



**PLEASE POST!**

**July 3, 2009**

## **A SOBERING HOLIDAY MESSAGE NEWS IN POMONA AND EL MONTE**

Dear 1014 members:

This Saturday American citizens across the county will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, a traditionally a patriotic, family oriented, fun summer holiday. Even in the middle of our country's current economic turmoil, July 4th remains a time for American citizens to give pause to appreciate all the good things that the American flag and the United States of America stand for in this world.

And as we are compelled to do for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and for many other holidays, Local 1014 will repeat a "sobering" message to all of its members: Go out and celebrate the holiday with patriotism, family, fun and laughter, but guide your actions with good common sense. As always, the central theme of the common sense we are referring to is to handle any alcohol drinking responsibly, and don't drink then drive anything...boat, bike or car! It could cost you and your family dearly. The penalties and consequences for an LA County Firefighter who operates an automobile *or boat* while under the influence can be truly staggering, and that is no exaggeration.

Let's see... possible suspension from the job, maybe even total loss of employment, ten\$ of thousand\$ of dollars in legal costs and increased insurance rates – and that's assuming that you weren't involved in an accident with injuries or death.

How does that one last drink for the road and "out of the way, I'm fine to drive" sound now? Ladies and gents, we all know how to celebrate responsibly, so do it right. Celebrate with a happy, fun, safe and sober 4<sup>th</sup> of July. And to those few of you who will read this and still not get that it does mean *you* – we'll be expecting your sad, stunned phone call next week.

### **Good News in Pomona**

During the past five years Local 1014 has given a lot of time and effort to help elect city council members who care about our issues and will support LACoFD services in the east end of the County. Although we now have such a council in Pomona, the economy is what it is, and state and city politics and services are strained everywhere in California.

Recently we were all faced with a Pomona city council who seemed committed to reducing firefighter staffing in their city in order to help them survive their economic fire storm. However, after a combination of 1014's many days and hours of intense sidebar discussions with Pomona officials to point out the service and monetary savings they have realized over the years through LACoFD fire protection, the physical presence of our 1014 Board members and firefighters attending Pomona Council meetings, and the ability and willingness of the Department to both creatively and practically address Pomona's very real conflicts, we are very pleased to say that the staffing reduction issue in Pomona has gone away – for now.

By agreeing to purchase the Pomona training facility instead of leasing it, the Fire Department will be giving Pomona two years of unexpected monetary infusion it will use to keep staffing as it is. And on the Department's end, over the long haul the purchase will save the Department years of leasing the training center with no end in sight. As with all good agreements, this one looks like a winner for everyone.

Local 1014 would like to thank the Pomona city council for its willingness to work with 1014 and the Fire Department to find workable solutions, to the Department staff for its willingness to do the same, and to the 1014 members who responded when we asked them to bring their bodies to the council meetings. Our very visible presence at those meetings did much to help carry the day. Thank you.

Make no mistake about it...political action efforts were once again the key to not only having a voice, but influence on the decisions that the leaders of this great city had to make during difficult times. Thank you to the entire membership for the dues money and the physical bodies to make this long term political action program become so effective. The work will never be done in these contract cities, but is always ongoing. Local 1014 should be quite proud of this effort.

### **El Monte - Short Term Pain for Long Term Gain... a Must!**

At the June 23rd El Monte City Council meeting the Council voted 3 to 2 to close a fire station. At the June 30<sup>th</sup> El Monte City Council meeting the Council discussed filing bankruptcy because their budget for the 2009-2010 year is short \$12 million, a huge number for a smaller city. Setting aside potential bankruptcy for now, in order to close the \$12 million gap El Monte committed to the following: The city has not filled and won't fill 17 police officer vacancies and has laid off 13 other police officers and roughly 100 other city employees. The city also reached an agreement with its remaining employees to cut employee salaries and reduce the city's contributions to the employees' medical and retirement benefits. With the above and other cutbacks, El Monte believes it can avoid claiming bankruptcy for at least THIS year.

What does this mean for our membership? An LA County fire station in El Monte is closing, and the Fire Chief and the City of El Monte are currently working out the details. Local 1014 is also working with the Department to protect the rights of our affected firefighters.

We are also still planning and working on where we go from here with El Monte. We have had meetings with employee and community groups to lay out a plan for the future in El Monte. We will soon be visiting the El Monte fire stations to inform everyone about what is happening and what is going to happen.

Obviously the 1014 Executive Board takes this matter very seriously. We are in the process of mounting a campaign to educate not only our members but the citizens of El Monte on the dangers of a fire station closure. We just can't let a city, due to their own financial mismanagement, put our citizens' and our members' health and safety at risk. We will be calling on the membership to help us with this. This means heavy political action efforts once again to include city leadership, city manager, city attorney and staff changes and in this case, revenue solutions for a city with no money due to mismanagement of funds. Stay tuned for the effort and the plan which will involve money and your efforts on the streets and phones.

Periodically check our website <http://local1014.org> for information on this and other issues.

As always, if you have any questions for us on any subject, please don't hesitate to contact your executive board at (310) 639-1014 or [info@local1014.org](mailto:info@local1014.org).

And now everyone, go out and enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend as it should be enjoyed. We'll be back at it after the weekend! BE SAFE!

### **Have a happy Fourth of July, America!**

This Message is on behalf of the entire Local 1014 Executive Board and Staff who work hard for you!

Fraternally,  
Dave Gillotte, President