

# Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association

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On January 21, 1886, the Board of Fire Commissioners established a set of Rules and Regulations to govern the fire department. Among the rules, it was stated that any member who failed to respond to a fire was fined \$1.00. A second offense was \$2.50. These funds were utilized to create the *Relief Fund*, to provide assistance to members injured while performing firefighting duties.

In May 1888, the Southern Pacific Railway Company experienced a major fire in their yard. In appreciation, the Southern Pacific Railway Company donated \$1,000 to the *Relief Fund*. Under the direction of a specially appointed committee of firefighters, this amount was supplemented by a small provision from its membership to build funds to aid disabled firemen. The fund's primary sources were outside donations given as a result of appreciation for services rendered by the Fire Department. Additional funds also came from benefit dances, balls, band concerts, and baseball games.



On December 3, 1906, the Articles of Incorporation were created for the **Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association**. This organization was incorporated under California State Law on December 7, 1906. Thus, a set of By-Laws and a Board of Directors was formed.

Currently, a President, Vice President, and twenty-one Trustees are elected from qualified members of the Association. One Trustee is elected from each Battalion, two from the Headquarters and three retirees are elected to represent Pensioners, forming the Board of Trustees. All Board members serve on a voluntary basis.

A Secretary-Treasurer is appointed by the Board of Trustees from qualified retired members of the Fire Department.

The Trustee is the main liaison between members and the Board. Trustees regularly visit all fire stations within their constituency for the purpose of answering questions, relaying information and recording complaints. They attend all committee and Board meetings, and spend whatever time is needed to visit the sick and injured.

Through its many years, the Relief Association has embodied numerous individual funds and programs specifically designed to help members and their families. These have included the *Widows, Orphans & Disabled Firemen's Fund*, *Scholarship Awards Program*, *Life & Accident Fund*, *Relief Fund*, *Emergency Advancements*, *Fire Medical plan*, and the *Grapevine* publication.

The *Widows, Orphans & Disabled Firemen's Fund* is the heart of the Relief Association. No dues or membership fees are required, thus benefits all members of the "Fire Department Family" - active, retired, widows, and survivors. This fund provides assistance through various forms such as grants, relief from natural disasters and catastrophic personal crisis, medical equipment & supplies, and assistance with firefighter's funerals. All donations and contributions are greatly appreciated.

***The Widows, Orphans & Disabled Firemen's Fund,  
a non-profit tax exempt corporation under Section 501(c)3***