

THE MUSEUM TRUMPET



Vol. 10. No. 2

The Official Newsletter of the San Jose Fire Museum

April 2019

STATUS OF OUR SJFD 1954 GMC RESTORATION



We are happy to report that the work on the 1954 GMC, also known as Engine or Squad 11, has been progressing at a steady pace. Both the windshield and back glass have been installed. We are grateful to Bill Donovan of Autoglass Masters as he was able to put the original glass back in using new glass seals. We have also had help from FJM Trucking to get the brakes back in working order. Recently, the museum staff was able to start up the engine on the 1954 GMC and considering how long the old pumper has been sitting idle for, the engine runs well.



Class of 2018-1, 22 SJFD Recruit Firefighters taking their class picture before graduation in front of a 1990 Mack Fire Engine that served at Old Fire Station One when it first went into service

President's Message

By John A. McMillan



Hello friends and supporters of the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM)! As we enter spring 2019, we do so with a lot of optimism. Our Board of Directors is excitedly anticipating a major announcement for late spring. We are working to announce a soft opening of the San Jose Fire Museum at Old Fire Station One (OFS1). Our current target date for this is the end of August 2019, to coincide with the 100 year birthday party for Retired Fire Captain Sam Seibert. The actual date will be posted on our website in the coming months and officially announced in our June 2019 summer newsletter. We plan to have our 1954 GMC fully restored and on display for this occasion as well as activities for children and multiple new fire museum displays for all to enjoy.

Included in the next newsletter, we will be providing you with an overview of our expenses to give you an idea of where your donations go in supporting our non-profit. Many of these expenses are ongoing and generally increase with inflation. We also have a number of projects and funding opportunities that we are currently undertaking and here is the status of each:

OFS1 Facility Improvement

We are moving forward with adding heat to the apparatus floor space area and we have now included bringing heat into the dining room kitchen area. This project is slated to start in early April 2019. We are still designing the install of the 'Rear Steel Awning Project'. Both projects are funded by private, one-time donations. We are also putting the finishing touches on the 'Fire Pole Hole Project'. The only thing we have left to do is to install a pad around the pole for additional safety. This will become an activity for children's use only.

Displays at OFS1

We recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Farrington Historical Foundation for the creation of a new educational exhibit entitled 'The Engine That Saved San Jose', which was used during the 1906 earthquake. The fire engine for this exhibit will be the SJFD Franklin No. 3, an 1890 Amoskeag steam pumper, which we plan to have on display at OFS1. We are currently in discussions with Amy Cohen, Executive Director with Exhibit Envoy, for early design ideas. We hope to have this display ready for public view later on this summer.

Santa Clara County Historic Grant Program

We are excited about a new grant opportunity that Santa Clara County is announcing. We have identified a capital improvement project that needs funding and meets the initial criterion of this grant. The project which we have identified for this is the upgrade of our power grid at OFS1 as we feel it is an essential next big step in our restoration of OFS1. We won't know how successful we might be in securing this grant until December of this year. We are receiving a lot of guidance and support from Vic Giacalone, president and owner of Best Electric.

Relocation of the Firefighter/Chaplain Statue

As you may recall from the last newsletter, we are currently storing a 12-foot tall, contemporary interpretation of St. Florian, bronze statue which we received in 2018 at our Senter Road warehouse. At the moment, there is very little public viewing opportunities for this statue which we eventually plan to have installed and stand in front of SJFD Fire Station 33 when that station goes into service. However, because the opening of Station 33 may take several years, the SJFM has decided to bring the statue to OFS1 for public viewing.

Status of the 'Institution of Extramen Donation Program'

We have just completed another year of SJFD active and retired firefighters cash donations. I estimate that we received over \$60,000 in one time as well as monthly on going donations. For those that contributed, our non-profit thanks you so very much!

Here are some takeaways I found while tallying the numbers regarding the 'Extramen Donation Program' for 2018. While we did not grow much in the number of firefighter participants, it turns out that many of you made extra, one-time donations. With this said however, we added 44 new Extramen to bring us to a new total of 361 and 4 new Chief Engineers bringing that new total to 24. Over the next month, you can expect to receive a letter in the mail from us reporting the status of this program and your donation level. A donation of \$150 is the minimum level for a certificate or pin.

In closing, I want to send a special thank you to our SJFM Treasurer Dale Foster. Dale spearheaded a complete update of our Fire Museum By-Laws. This thorough review was long overdue and thanks to Dale, we are now current!

VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

As we look across America and think about why museums are successful or why they struggle and fail, the key difference is always the volunteers and donors. The more you have of each, the greater opportunity for success! Many articles about the need and importance for finding volunteers and growing the donor list have been written in the past for this newsletter and it is a constant challenge we continue to accept. With this said, the San Jose Fire Museum (SJFM) is very proud of the success we have had, especially our recent purchase of Old Fire Station One (OFS1). We also continue to grow our amazing collection as well as the continual restoration of historical apparatus, tools and equipment and documents. Currently, most of this success comes with a very small number of volunteers and limited number of donors. While our Board of Directors recognizes this and is very grateful for where we are with the limited resources we have today, we hope to change this.

The challenge we face is how to advance to the next step and turn the SJFM into a state of the art fire museum in downtown San Jose. For volunteers, there are many areas which we need your help and involvement in now! Any amount of time you have to spare to help would be greatly appreciated and we are very flexible! As for donors, there are 2 type of groups we are reaching out to, the active and retired firefighters and the private sector. Over the past 10 years we have received close to \$1.7 million dollars in cash donations which is a great start but has only allowed us to just barely scratch the surface of what needs to get done. The money donated so far has allowed us to accomplish a lot including the acquisition and maintenance of historical apparatus, tools and equipment and documents as well as the purchase and minimal restoration of OFS1. For firefighters, this is a great way to give back to the fire service, help to preserve our rich fire history and be proud of your career while sharing it with others. If you are from the private sector, this is your chance to contribute by being part of the great history in San Jose and across America. We have listed our current needs for both volunteers and donors below and hope that by reading this, it motivates more people to step up and get more involved.

VOLUNTEERS

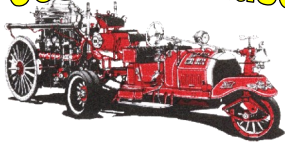
- ◆ Help with everyday details including maintenance, repair and organization of our collection as well as OFS1
- ◆ Help to develop programs and ideas to excite the public visiting OFS1
- ◆ Docents and supporters to help us open the doors of OFS1 to the public

DONORS

- ◆ ***SJFD Active & Retired Firefighters***: This group makes up most of our donations that come in on a monthly basis. Right now, this consists of about 230 firefighters who make a monthly ongoing donation and is about 15% of the total pool of 1,500 firefighters available. In addition, we have had a small number of firefighters who have made a one time or once a year cash donation of some amount but we still need more firefighters to join us and become donors. Our hope is to see this donor list grow to about 50% of all firefighters which equates to a total of about 750 firefighters and an increase of about 520 firefighters making monetary donations.
- ◆ ***Private sector***: This group is generally made up of one time cash donations. We are figuring out strategies to reach out and find new donors in this group.

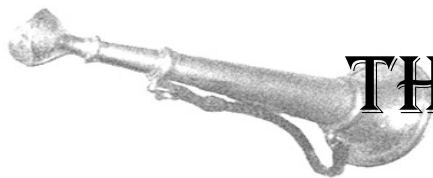
The bottom line is that we want more people to get involved by investing their time and/or monetary donations into our non-profit as any amount will help! In light of this plea for more volunteers and donors, I would like to conclude by acknowledging those people who have volunteered a great amount of their time or made one time donations of greater than \$500 in 2018. A big thank you to **Jim True, Don Jarvis, Lee Caudill, Dave Wood, Sam Seibert, Eileen Townley, April Halberstadt, and Ed Del Prete** for the countless hours of your time you spent on projects to help us continue forward with our dream of a Downtown Fire Museum! Also, a big thank you to **Diane Brandenburg, Rob Bettencourt, Ed Barber, Dan Bourbon Family, Richard Moore, Jose Luna, Ski Bartosiewicz, John Emerson, Les Omans, Jack Kalp, Ed Schneickert, Jim True, Mike Woodworth, Barry Ford, Kevin Albonese and Statewide Roofing** for making monetary donations of over \$500! Finally, we would like to thank the over 230 active and retired SJFD firefighters who made monthly ongoing donations in 2018. We received \$34,776 from retired firefighters and \$18,240 from active firefighters. We could not have done it without you!

San Jose Fire Museum



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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SJFM Donation Information

Our 501 (c) 3 non-profit needs your support! This includes everyone from the private sector including businesses to citizens as well as all active & retired firefighters. If you have any questions about donations or how the funds are used, please contact:

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