



# The Billy & Spanner

## A NEW YEAR AND A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE ASSOCIATION

By Mike Kihmm, President



Happy New Year, and welcome to 2026. I am honored to serve as your President and am hitting the ground running to ensure this is a productive and proactive year for our Association.

Because there are so many of you I've yet to meet, let me start with a very quick self-introduction.

My law enforcement career began in 1991 with the Milpitas Police Department. After lateraling to the San Jose Police Department, I served the San Jose community for nearly 27 years, retiring as a Captain. Before transitioning to the private sector, I spent my final year as a public law enforcement officer as the Deputy Chief for the Vallejo Police Department. Now, having transitioned to the private sector, I am bringing those valuable law enforcement skills we learned as SJPD officers to corporate security management.

Throughout retirement, I have remained deeply involved in executive boards for the SJPD Benevolent Association, the International Police Association (South Bay), and the California Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates. I am eager to apply this collective leadership experience and a strong, association-focused perspective to protect the interests of our retired police and fire members.

### 2026 Immediate Action Plan

Your Association, Your Voice: The 2026 Membership Survey

One of our top goals this year is to set a clear strategic direction for the Association. We need you to help guide that process. Strong communication must be a two-way process. Please watch your inbox for an upcoming membership survey. This is your opportunity to share your priorities and ideas directly with us. We need to know what matters most to you—including gauging the level of interest in initiatives like supplemental Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits—so we can focus our financial and logistical efforts where they are needed most.

### Strategic Planning

This Board is wasting no time in setting our future course. In early March, we will hold a Strategic Board Planning Meeting to establish clear goals and reaffirm our mission to advocate for the retired sworn employees of the SJPD and SJFD. While this session is for the Board to leverage its institutional knowledge and experience, as noted above, your voice, delivered via the member survey, will inform and guide our process.

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## MEMBER SURVEY!



We will launch a membership survey in a few weeks.

The Board of Directors wants your help in setting our future goals by getting feedback directly from you.

As in the past, this will be an online survey. **You must be signed up for Association emails to take the survey.**

**Not signed up? No problem. Scan the QR code to sign up for email.**

We look forward to hearing from you



## ***A New Year and a New Chapter (Mike Kihmm)***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Since its founding in 1975, this Association has a proud legacy of advocacy. I am committed to building upon that foundation with transparency and action. Thank you for your continued membership and your commitment to this organization. Together, we will strengthen and advance our Association for the benefit of all members.

## **HEALTHCARE UPDATE: KAISER OTC ACCESS AND SJFD EMERGENCY FEES**

**By Jim Spence, Director of Healthcare**

Please review the following important updates regarding your healthcare benefits and new local emergency service fees.

### **Kaiser Over-the-Counter (OTC) Program Access**

The Kaiser OTC medical program is currently experiencing a technical malfunction via the vendor, Medline. While the 2026 plan definitely includes this benefit, the system is currently preventing standard access.

**To resolve this, members must activate as a "First Time User" rather than simply resetting a password. We've been advised to follow these steps**



1. **Visit [kp.org/otc/ca](https://kp.org/otc/ca) and select Northern California.**
2. Under **"First Time User,"** click Activate Account.
3. Enter your **Kaiser member number** (add two zeros at the beginning of the number).
4. Enter your date of birth and create a new password according to the listed requirements.
5. **Click Activate Account to enter the portal**

### **San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) Medical User Fee**

The City of San Jose has instituted a new user fee for medical services provided by the Fire Department during 911 calls. The fee is assessed as follows:

- **Medical treatment by SJFD (non-home): Your auto insurance will be billed.**
- **Medical treatment at home by SJFD: Your health insurance will be billed.**

Kaiser has confirmed they will cover this fee, though the standard \$50 co-pay remains the member's responsibility. We have not yet received confirmation from Anthem regarding their coverage; however, Anthem members currently have no co-pay for ambulance services.

## **Congratulations on your retirement**

Brett S. Blean, Fire Captain, 27.75\* years of service.  
Jason Clements, Fire Captain, 26 years of service.  
Joseph Crivello, Battalion Chief, 30.52\* years of service.  
Matthew J. DeLorenzo, Police Officer, 25.36\* years of service.  
Louie Fong, Fire Inspector, 25.11\* years of service.  
Daniel Lizardo Jr., Fire Engineer, 25.92\* years of service.  
Matthew E. McIntyre, Fire Captain, 25\* years of service.

Gilbert M. Morales, Fire Engineer, 27.16\* years of service.  
Benjamin I. Naranjo, Fire Captain, 28.59\* years of service.  
Scott E. Nelson, Fire Captain, 25.61\* years of service.  
Michael D. O'Brien, Police Officer, 27.27\* years of service.  
Hector Sandoval, Fire Engineer, 26.01\* years of service.  
Shawn T. Tacklind, Battalion Chief, 29.99\* years of service.  
Scott W. Trotter, Fire Captain, 29.97\* years of service.

# HELP FIGHT FIREFIGHTER CANCER

By Mary Gutierrez, Director

The California Professional Firefighters and Kaiser Permanente have partnered on a new, critical research initiative that could benefit the entire fire service community.

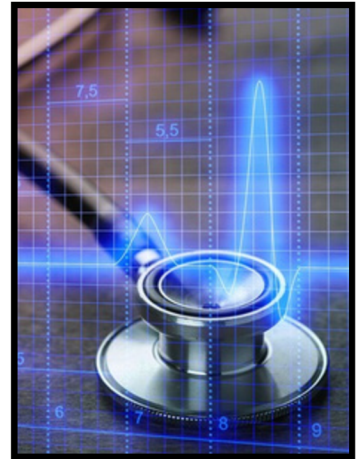
It's called the Kaiser Permanente CA Firefighter Health Study, and it's currently seeking participants. The study's primary goal is to identify specific factors that may increase a firefighter's risk of cancer.

## Who can participate? How do I Get Involved

If you are a retired firefighter and a current Kaiser Permanente member, you are invited to join this study. **Taking part is simple.** All you need to do is 1) read and sign a consent form; 2) complete a 30-minute survey; 3) provide a saliva sample.

Your participation helps researchers understand the long-term health impacts of the job, providing data that could protect future generations of firefighters.

More details scan above or visit: <https://bit.ly/sjffretired-cancer-study>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Interested in any of the events below?  
Scan this QR code to get details on our  
Upcoming Events page.  
<https://bit.ly/retireeevents>



### Firefighters Burn Foundation Annual Burn GALA



MARCH 7, 2026

### Local 230 Retirement Party & Crab Feed



February 7, 2026

### Retired San Jose Firefighters COLA Events



Feb 26-28, 2026

## Condolences

Fire Capt. Joe Penaflor, passed away on November 12, 2025.

Retired Sgt. Leslie G. Bond #1130 passed away on September 9, 2025.



ASSOCIATION  
OF RETIRED SAN JOSE  
**POLICE OFFICERS  
& FIREFIGHTERS**

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[www.retiredsjpoff.org](http://www.retiredsjpoff.org)



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## ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 12, at the SJPOA Hall. Lunch begins at 12 PM and the business portion of the meeting begins at 12:30 PM.**

### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Mike Kihmm, President	<a href="mailto:president@retiredsjpoff.org">president@retiredsjpoff.org</a>
John Shuman, VP of Police	<a href="mailto:vppolice@retiredsjpoff.org">vppolice@retiredsjpoff.org</a>
Walter Bugna, VP of Fire	408-799-3004 <a href="mailto:vpfire@retiredsjpoff.org">vpfire@retiredsjpoff.org</a>
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Larry Samarron, Jr. Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org">treasurer@retiredsjpoff.org</a>
Ken Jacksteit, Director of Membership	<a href="mailto:dir_kjacksteit@retiredsjpoff.org">dir_kjacksteit@retiredsjpoff.org</a>

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Don Bartels, Tim Miller, Jim Spence, Dale Foster, Ray Storms, Joe Roberts, Robert Gutierrez, Mary Gutierrez, Jerry Ellis, Director Emeritus

### WIDOWS & ORPHANS OFFICERS

President (COA) Jeremy Wise	831-566-7624
VP (SJA) Maxwell Magnus VP	650-773-3271
(COR) Bill McCluskey Secretary	408-985-7563
(SJR) Luis Chacon	408-642-0385
Treasurer (SJR) Jose Guerrero	408-839-3525

### POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President - Ernie Alcantar, Vice President - Mike Kihmm, Sec-Treasurer - Cindy Bueno, Sgt At Arms - Dan Archie.