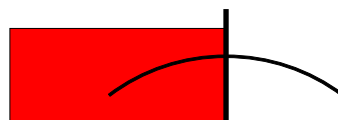


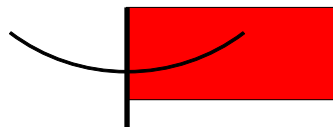


ARIZONA FIRE
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION

Volume 18, Issue 3
Winter 2011



AFDANews



2012 Laughlin Educational Conference

January 14-16, 2012

AQUARIUS
CASINO RESORT

Laughlin, NV

Schedule:

Runs on Arizona time

Thursday, January 12, 2012

8am—Golf tournament registration
9am—Golf tournament shotgun start
3pm—Attendee check-in
4pm—Opening ceremony with the Show Low Pipes and Drums and the general membership meeting

Friday, January 13, 2012

7am—Attendee check-in & new handbook pick-up
8-4:30pm—Classes

Room Reservation Information:

Rates: Sun-Thurs. - \$31.00 Fri.-Sat. - \$61.00

Call: 1-800-662-5825; group code C-AZF12

Group Rate Deadline:

December 28, 2011 or until full

Saturday, January 14, 2012

7am—Attendee check-in & new handbook pick-up
8-4:30pm—Classes
4:30pm—Closing with announcement of AFDA Board, golf results and raffle winners

Look for the registration brochure to come out soon!

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President's Message

By Simon Davis, Green Valley Fire District

Page 3



Welcome to the winter edition of the AFDA Newsletter! With the cooler temperatures arriving and the leaves changing color in the high country it means only one thing, time to start working on next year's budget...!

OK, maybe not the best start to my report this month, but the budget is certainly something we're all going to be scratching our heads over to figure out how to make ends meet. Unfortunately, for the fourth consecutive year, we are going to see devaluations in nearly every Fire District in the State and minimal, if any growth, so what is a District to do?

Well, as an Association, we have a few of ideas and suggestions that might help and at the Winter Conference in Laughlin we will be presenting a diverse selection of classes to educate, inform and assist you in planning for the next fiscal year. Also, networking with like-

size districts can be incredibly beneficial, so try and make it to the conference. I think it will be well worth the time, dollars and effort as we continue to keep the cost as low as possible. Plus, if things are really tight, we have the conference sponsorship program available. Just contact Robin if you need assistance.

Legislatively, we are gearing up for another 'interesting' session. The Association's lobbyists Lee Miller and John Flynn will be publishing an agenda shortly on items that we expect to see come before the legislature. Primarily, we will be making sure our funding sources remain constant and any opportunities to seek other sources of revenue are available to the districts. We will continue to face a very flat economy for the next few years, so we have to be very cognizant of any attacks to reduce our revenue sources, especially as the demand for emergency services continues to climb across the state. As I've mentioned before, please get in touch with your local Representatives and invite them down to the Stations NOW, before they get back in session, and show them what you do for your communities! Making positive relationships now will go a long way in the next few months when the politicians start fighting over the State budget and look to make cuts. They are less likely to do it to their friends than just another taxing entity...

On a more positive note and keeping everything in perspective, I don't know about you, but the main reason I got into the fire

service was to help folks and every October has come to be what I regard as the 'fun' month. What other job out there has you making ten gallons of chili one weekend, five hundred pancakes the next and dressing up as a scary monster the next? All to get the life safety message out and engage the communities we work in with a positive message. And the best part of it all is that the kids still love firemen! Even in these tough times, this is still the greatest job around!

In closing this month there's one final point I'd like to touch on and that's to see if we can get some feedback on how the Association is doing? Over the last several years I think we've done a very good job on the conferences, but what I'd really like hear about is what about the rest of the things the Association does. Does the newsletter meet your needs? Do we need to look at other forms of communication (blast emails, regional meetings, mini conferences)? If you get five minutes in this busy month, please send Robin or me an email with a list of things we do right or maybe what in your opinion we can do better. Also let us know if you have any suggestions on how we can improve serving you, the members. How can we get you the information you need to better serve your district.

Many thanks, and have a healthy and safe holiday season. I hope to see you all at the conference in Laughlin.

Black Canyon Fire District News

At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2012, the Black Canyon Fire District will be holding its long awaited Grand Opening ceremony for our new fire station. Everyone is invited to come celebrate with us!

This past February the District underwent an ISO re-rating with the intent of improving the current Class 8B rating. In September we learned that the rating for properties within 1,000 feet of a hydrant had been lowered to a Class 5, and those properties located more than 1,000 feet from a hydrant had been lowered to a Class 7.

The District is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$13,403 grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to purchase a new Hurst eDRAULIC battery operated combination cutter/spreader extrication tool. The purchase of this new technology will enhance the District's ability to perform extrication in a safe and reliable manner.

The District has also been awarded a \$12,000 Safety Enhancement Stipend from the 100 Club of Arizona (www.100club.org). The stipend will be used to purchase 5 sets of turnout gear.

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AFDA 2012 Board of Directors Slate

AFDA is please to present the following slate of nominees for 2012 elections

Vice President—Mike Van Dyke, Montezuma Rimrock Fire District

Treasurer—Rob Biscoe, Sun City West Fire District

Area 2 Section Director—Bill Miller, Fry Fire District

Area 4 Section Director—Chad Dragos, Daisy Mountain Fire District

Area 6 Section Director—Katie Sayre, Green Valley Fire District

**The slate will be ratified at the Laughlin conference
General Membership meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2012**



A Bond Election Now Could Never Pass in My District....

By Mike LaVallee, Stone & Youngberg

Over the last few years, we've been hearing this sentiment across the State from many different types of issuers including fire districts, schools and cities/towns. And, this statement could be true. I don't need to go into everything that's happened in our economy to explain the reasons for this sentiment. It's a new world out there. Times have changed and, in fact, it may no longer be easy for any municipal entity to pass a bond or override election.

In lieu of an election, many Districts have been able to utilize the Lease-Purchase financing alternative to access capital. With declining or flat Secondary Assessed Valuations (SAV) and the passage of Senate Bill 1421 in 2009, the new levy restrictions will make it very challenging for Districts to continue to access meaningful capital through this alternative. It used to be that a District could just raise its tax rate (assuming you were below \$3.25) to cover a project *OR* keep your rates constant while relying on growth in SAV to give added levy or budget capacity.

However, many Districts have been able to take advantage of bond elections to fund necessary infrastructure with overwhelming success, typically by more than a super-majority passage rate. The passage rate for fire districts overall has probably been the highest amongst municipal entities in Arizona. That being said, there hasn't been a fire district bond election since 2008. It may seem obvious, but let's review a few comments that we've been hearing broadly across the state:

- ◆ "Bond Elections are too tough to pass in this environment"
- ◆ "Too many tax sensitive folks in my community"
- ◆ "I have very little bonding capacity"
- ◆ "My borrowing needs are too small for a bond"
- ◆ "I'll pass an override instead"

All of these comments are valid concerns. First, every community is different and you as board member, chief or finance manager know your community better than anyone outside of it. The following are some responses to the statements above and are intended to offer some fresh ideas and/or statistics for your consideration.

"Bond Elections are too tough to pass in this environment" – Bond Elections are *tougher* to pass in this environment but not impossible – the facts bear this out. Since there haven't been many recent fire district elections to evidence, consider these statistics on Arizona school district GO bond elections which have been routinely held all over the State and whose bonds and elections closely resemble fire districts:

School District Bond Elections (10 Year History)			
Year	No. of Questions	Percent Approved	Amount Approved
2001	7	86%	\$ 167,338,000
2002	13	100%	\$ 352,335,000
2003	9	89%	\$ 403,010,000
2004	17	100%	\$ 753,585,000
2005	28	89%	\$ 1,133,955,000
2006	27	100%	\$ 1,227,255,000
2007	16	81%	\$ 496,610,000
2008	12	100%	\$ 356,615,000
2009	14	93%	\$ 210,030,000
2010	13	77%	\$ 513,080,000
TOTAL	156	Avg. 91%	\$ 5,614,013,000

"Great Recession"

Since 1999, the results of bond elections in every *even* year (general) election has been 100% passage, except for 2010. In 2010, 77% of all elections passed. In this Great Recession, a 77% success rate is remarkable. Odd numbered years trended in excess of 80% until 2009 (when it reached 93% but with smaller sized elections). The difference between odd years and even years largely relates to voter turnout. A presidential or congressional election cycle will bring out more people and that typically helps bond elections, depending on the community. Based on past results, we might expect the 2011 cycle to be lower than 77%. However, the 2012 election cycle may very well be the highest turnout ever recorded and that could bode well for bonds, based on historical accounts.

UPDATE: As of print time, the unofficial November 2011 school BOND election statistics are as follows: 10 out of 14 passed = 71%

"Too many tax sensitive folks in my community" - First, let's segregate "anti-tax" and "tax sensitive". There are folks who are anti-tax and will likely always be anti-tax and against bonds or any kind of debt. Many of them were around long before the economic downturn. Tax Sensitive folks are concerned about government spending and tax hikes, but this concern is largely in response to federal (and to a lesser extent, State) government waste. They are typically against earmarks, pork spending, unaffordable social programs, etc. which all contribute to the ever growing federal debt (that both political parties have allowed to mushroom).

Tax Sensitive folks are (or should be) for strong local governments. After all, a federalist perspective suggests that the government closest to the people (i.e., School districts, fire districts, cities/towns) knows and understands its community best and therefore will provide services that a majority of the people in that community want and/or desire. In addition, these community governments and the people it serves will do a better job in reaching consensus on what is acceptable and what is not. You can expect these folks to be more engaged in the local process, so consider including them in your capital committees to gain their perspective and so they can be educated fully on the issues you are facing. This may help their perspective on the real needs of the district and turn a no vote into a yes vote. Or, they may still vote no but may not be as vocal about the election.

Municipalities have, on average, reduced the total amount of bonds that are being asked of a particular community. When Citizens/Budget committees and Boards/Councils review a list of all project needs, they are typically weeding out those projects that would be considered "wish list" items unless they're improvements the community is in support of (such as fixing an athletic field the whole community utilizes). This has helped gain community support for elections, including tax sensitive folks. People with homes and businesses also want fire protection (including quicker response times, lower insurance rates, etc.) and will generally support a well defined, needed capital improvement program.

"I have very little bonding capacity" – Those fire districts that have had elections and have issued bonds may no longer have capacity for a while if the secondary assessed valuation has declined. Those that haven't issued bonds may have seen its bonding capacity decrease over the last several years with declining assessed valuation, **but you will have some capacity**. Election authorizations last for quite a while and capacity can be estimated not just for the current year, but over a number of years as the SAV starts to grow again. For example, your current capacity may only be \$1 million, but over ten years may total an estimated \$10 million with projected growth in SAV. You are not restricted to holding an election to your current capacity, it can be any amount. Assuming you pass an election, you are only restricted on what you can sell on any given day by 6% of the SAV (less outstanding principal).

"My borrowing needs are too small for a bond" – Ultimately, this may be true. There are a lot of smaller fire districts across the State. However, as an example, if you typically need about \$500,000 each year for equipment, trucks, fire station rehab, etc. you may consider bundling these needs into an election for \$3 million. If you pass the election, you can sell \$1.5 million of bonds immediately to cover 3 years of needs and have another \$1.5 million sale in year 4 to cover the next 3 years. Each time you prepare to issue bonds, an assessment can be made if it's better to privately place the bonds with a single entity (like a bank) or publicly issue the bonds in \$5,000 increments to a number of investors (an underwriting). Either \$1.5 million bond alternative (private or public) should outperform the rate of a similar sized Lease Purchase arrangement, including all costs. The reason? General Obligation (GO) bonds are the highest form of security for a fire district and, barring some short term abnormal market anomaly, offer the lowest borrowing costs on any given day in the market.

Most importantly, it can free up budget capacity under the levy limit that, in these difficult times, could save jobs.

"I'll pass an override instead" – With the new levy limits, many districts may need to pass overrides just to keep operating at a level that serves the community adequately. This may be your only option. Fire Districts have two types of overrides: to (a) permanently have the ability to increase the tax to \$3.25 or (b) to go over \$3.25 for five years in hardship cases. Both of these alternatives can allow for funds to be used for operations **AND** capital.

School Districts have long had levy restrictions and have the option to seek voter approval to "override" a budget. School overrides that give a district operational funds are referred to as Maintenance and Operation Overrides (including K-3 and Special Programs). These types of overrides have marginal election results as noted below.

Arizona School District Summary of M&O Budget Override Election Results												
Year	March			May			September			November		
	No. of Questions	No. Appeared	Percent Appeared	No. of Questions	No. Appeared	Percent Appeared	No. of Questions	No. Appeared	Percent Appeared	No. of Questions	No. Appeared	Percent Appeared
2003	18	18	100%	28	25	89%	1	1	100%	6	4	67%
2004	13	10	77%	13	12	92%	0	0	0%	9	7	78%
2005	18	17	94%	33	31	94%	1	0	0%	5	5	100%
2006	10	7	70%	14	10	71%	2	2	100%	5	2	40%
2007	12	12	100%	23	20	87%	0	0	0%	42	20	48%
2008										53	42	79%
2009										71	39	55%
2010	26	18	69%							23	10	43%
TOTAL	97	82	85%	111	98	88%	4	3	75%	214	129	60%
GRAND TOTAL ALL MONTHS				426	312	73%						
2003 Through May 2007				211	183	87%						
November 2007 and Later				215	129	60%						

A Bond Election, continued from page 6

Another option for schools is the Capital Outlay override which as the name suggests is for capital projects only (no operations). These types don't do well at the polls. As the statistics show above and below, *bond elections outperform both types of overrides.*

Summary of School District Bond and Capital Outlay Override Elections							
School Bond Elections				Capital Outlay Overrides			Difference
Year	No. of Questions	Percent Approved	Amount Approved	No. of Questions	Percent Approved	Amount Approved	Between Bond Yes and Override Yes
2001	7	86%	\$ 167,538,000	2	0%	\$ -	3.2%
2002	13	100%	\$ 352,335,000	3	33%	\$ 1,802,000	18.2%
2003	9	89%	\$ 403,010,000	11	55%	\$ 12,736,000	12.4%
2004	17	100%	\$ 753,585,000	5	40%	\$ 5,300,000	19.7%
2005	28	89%	\$ 1,133,955,000	14	79%	\$ 40,175,939	6.6%
2006	27	100%	\$ 1,227,255,000	9	22%	\$ 4,050,000	10.7%
2007	16	81%	\$ 496,610,000	11	45%	\$ 21,351,348	8.1%
2008	12	100%	\$ 356,615,000	4	75%	\$ 9,785,000	12.8%
2009	14	93%	\$ 210,030,000	4	25%	\$ 4,600,000	6.5%
2010	13	77%	\$ 513,080,000	7	29%	\$ 1,100,000	15.7%
TOTAL	156	Avg. 91%	\$ 5,614,013,000	70	Avg. 40%		Avg. 11%

Voters tend to understand what bonds do but have a harder time getting comfortable with the concept of increased spending through an override election. As the school district statistics indicate, if in need of capital funds, bond elections may be better received by voters than an override election.

UPDATE: As of print time, the unofficial November 2011 school election statistics are as follows:

Capital Outlay Overrides – 0 out of 6 passed = 0%

M&O Overrides – 12 out of 31 passed = 39%

BONDS - 10 out of 14 passed = 71%

Summary

There are advantages and disadvantages to bonding and lease purchase. Lease Purchase financing has a role to play, especially with smaller sizes, shorter amortizations or with shorter timelines. However, statistics show that a bond election may not be an option to avoid altogether, even in these difficult times.

S&Y assists fire districts to ascertain the best financing alternative, including lease, bond or override. A successful outcome typically means delivering the lowest cost of capital within appropriate time constraints while meeting district specifications.

Mike LaVallee is a Managing Director for Stone & Youngberg, A Division of Stifel Financial. He has 16 years of Arizona experience assisting fire districts, school districts, cities & towns and other special districts. He and his colleagues will be featured speakers at the upcoming AFDA conference in Laughlin covering this topic.

Yarnell Announces New Chief

Yarnell Fire District Board announces the appointment of Jim Koile, MA, BA, NREMT-B, MEDL, as new Fire Chief. Chief Koile brings extensive experience and proven leadership abilities. Some of his qualifications include: nearly eight years with Williamson Valley Fire District; commanding Fire Services at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station; service in the Farmington & Hobbs New Mexico Fire District. He is certified to teach Firefighting, EMT and Paramedic classes, IV Therapy and Advanced Intubation, Leadership, Team Building, and Emergency Vehicle Operations.

He also served in Bosnia and Kuwait developing and providing Emergency Medical Services.

Since joining the Yarnell Fire District in June 2011, Chief Koile has reorganized the Department and instituted order as well as professional, well trained personnel. The Board wishes to express appreciation for the Chief's considerable abilities and commitment he has brought to our District and community.

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2011 United Fire Firefighter of the Year Tucson Firefighter Tyler Menke Recognized for Heroism

Every year United Fire gathers stories about skilled and prepared firefighters and their accomplishments that demonstrate the qualities and compassion of the Arizona Fire Service.

Unlike most people who tend to focus on just what is in front of them, firefighters have the desire, ability, and training to prepare for emergencies that help them notice and evaluate everything going on around them. This permits firefighters to safely *respond* instead of just instinctively *react* to dangerous situations, making them true Giants Among Us.

This year's award recipient, Firefighter Tyler A. Menke, was assigned to Tucson Fire Department's Engine 5 on July 28, 2010. There had just been a tragic accident. When his engine arrived on the scene, a LifeNet helicopter was engulfed in flames. Firefighter Menke could hear screams coming from the crash. Using his training, he was able to rapidly assess all aspects of the situation to gather the details and get the full picture. Then, without hesitation and without the protection of a hoseline, he disappeared into the smoke and ran into the inferno to try and save the screaming victims.

Within minutes he returned dragging Nurse Parker Summons, still alive, to an area where he could safely be treated by medics.

Firefighter Menke then bravely returned to the sound of more screams and intense flames. This time he had the protection of a hoseline provided by his partner and helped extricate two more people, Pilot Alexander Kelly and Paramedic Brenda French.

**Some jobs require the might of giants.
Being a firefighter is one of those jobs.**

When interviewed after the incident, Menke's Captain offered:

"It was the most heroic thing I have ever seen."

Sadly, Brenda French died at the scene, but the other two patients, thanks to Firefighter Menke's courageous efforts, were able to be transported to the hospital. They were kept alive long enough so that their families could say goodbye, which was deeply meaningful for all of them.

Firefighter Menke demonstrated how Giants in the fire service are able to focus on what needs to be done, and despite danger to themselves, are able to selflessly protect and save others.

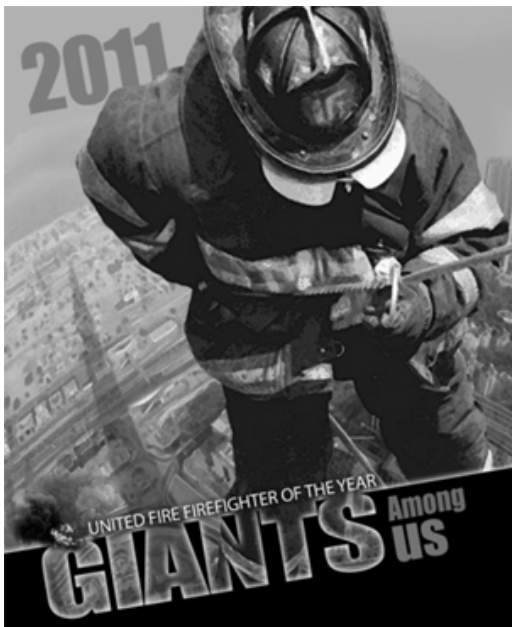
During his acceptance speech, Tyler stated, *"In my opinion, if you were to take the name of every firefighter in the State of Arizona and just randomly pick one, they would deserve this award just as much as myself or any one of our coworkers. So that being said, I can accept this award on behalf of all the firefighters in Arizona who do great work and great things every day, and I am proud to continue my career along side you as my peers."*

This sincere humility is but another of the many noble characteristics that define the unique breed of individual who have chosen to become firefighters.

Firefighter Menke is an outstanding example of the amazing men and women, both career and volunteer, in the Arizona Fire Service. He is one of the true **Giants Among Us**.



Tyler A. Menke
Tucson Fire Department



**Thank you to the following for donating items
for the July conference scholarship raffle;
we appreciate your support!**

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AFDA PAC Committee

By Chad Dragos, AFDA PAC Treasurer

As we close out calendar year 2011 and enter 2012, Fire Districts are feeling the pinch of reduced budgets and ever changing political challenges. The Arizona Fire District Association is moving into the future with a comprehensive plan for working together as a cohesive team of first responders. We recognize the need for a unified voice to represent such a large, diversified and valuable area of Arizona and to serve our communities with a cooperative front.

However, this political movement isn't without a need for financial support. The AFDA Political Action Committee is driven solely by donations from our stakeholders. Without funding for appropriate legislation initiatives we simply can't win our mutual battles. The current laws (i.e. fire district assistance tax, fireworks, sprinklers and district consolidation) that impact fire districts may be in jeopardy without strong representation. We need to maintain a solid physical presence at the legislature and offer financial backing to our supportive Senators and Representatives. AFDA was originally formed for the purpose of giving a voice to Arizona fire districts. While we have created that voice successfully we believe it is in our best interest to unite that voice even further and show that AFDA is capable of meeting the needs of its members. AFDA understands that as fire districts we represent the people and communities we serve.

We have met the goals of 'presence' with strong lobbyists that understand our issues and believe in the same core values that we advocate. We must now look at our financial backing requirements. Our goal for calendar year 2012 is to raise \$10,000 to back our physical stance. We are asking that each individual district identify methods for fund raising and jointly donate to our political backing. The AFDA Board considered what would be feasible in our respective areas and set the following goals

Fire Districts with a budget less than \$1 million dollars: Donate as a group \$100 / year.

Fire Districts with a budget of \$1 – \$5 million dollars: Donate as a group \$250 / year.

Fire Districts with a budget of over \$5 million dollars: Donate as a group \$500 / year.

There are multiple ways to achieve these dollars and we are here to help if you need some ideas. More information will be forthcoming on the process for contribution, collection and legal aspects.

We hope that you see the value in financially supporting our legislative efforts so we can move forward with the issues that we see as valuable to our members and our communities. You can expect to see further discussion from AFDA regarding where these dollars go and how it benefits you as a district employee or board member.

Thanks Everyone and Happy Holidays.

Bob Weber Pancake Breakfast Challenge

Proceeds donated to AzCFSE, Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence

A pancake breakfast is a fairly simple event and can be planned in just a few weeks. Pancake breakfasts are most successful when planned for a Sunday morning from 7:00/8:00am-11:00am/12:00pm. Dates, times, and dollar amounts can vary depending upon your area.

The success to any pancake breakfast is in the advertising. You may want to focus your advertising in a few select areas. It's best to have an idea of how many people are expected to attend in order to plan your food quantities. Although not all, most churches gather on Sunday morning. By asking your local churches to announce your pancake breakfast at the end of their service, you will encourage spontaneous walk-in sales.

Basic instructions for planning a pancake breakfast:

Step 1: Determine timeline and create a checklist for the following:

- Host / Hostess
- Servers
- Table clearing and cleanup
- Cooks
- Photographer
- Administrative, advertising, & planning duties

Step 2: Advertising:

(Sample ad) - (your department) will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on (Date) (Time). The cost is \$00.00 per person for all the pancakes you can eat and either a cold drink or coffee. The breakfast will be held at (address) and benefits the 2012 Arizona State Fire School Scholarship Program. You can even include the community by printing paper placemats with local businesses' ads.

Step 3: Plan the menu:

Besides pancakes you'll need to provide drinks, butter and syrup. (Bacon, sausage, eggs optional).

Step 4: Find a venue with a kitchen: Options - churches, VFWs, banquet halls, community centers, and schools. Verify you'll have enough tables, cooking utensils, and chairs to accommodate the crowd.

Step 5: Procure ingredients:

Ask local businesses if they'll contribute to the cost of pancake batter, eggs, milk, juice, paper plates, and other necessary items. In exchange for the donation, explain to the business that they will receive an ad in your event literature. Purchase the ingredients at a warehouse club store, such as Costco, to save money.

Step 6: Set prices:

Determine ticket prices by calculating any out-of-pocket fees for supplies and add in enough to make a profit. Sell tickets in advance, if possible, to estimate your turnout.

Step 7: Hold a meeting the day before the pancake breakfast:

Make sure all volunteers are reliable and know their roles.

Step 8: Follow-up:

Write thank you notes to any businesses that donated and include a copy of the literature with their advertisement.

BOB WEBER CHALLENGES YOU

Chief Bob Weber spent 52 of his 72 years in the fire service. He began his career in Wisconsin then moved to Lake Havasu City where he worked his way up from the first full time paid fire fighter to Fire Chief.

Chief Weber was proud of his 30 year membership on the Arizona State Fire Training Committee. His passion was in sharing knowledge with others in the fire service.

In 2008, Chief Weber received the Firefighter of the Year Award. In accepting the award, Chief Weber challenged all those in the fire service by saying, "Get all the education and training that is possible." He continued with, "You have an obligation to your family, your fellow fire fighters and to your community to be a leader."

Unfortunately, Chief Weber passed away April 21, 2010. To honor his memory, I am challenging every fire department in Arizona to hold at least one Pancake Breakfast prior to the 2012 Fire School. All monies raised from the event will be donated to the 2012 Arizona State Fire School Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Joyce Weber at 602-710-5302 or email to jandrweber@aol.com for additional information.

The Arizona State Fire Training Committee is a 501c3 not-for-profit Arizona Corporation. The committee consists of a volunteer group of dedicated fire service professionals and is responsible for coordinating and managing the annual State Fire School presented each year in September in Mesa. Due to budget cutbacks, the Fire School no longer has the support of the Arizona State Fire Marshal's office.

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White Mountain Lake Fire District

The White Mountain Lake Fire District is excited to announce that they are now almost 100% fully recovered from the nearly one million dollar debt left by the previous administration.

If you recall or have read in the past the district suffered an enormous blow in late December 2008 when it was made public that the district was nearly one million dollars in debt and the Navajo County Board of Supervisors had to step in and assist the district. The former Fire Chief was charged with 43 felony counts of theft, misuse of public monies, fraudulent schemes and artifices and tampering with a public record.

The District hired a new Fire Chief Jerry McGraw in June of 2009 and changed from a three member board to an all new five member board and has hired a CPA to handle the district's financial records as well as placed several other safe guards into the management of the district to prevent this from happening again.

The district was on a three to four year recovery plan, with the assistance of the Administrator John Flynn of Policy Logic. Chief Jerry McGraw working closely with the newly elected fire board has brought the district back to a normal operating fire district once again.

"I am excited to be working on the future of the district rather than dealing with the past debts left behind by the previous administration" said Chief McGraw

The district can now see the light at the end of what seemed to be a very long tunnel. Chief McGraw was able to settle most of the debt at 40% of value saving the district thousands of dollars. He also worked with the state and IRS to get most of the penalties and late fee's abated as the district owed nearly a quarter of a million in employee taxes that were not paid by the previous administration. The district is now operating on a positive budget and is continuing to work on improving the quality of service to the community.

The district has hired all new certified Firefighters who work part-time shifts to provide Fire and EMS service to the community.

"I have a very dedicated group of employees. We are a smaller Fire District but will strive to train and educate our personnel to the highest standards." Said Chief McGraw "It was unfortunate what happened to this community as we are hired into a position with an extreme amount of trust when dealing with our tax payers' dollars and this trust had been destroyed by a few with personal agendas. We have been working very hard in our community to restore this trust with our citizens and to ensure them they now have a Fire Department they can depend on."

The White Mountain Lake Fire District would also like to thank all of those that have supported us during the time of recovery.

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\$15,000,000 Tubac Fire District
November 2008 – 57.9% Yes Votes



\$17,000,000 Rincon Valley Fire District
November 2007 – 73.3% Yes Votes



\$10,000,000 Chino Valley Fire District
November 2006 – 68.4% Yes Votes

Lease Purchase Finance Highlights



\$10,000,000 Green Valley Fire District
Certificates of Participation
(In a Lease Purchase)



\$5,280,000 Pinetop Fire District
Certificates of Participation
(In a Lease Purchase)



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Drexel Height Fire District Fire Prevention Month

Drexel Height Fire District's 2011 Fire Prevention Month efforts included their annual characterization program. Each year the department's Safety Education Team adopts a new theme for their program. This year's program was called "Safety Hop" based off a 1950's sock hop.

By using music, characters, and special effects firefighters and public education volunteers gain the kids attention while teaching them important fire and life safety messages. The teacher's evaluations indicated that the children not only remembered the messages but were still singing safety songs weeks after the firefighters visit. This year's messages included smoke alarms, stop, drop and roll, bike helmets and buckling up when riding in vehicles.

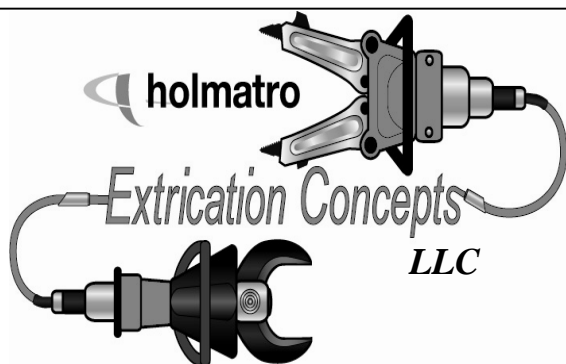
To get the schools excited about the safety programs and the 1950's theme, a teacher costume contest was incorporated. Special thanks to Tucson Medical Center who partnered with DHFD this year, by donating and fitting bike helmets to all the kids in the winning teachers classes.

In total, Drexel Heights Fire District's Safety Education Team visited 9 public and private schools, making 13 presentations, and reaching 4,000 children. Each of the children received a trading card that featured the characters from the program along with the safety messages as reminders. The kids look forward to the new themes every year and collecting the trading cards.



Golder Ranch 3 Story Burn Tower

Recently the Golder Ranch Fire District took possession of a 3 story burn tower. This tower has 3 workable stories with a rappelling tower on top of the third story. The bottom floor has a movable maze system, confined space tubing and a wall breach system. The second story is a burn room and the third is an open area. Each floor has windows with anchor points above. There is an outside and inside stairwell with a standpipe connection on each floor. The second floor has working sprinklers. Around the outside there is a forcible entry door with prying, striking and cutting areas. There is also a rebar cutting prop along with a garage door prop that leads to the inside.



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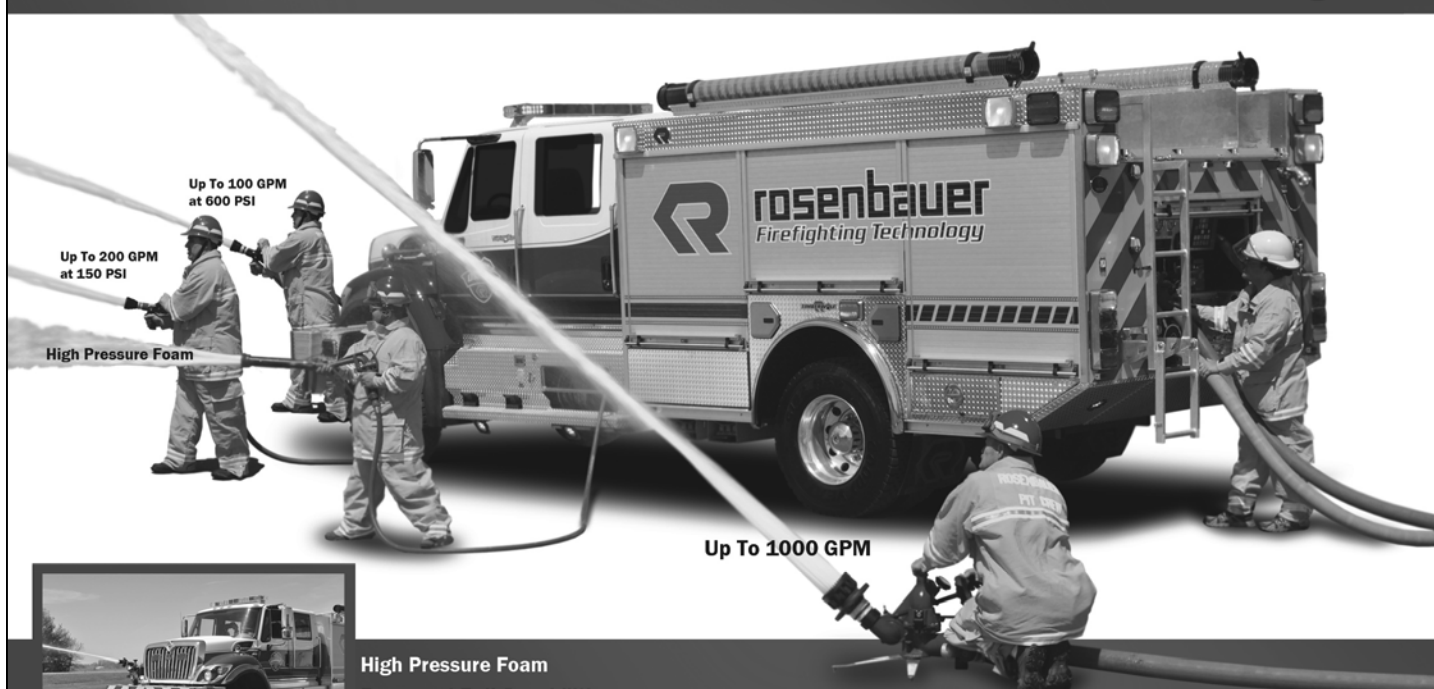
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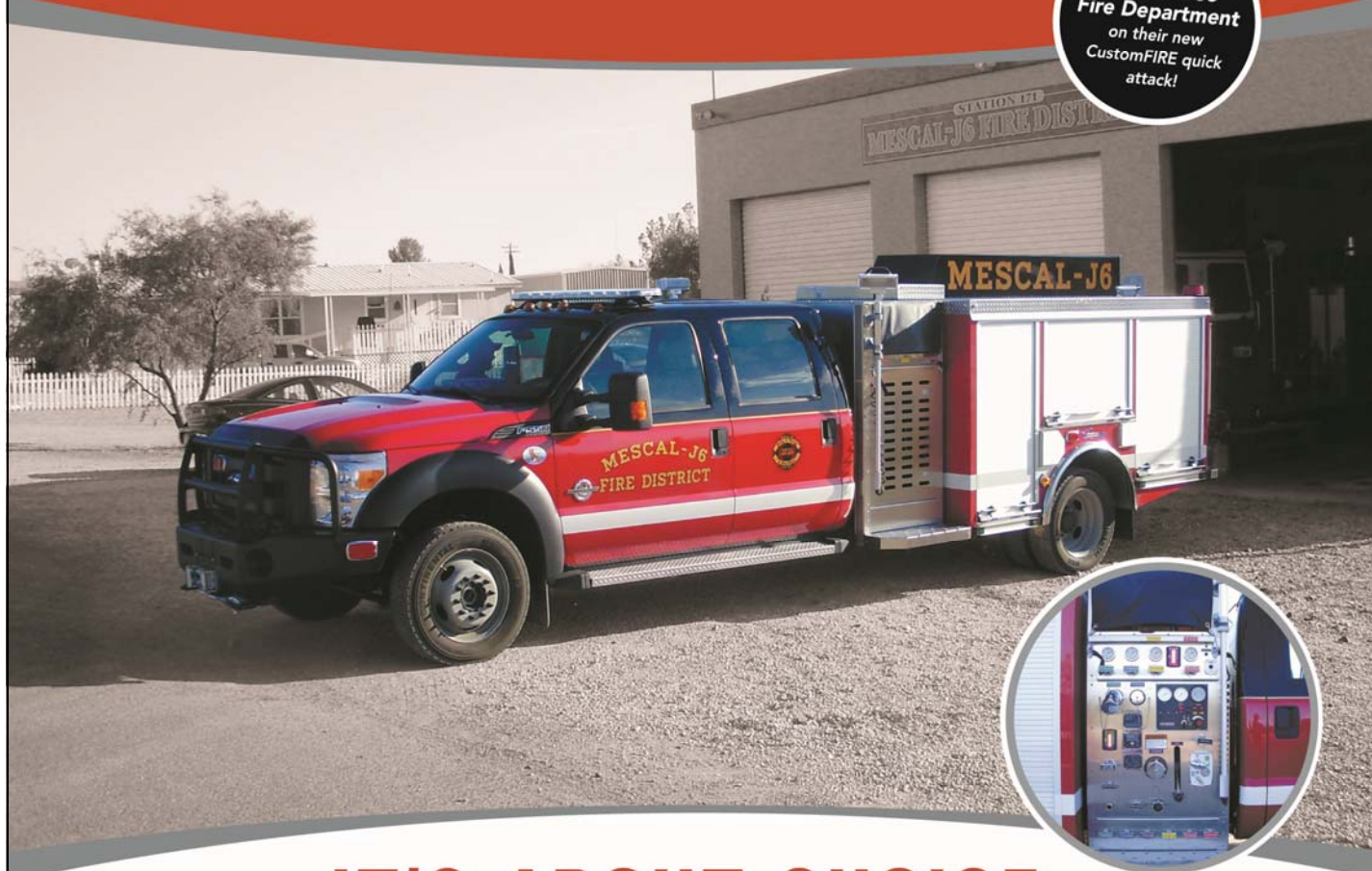
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These are from the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial held in Colorado Springs on September 17, 2011. Show Low Fire District Pipes and Drums participated in the mass band ceremony for the fallen firefighters from the United States and Canada. This was also a memorial for the 10th anniversary of 9-11.

