial need for these type of services directly within the Midwest; and

Whereas: the stigma of behavioral health is dissipating and trends have shown more IAFF members seeking behavioral health than any other time in our union's history; and

Whereas: the locations of the IAFF Center of Excellence in Maryland and the soon to be established IAFF Center of Excellence in California leave a significant geographic barrier for Midwest firefighters and other firefighters in need located within the large gap between the East and West coasts; therefore be it

Resolved: That the IAFF shall work with an industry partner to conduct a feasibility study to establish a third IAFF Center of Excellence within the Midwest region; and be it further

Resolved: That such a Midwest IAFF Behavioral Health Center should have clinical and support resources that are, at a minimum, equivalent to those provided through the IAFF Centers of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery in Maryland and California.

Submitted By:

Dayton Fire Fighters Local 136

Committee Recommendation:

Conference Action: