

MIAMI FIREFIGHTERS



BENEVOLENT

Miami Fire Fighters' Benevolent Assoc. Inc.

2980 N. W. SO. RIVER DRIVE • MIAMI, FLORIDA 33125
PHONE: 305-635-9613

For all the retired Miami FireFighters' Benevolent Assoc member's a Holiday wish that the New Year brings good health, happiness, and prosperity. We are grateful for the opportunity to send out this letter to share some of the events that have happened in the past year, and what is to come in the next.

Some good things have been done to the hall and the picnic grounds. The interior bar area has been remodeled taking down the low overhang and upgrading the lighting. We now have a fifty inch HD television over the back wall of the bar for viewing. A few high back bar chairs to enjoy a cold one while watching a game. We respected those before us that worked so hard with the river rock by continuing it around the newer bar areas with original left over pieces. Outside the picnic grounds have been well managed, new drainage for the parking lot to the old mouth of the river has been corrected. The slab was lifted and a new one poured with a red, white, and blue mosaic of the Benevolent logo laid in the center. The property is now surrounded by surveillance cameras for extra security for both the Benevolent and the office of Local 587. The membership is very thankful to all those volunteers that had a role in these changes.

The events this past year included the annual Picnic / bbq in April, the annual Fishing Tournament in June, and the annual Getaway Weekend in Marco Island in July. Along the way we peppered in a couple of retirement celebrations for some outgoing members, a football and poker night, and some organized seminars covering financial and retirement issues. To our past President Gerry Camp a special salute and thank you. Gerry has done an outstanding job the last few years putting together a great day of golfing and lunch for those attending the annual Retirees Weekend in North Carolina. Gerry Camp also initiated the Holiday Toy Drive that has been going strong now for over 24 years. This year Santa will be delivering the toys on Dec 17, all are welcome to stop by to donate toys and come by for some Holiday Cheer.

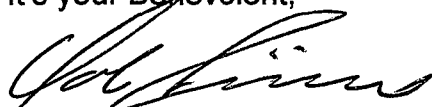
Due to a dwindling participation in the picnic / bbq, we have decided to skip this year. The Local 587 bbq will still be hosted at the Benevolent in October. Instead we will focus our resources on events that will give more to those that participate. The Getaway Weekend has become a signature event, with the Friday night Sunset Happy Hour and

Saturday Pool Cabana Party. This year we will host the weekend starting Thursday July 15, 2010. We will continue to support the Retirees Weekend any way we can.

We encourage all of you to use the Benevolent website www.mffba.org to stay informed throughout the year and enjoy the pictures members submit from the different events. The website will have the dates and information for all the annual events that we mentioned above. The Executive Board is always striving to look for events that we can get our members and their families involved in. We would accept any and all suggestions from past and present members to make this organization better.

I would like to end this letter with some kind words for our recently retired Fire Chief, William "Shorty" Bryson. Shorty supported his Benevolent in every way he could. He never turned away from anything the Benevolent attempted to do for its members or the community. Together we have gone through some tough emotional heartbreak when we have lost one of our brothers or sisters. Shorty and his staff gave all the support that was needed to the Benevolent so we could pass it on to the families. For all he has done for this Benevolent we will be forever grateful. We wish Shorty and Maggie, along with their entire family a joy filled and well deserved retirement.

It's your Benevolent,



Dale Picciano, President

James Harrison, VP

Patrick Murdock, Treasurer

Carlos Galera, Relief Fund / Tom Burns and Trustee

Fidel Barreto, Trustee

Alex Martinez, Trustee

Timothy Gleason, Trustee