

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE

Re: FIREPAC

1 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
2 Fighters is committed to continually educating its
3 members on legislative and political issues that
4 directly impact their jobs, pay, health, safety,
5 pensions and family; and

6 WHEREAS, it is important for IAFF members
7 and their families to be informed about key
8 legislative issues before the Congress and Parliament
9 that directly affect their professions, so that they may
10 make informed decisions on Election Day about who
11 should represent them at the federal, state, provincial
12 and local level of government, the IAFF and
13 FIREPAC must have sufficient resources to
14 communicate with its members about how elected
15 officials and candidates stand on fire service issues;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, FIREPAC aids the IAFF in reaching
18 its legislative and political goals by educating federal
19 candidates on issues important to the nations’
20 professional fire fighters and emergency medical
21 personnel like the national collective bargaining, the
22 SAFER Act, USAR funding, HELPS retiree tax
23 credit, funding for Interoperable Communications,
24 9/11 responder health care treatment, health care
25 reform, study of fire fighter safety standards,
26 presumptive disability and banning of contracting out
27 for federal fire fighters, and

28 WHEREAS, the IAFF has become a major player
29 in Congress and Parliament, the IAFF must be able to

30 maintain and expand its influence in the political and
31 legislative arena and increase involvement in
32 political activities that have a direct impact on its
33 legislative priorities;

34 WHEREAS, the IAFF and FIREPAC must have
35 the necessary funds and resources to fight anti-union
36 ballot referendums, initiatives and legislative attacks
37 on our jobs, pay, benefits, health and safety; and

38 WHEREAS, FIREPAC has responded to requests
39 from state associations seeking financial assistance to
40 help them elect governors who are supportive of our
41 members at the state level, and

42 WHEREAS, the IAFF in order to maintain our
43 legislative and political successes needs to be
44 prepared to support those elected officials who have
45 stood with us, and who may come under attack this
46 year for their pro-IAFF, pro-Labor support in ways
47 we have never witnessed due to the U.S. Supreme
48 Court's ruling in the Citizens United case, and

49 WHEREAS, the IAFF has built a comprehensive
50 internal political campaign operation to communicate
51 with its members via mail, phone, internet and
52 through Independent Expenditure efforts to support
53 those candidates for office who have supported our
54 legislative agenda, and

55 WHEREAS, the IAFF continues to increase its
56 political clout by encouraging its members to
57 voluntarily contribute to FIREPAC when registering
58 for various IAFF conferences so that FIREPAC can
59 maximize its support to pro-fire fighter candidates;
60 and

61 WHEREAS, the IAFF funds the Political Training
62 Academy to provide campaign skills to IAFF

63 members and their families who are candidates for
64 public office or are active in their local's political
65 program, recognizing the importance of having IAFF
66 members and their families serve as public servants
67 or political activists; and

68 WHEREAS, more IAFF members are running for
69 political office at the state, provincial and local levels
70 of government, with a total of 291 currently serving
71 in office, and it is imperative that FIREPAC support
72 these candidates so that the voices of IAFF members
73 can be heard; therefore be it

74 RESOLVED, That the IAFF per capita
75 allocation for the FIREPAC Education account be
76 increased 25 cents (from \$1.25 to \$1.50) in
77 September 2010.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: 25 cents

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE

Re: SAFER Grants

1 WHEREAS, the Staffing for Adequate Fire and
2 Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) program was
3 created at the federal level to provide funding
4 directly to local fire departments and volunteer
5 fire fighter interest organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, as administered by the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency and the U.S.
8 Department of Homeland Security, SAFER grants
9 help fire departments increase the number of trained,
10 front line firefighters available in their respective
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, the goal of SAFER is to enhance a
13 local fire department's abilities to comply with
14 staffing, response and operational standards
15 established by the National Fire Protection
16 Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and
17 Health Administration (OSHA) -- NFPA 1710 and/or
18 NFPA 1720 and OSHA 1910.134; and

19 WHEREAS, currently, SAFER grants are only
20 awarded to local governments; and

21 WHEREAS, in California, CAL FIRE is charged
22 with providing local fire protection to dozens of local
23 governments through cooperative agreements,
24 however, because they are a state agency, they are
25 ineligible to receive SAFER grant funds; therefore
26 be it

27 RESOLVED, That the International Association
28 of Fire Fighters (IAFF) examine the existing SAFER
29 grant program to determine what barriers exist to the

30 distribution of grant dollars to all relevant local
31 government fire protection providers, such as CAL
32 FIRE; and be it further
33 RESOLVED, That the IAFF pursue urgently
34 needed federal legislation to amend the SAFER grant
35 program in a manner that removes the existing
36 barriers identified by the IAFF.

Submitted by: California Professional Firefighters

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE

Re: Grant Purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1 WHEREAS, the IAFF's work within the United
2 States Congress securing grant funding for personal
3 protective equipment (P.P.E.) is invaluable to the
4 safety of fire fighters throughout the United States
5 and Canada; and

6 WHEREAS, the IAFF is an active participant and
7 stakeholder in making decisions as to defining the
8 parameters and goals of grant funding to promote the
9 health and safety of fire fighters throughout the
10 nation; and

11 WHEREAS, while the IAFF has an effective
12 voice in how grant parameters are defined, the ability
13 for individual locals to continue the effectiveness of
14 carrying out those goals have been impeded at the
15 municipal level; and

16 WHEREAS, in many cases, line fire fighters'
17 input and evaluation process has been discarded by
18 fire management and determined to be invalid;
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the IAFF petition the United
21 States Congress to establish standards mandating
22 that, at the municipal level, labor will have a seat and
23 equal voice in any decision made with regard to
24 grant funded P.P.E. procurements; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the IAFF petition the United
26 States Congress to have language drafted that will
27 give a priority placement of grant funds to petitioners
28 who have an established labor/management decision-

29 making body that determines how grant funds are
30 used/spent with regard to issues that affect line fire
31 fighter safety.

Submitted by: California Professional Firefighters

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE

Re: Pursue Amendments to Federal Bankruptcy Provisions

1 WHEREAS, federal law limits the ability of
2 municipalities to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9
3 by requiring that the state specifically authorize its
4 municipalities to file (11 USC 109(c)(2)); and

5 WHEREAS, in order to clarify its intent,
6 Congress in 1994 amended the Bankruptcy Reform
7 Act (P.L. No. 103-394), to require the state to
8 provide explicit, specific authorization; and

9 WHEREAS, the vast majority of states (38) now
10 have a statutory framework or authorization that
11 limits access to or prohibits bankruptcy filing by
12 municipalities, either through an explicit ban,
13 statutory pre-conditions or the lack of a statute on the
14 subject; and

15 WHEREAS, California is one of only 11 states
16 that currently provide blanket authority for municipal
17 bankruptcy, joining Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas,
18 Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,
19 Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas; and

20 WHEREAS, in the case of the 2009 bankruptcy
21 filing of the City of Vallejo, the petition filed by the
22 city reflected an attempt by the city to void its
23 contractual obligations to city workers and retirees,
24 including fire fighters and other public safety
25 personnel, without reasonable efforts to address other
26 costs and revenue sources; and

27 WHEREAS, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michael
28 McManus held on March 13, 2009, that when

29 Congress enacted 11 U.S.C. 1113 to limit companies
30 from outright rejection of union contracts, it limited
31 the statute to Chapter 11 bankruptcies; and

32 WHEREAS, by failing to extend the statute's
33 limits to Chapter 9, which covers municipal
34 bankruptcy, McManus said that cities have broader
35 latitude to break existing union pacts. In RE: City of
36 Vallejo, No. 08-26813-A-9 (E.D. Calif.); and

37 WHEREAS, Vallejo's bankruptcy also wreaked
38 untold havoc on public safety, with fire station
39 closures, fire and law enforcement layoffs forcing
40 intolerable response times and leaving citizens on a
41 public safety knife point; and

42 WHEREAS, Vallejo's bankruptcy made it
43 impossible for the jurisdiction to even borrow money
44 to ensure minimal public safety staffing, or to create
45 a climate to attract business and industry, meaning
46 that Vallejo will be the last city in the Bay Area to
47 recover from the Great Recession; and

48 WHEREAS, because the bankruptcy process
49 focuses only on the economics and creditors – public
50 safety is not taken into account, meaning that any
51 city following Vallejo's lead is at risk of putting its
52 citizens through the same sad and unnecessary
53 ordeal; and

54 WHEREAS, federal bankruptcy law must be
55 amended in a manner that upholds the integrity of its
56 provisions, prevents municipalities from using it to
57 break contractual obligations with their employees
58 and, most importantly, protect the lives and well-
59 being of all citizens; therefore be it

60 RESOLVED, That the International Association
61 of Fire Fighters (IAFF) pursue urgently needed

62 federal legislation, either in the form of amendments
63 to H.R. 4677 and/or S. 3033 (111th Congress, 2nd
64 Session) or as a separate bill, to create, at a
65 minimum, the same protections as are contained in
66 Chapter 11 U.S.C. 1113 in the application of limits
67 on municipalities that file for bankruptcy protection
68 under Chapter 9 and in doing so, prevent the outright
69 rejection of union contracts as part of that bankruptcy
70 process.

Submitted by: California Professional Firefighters

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE

Re: Health Care Reform

1 WHEREAS, a resolution adopted at the 2008
2 convention put the IAFF on record in support of
3 reforming our nation's health care system by
4 expanding access to insurance and reducing the cost
5 of insurance; and

6 WHEREAS, Congress passed and the President
7 signed into law legislation aimed at achieving these
8 goals; and

9 WHEREAS, the IAFF believes the new law is
10 generally a step in the right direction, but contains
11 certain provisions the IAFF does not support,
12 including an excise tax on high cost health insurance;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the IAFF actively opposed the excise
15 tax, and succeeded in reducing it by 85%, but was
16 not able to eliminate it entirely; and

17 WHEREAS, the excise does not take effect until
18 2018, and includes several adjustments that will
19 ultimately determine who is impacted by it, and

20 WHEREAS, the legislation provides access to
21 health care for people without insurance, but fails to
22 provide a specific program for fire fighters and others
23 who retire before becoming eligible for Medicare;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the IAFF will continue to
26 work to improve the new health care reform law,
27 including seeking elimination of the excise tax on
28 high cost health plans and providing more health
29 care options for early retirees; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the IAFF will work with IAFF
31 affiliates, insurance companies and employer
32 organizations to take full advantage of the various
33 adjustments to the excise tax to ensure that the tax
34 does not impact fire fighters.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

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Re: Medicare Buy-In Resolution

1 WHEREAS, fire fighters perform a very
2 dangerous and demanding job that takes an
3 incredible physical and mental toll; and;

4 WHEREAS, this toll causes fire fighters to retire
5 at an earlier age than most other professions; and

6 WHEREAS, the healthcare system in the United
7 States of America is specifically designed to only
8 address the health needs of persons retiring at age 65;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
11 Fighters has previously lobbied to allow fire fighters
12 to utilize the Medicare system prior to age 65; and

13 WHEREAS, many fire fighters do not have the
14 credits to participate in Medicare even after the age
15 of 65, and

16 WHEREAS, these fire fighters in many cases are
17 using half of their income to provide themselves and
18 their families with healthcare coverage; and

19 WHEREAS, the healthcare system in the United
20 States is quickly changing and may provide fire
21 fighters the opportunity to address these issues;
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the International Association
24 of Fire Fighters reiterate its commitment and make it
25 a top lobbying priority to allow fire fighters early
26 entry or the ability to buy into Medicare; and be it
27 further;

28 RESOLVED, That the International Association
29 of Fire Fighters also work to ensure that fire fighters

30 that do not have enough credits to participate in
31 Medicare have the ability to purchase credits in an
32 effort to provide affordable healthcare for fire
33 fighters.

Submitted by: Local 858, Denver, CO

Cost Estimate:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

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Re: Alternative Minimum Tax Relief for Fire fighters

1 WHEREAS, fire fighters nationally have earnings
2 that put them into consideration for the Alternative
3 Minimum Tax (AMT) payment; and

4 WHEREAS, bipartisan support should be there
5 for the repeal or alteration of AMT standards to raise
6 the income levels to a point where it hits the intended
7 higher income earners in America; and

8 WHEREAS, fire fighters and their incomes
9 inclusive of overtime on a national basis, as well as
10 our friends' and neighbors' incomes inclusive of
11 overtime and bonus' at our levels were not the
12 intended targets; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the IAFF and the IAFF
14 legislative staff seek remedy to eliminate or correct
15 the standards and or income levels to trigger
16 Alternative Minimum Tax payment for all
17 individuals by way of legislation or Executive
18 Branch remedy through the IRS.

Submitted by: Local 1014, Los Angeles County, CA

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE

Re: Relief from IRS Constructive Receipt Issue with Banked Benefit Time

1 WHEREAS, the IRS has determined that
2 individuals / members must pay tax on accrued and
3 banked benefit time when an individual / member
4 receives that time and has control or choice over use
5 or payment of said benefit time; and

6 WHEREAS, the individuals / members have had
7 the opportunity to bank benefit time and use it or
8 cash it out at a later time; and

9 WHEREAS, the issue often times affects
10 compensability for the purposes of calculating
11 retirement payment for IAFF members; and

12 WHEREAS, individuals / members must put in
13 place measures in their contracts that eliminate
14 “control” or “choice” over receipt of those benefit
15 days or face the tax liability on value of the days
16 upon receipt of the days, and

17 WHEREAS, These issues can be resolved to
18 advantage our members to provide choice, control,
19 and use of accrued benefit time; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the IAFF and the Legislative
21 Staff take action to seek Legislative or Executive
22 Branch remedy for this IRS issue affecting our
23 members, and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the IAFF seek such remedy to
25 ensure our members have the ability to receive
26 benefit time with choice to use or cash out, where
27 bargained for in a memorandum of understanding or
28 by right, not to exceed one years accrued and cashed

29 out benefit time without tax liability unless benefit
30 time is actually payed out to individual / member and
31 received by them.

Submitted by: Local 1014, Los Angeles County, CA

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: