

Stentorians

LAFD's Stentorians to Pay Tribute to Fallen Black Firefighters With March

■ **Event to be held Aug. 4.**

Paying homage to fallen black firefighters past and present, more than 400 firefighters from around the world wearing dress uniforms plan to march in military-style formation on the streets of Los Angeles.

This historic march is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Wed., Aug. 4, starting at Leimert Park and proceeding northbound on Crenshaw Blvd and ending at the steps of the West Angeles Cathedral at 3660 S. Crenshaw Blvd. A memorial service honoring fallen comrades will take

place immediately after the march.

The event will attract firefighters from as far away as London.

The Stentorians of the Los Angeles City and County fire departments is playing host to the march. The Stentorians are the local chapters of the IABPF and are commemorating the 50th anniversary of their organizations, which were established to fight segregation and injustices against black firefighters.

The convention, of which the march is a part, is sponsored by L.A. County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Council members Jan Perry, Bernard Parks, Martin Ludlow and Alex Padilla, County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, and a number of corporations.

For more information about the convention, activities or interviews, contact City Stentorian President Armando Hogan at (310) 666-1061.

The Stentorians of the LAFD plans to hold a march honoring fallen black firefighters.



'Keeping the Fire Burning for Justice'

The Stentorians organization was founded in 1954 by African American Firefighters of the LAFD. Their purpose and goals were to band together and address the discrimination and segregation challenges in the City's Fire Department. The name Stentorians was selected for its appropriateness from the word Stentor, a Greek Herald described in the *Iliad* as having the voice of 50 men, extremely loud and powerful, audible and expressing a very forceful sound.

The Stentorians began to gain members from the Los Angeles County Fire Department as African Americans slowly began to be hired in the early 1950s. Today, the Stentorians' membership consists of more than 500 men and women, both active and retired, sworn and non-sworn throughout Southern California. The Stentorians belong to the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, a worldwide organization of which the Stentorians are charter members.

In 1991, the Stentorians restructured and formed two chapters, the Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County Chapter. This restructuring was due to the increased involvement of each organization within their respective departments. Both organizations still remain close and continue to perform their community service endeavors jointly.

Today, the Stentorians functions as a community-based and fraternal organization for its membership, families and the general population throughout the greater Los Angeles region. Many of the traditions started many years ago are continued today: functions including the annual dinner and dance, promotional and recognition ceremony, summer BBQ and Christmas Eve toy drive. Over the years, the Stentorians has progressed into a well-noted and respected fire service association in Los Angeles.

The Stentorians occupy as its office and training facility the old Los Angeles City Fire station 46, one of the first stations integrated by the LAFD in 1955. The building is named in honor of Arnett Hartsfield and Van Davis, both former firefighters from the City and County Fire Departments, respectfully. These men were truly pioneers during the civil rights era for fairness and equality in the fire service.



Steve Peters Retires

From City Attorney Office After 29 Years

By Liz Montes,
Club Counselor



The Man of the Hour, retiree Steve Peters, 29 years.

Stephen Peters retired from the City Attorney's Office after 29 years as the chief investigator for the Claims Section. A retirement luncheon was held June 24

at Taix Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard. More than 200 people attended.

The LAPD, LAFD, the City Clerk Dept., the Mayor's Office and the City Attorney's Office presented Steve with various plaques for his many years.

Steve is an avid bicycle rider and plans to spend much of his time traveling on his bike. He is also considering competing in the Tour de France! He is happily married to his wife, Ellen. They have two daughters, Rachel and Erica.

On behalf of the Club, I congratulate you, Steve, on your great service to the City.



From left: Robert Arevalo, Supervision Deputy Attorney, 23 years; with Steve Peters.



From left: Mike Carey, City Clerk, 36 years, with Steve Peters.



From left: Rowena Workman, Executive Secretary III, 16 years; and Grace Stinson, Legal Secretary, 19 years.



From left: Jennifer Kessler, LAPD, 9 years; and Jorge Ramon, LAPD, 20 years.



From left: Wiberta Richardson, Supervision Deputy Attorney, 13 years; and Garry Geuss, Supervising Attorney, 15 years.



From left: Bonnie Boone, Legal Secretary, 16 years; Melinda Crowe, Legal Secretary, 19 years; and Eva Farlow-Malbrough, Legal Secretary, 19 years.



From left: Wilberta Richardson, Supervision Deputy Attorney, 13 years; and Katherine Hamilton, Chief of Appellate Branch, 25 years.



Vartan Ter-Ghevobian, Paralegal II, 6 years.



From left: Gwyn Hill, Clerk, 17 years; Rosa Shiner; Lisa Hughes, Legal Secretary, 15 years; Stephanie Webb, Senior Clerk, 16 years; and Tammy Mar, Senior Legal Clerk, 17 years.