

Valiants, Inc.

“Good Conduct and Courage Lead to Honor”

Valiants, Inc.

7543 Williams Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211

Charter Member of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF)

July/August 2002

President's Message

? Claude Smith



Greetings,

Here is the long awaited and much anticipated newsletter from the organization. A lot of things have transpired over the many months of this administration. As president of Valiants, Inc., I want to apologize to each and every member of the organization for not keeping you informed of all the things we are accomplishing, the progress we have made, and most importantly the state of the organization.

Well here it goes. The Valiants organization, which was founded in 1962, celebrated the 40th anniversary of its conception. The Valiants is the founding member of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) which was founded in 1970. Recently at Founder's Day, which occurred on Sunday, July 21, 2002, a few of the founding members were present and were received very well by the audience in attendance. I am particularly proud as well as so many other Valiants members of those founding members that paved the way for so many of us. So many of these founding members are not with us any longer, however their spirit still lives on in each and every one of us.

Hopefully when you have a quiet moment you will pray for all of our founding members and their families that are still with us, and the families of our founding dedicated members who are not with us now.

The organization is in the process of preparing for a huge celebration later this year. This event will include a banquet, ad book and so many other things associated with celebrating a milestone of achievement, progress and the fulfillment from all of the community organizations; the community at large, and the City of Philadelphia, that we have assisted over the past forty years. Let's be prepared to be a part of the achievement of the 40th anniversary. When you all receive the information of the activities associated with this major event place it on your calendars as a “*must do*” event. Get holidays, MXT or do what you have to do to attend. Remember that 40 years only comes just once in lifetime. **BE THERE!!!**

Communication will be improving in the very near future for the members who have computers or access to computers. The organization will soon have a WEB PAGE. We have been working diligently setting up everything for this form of communication. The leadership of this organization realizes that we have to move forward into the new millennium and we are prepared to do so. We hope to have the web site up

Presidents Message (continued)

and running within a few weeks of you receiving this newsletter. The web site address will be clubvaliants.org. Hopefully you will utilize this means of communication to know what is going on within the organization and be apprised of upcoming events, programs, meetings and pertinent information that pertains to our organization and the African-American community at large.

A few months ago many of you participated in a voting process to determine the membership status of Harold Hairston. Because of procedural errors that were made the vote was declared null and void. We are continuing to review this process and information, on how we will proceed will be forthcoming.

The Board of Directors is continuing to make progress on the bylaw changes and hopefully a vote on the changes will take place very soon.

Valiants, Inc., now has an Office Manager. Her name is Joyce Davis. The building is now open during the hours of 09:30 AM - 03:30 PM, Monday - Friday. Please call on 215.276.8222 an answering machine is also available. Ms. Davis will assist you in many areas that concern the membership of this organization.

In a previous monthly meeting there was a motion that passed to begin a motorcycle club for Valiants members. We know that many of you have bikes and love to ride. Perhaps we can all ride together as a Valiants Motorcycle Club. For more information about the motorcycle club contact 1st Vice-President, Kenny Greene, E45/B. He will be happy to discuss this matter with you.

Valiants, Inc. meetings will resume on Monday, September 09, 2002 and Thursday, September 12, 2002, at 07:00 PM. September is also the month that members are nominated for office of leadership of this organization. Please attend these very important meetings. Perhaps it is time for you to begin thinking about what you can do to make a difference. New ideas and fresh approaches to many things are sorely needed. Think about it!!!

The IABPFF will be having its convention from Monday, August 12, 2002 - Friday, August 16, 2002 in Buffalo, NY, you will be receiving ballots to vote for various offices of the IABPFF. Our own Danny Williams is a candidate for the office of President of the IABPFF. The organization fully endorses Danny Williams and his running mate, Mr. Joseph Muhammad who is a candidate for the office of Vice-President. Mr. Muhammad is a past regional director of the Northeast Region of the IABPFF. We believe that these two men can make a significant impact on the organization. Please take time to vote for them when you receive your ballots. Voting will be achieved by telephone. This is very important, so please take time to vote.

In closing, I want you to know that this organization's leadership has been working very hard in so many areas. Remember you just can't wave a magic wand and expect things to change overnight...things take time to get done. Valiants, Inc. needs your help in order to make positive changes. Get involved!!!

The work we have completed over the past 40 years has impacted on many of you who came on the job through the *Consent Decree*. This work has impacted on your families by providing better lives for them. We have impacted on the entire African-American community. We have come a long way, yet we still have a long way to go. With your support we will continue to move forward.

In Strength and Unity,

Executive Officers

President
Claude Smith

1st Vice-President
Kenneth W. Greene, Sr.

2nd Vice-President
Michael Stanton

Secretary (Recording)
Malik Ulmak

Treasurer
William Smalls

Business Manager
Al Holman

Building Manager
John Pelzer

Chaplain
James Anderson

Sergeant-At-Arms
Lloyd Edwards

Board of Directors

Danny Williams
Bernard Newsome
Dorsey Jackson
Dennis Wells
Rob Wilkins
Eddie Wells (Retired)
Tony Hudgins



Take Time To Vote!!!

IABPFF ELECTION 2002

The Election Closes
Monday, August 12, 2002

IABPFF Candidate for President (Ballot ID #12)
Captain Daniel Williams – Ladder 25/B
President, Valiants, Inc. (formerly)
Northeast, Regional Director
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

IABPFF Candidate for Vice-President (Ballot ID #22)
Fire Fighter Joseph Muhammad
Regional Director, (formerly)
West Chester, New York

IABPFF Candidate for Sergeant-At-Arms
Captain Donald Day (Retired)
Bridgeport, Connecticut

IABPFF Candidate for Secretary (Recording)
(Ballot ID #32)
Granville White
Cleveland, Ohio

Valiants, Inc. **General Meeting (Monthly)** ***Beginning September (2002)***

Valiants Hall

Mon., September 09, 2002....C/A
Thu., September 12, 2002....D/C

First Black Woman Fire Chief:

Congratulations!!!

Rosemary Cloud
East Point, Georgia

Rosemary Cloud is the first African-American woman, anywhere, ever to hold the position of fire chief.

Source: Women In The Fire Service

The 1st Vice-President's Desk
? Kenneth W. Greene, Sr.

THE BEAT DOWN!!!

What is THE BEAT DOWN? THE BEAT DOWN is when you belong to an organization and let somebody else do all. THE BEAT DOWN is when brothers and sisters are called the minority in anything and the majority is in prison. THE BEAT DOWN is when white fire officers are called "BOSS" and brothers are called only by their first name. THE BEAT DOWN is when women watch *soap operas* and when their husbands come home, all hell breaks lose. THE BEAT DOWN is allowing cliques to run everything, because you are too busy to do anything. THE BEAT DOWN is forgetting that our future is now, and tomorrow is not guaranteed. THE BEAT DOWN is knowing a brother or sister needs your help, and instead you make jokes about their short comings. The Beat Down is, "NOT LOOKING AT THE MAN IN THE MIRROR", because you are afraid of what you will see. THE BEAT DOWN is only calling on Our Lord and Jesus Christ when you are in trouble or close to death. But not saying thank you for another day of life, or for a career. Oh, Oh, I stepped on some toes, again. Somebody else wants to cuss me out! Just remember this when you call or see me, brothers and sisters. They cursed and yelled at Jesus Christ before they hung his body on the cross. My job as a Valiant member is to remember what THE BEAT DOWN did to my people for years. My job is to try and make every meeting, no matter what; to bring my management skills to assist others. My job as a Valiants member is to try to show respect to another brother or sister, whether they like and agree with me or not. My job as a Valiants member is to appreciate what the founders meant when somebody said, "*brothers we need to assemble in our own place.*" Somebody said to me once, "*What do the Valiants do besides have a nice party now and then?*" I said to the brother, "*I know what this Valiant's member does for the organization and its members.*" Tell me? no show me, brothers and sisters...WHAT A VALIANT'S MEMBER MEANS TO YOU.

The D.R.O.P. is not my first worry as vice-president. Realizing how many intelligent brothers and sisters that have come on this job, only to be firefighters and paramedics with a paycheck. To the new members, we need you...to the old members, don't let those tired old cliques control your money anymore. If you dropped out, come back. When I hear people say they should stop the Consent Decree because it is unfair...and these same individuals sit down with Local 22 representatives and take fundraising's hard earned dollars from my fellow co-workers (suspended paramedics). It does not matter to me if they are Valiants or not, because they are "people of color" they know all about...THE BEAT DOWN.

In closing, when I look at our U.S.A. I see red, white and blue. When I look a little deeper, I see white children speaking slang, dressing hip-hop, and playing with friends of all colors. Hate only hurts the hater, not the hated, because the hated could care less.

The Valiants is not just a club it is a BUSINESS. Remember what THE BEAT DOWN did to Enron and Arthur Anderson Associates. Don't let this happen to the Valiants!!!

Peace to you and yours,

WE'RE IMPROVING...

On Tuesday, June 11, 2002 a full service office was established at Valiants Hall. The hours will be Monday - Friday, 09:30 AM – 03:30 PM.

CLOSED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Upward Mobility (September 2002)

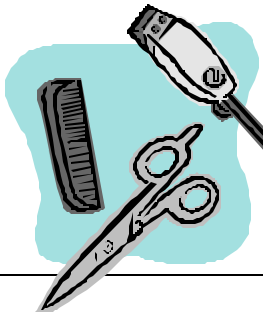
Study Sessions for upward mobility will be provided at Valiants Hall every Tuesday and Thursday, 07:30 PM – 09:30.

Hair Cut Free of Charge (Retirees)

Interested Valiants members (retirees, only) are welcome to Valiants Hall beginning on Wednesday, August 07, 2002, 1:00 PM–3:30 PM for a haircut. **FREE.**

Wednesday's ONLY

See Sergeant-At-Arms Lloyd Edwards



2002 IABPFF CONVENTION

Sunday, August 11 – Saturday, August 17

Reservation Deadline: July 10, 2002

Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo
120 Church Street
Buffalo, New York
716-845-5100
716-845-5377 (Fax)

Pre-Convention Registration
Sunday, June 30, 2002...\$275.00

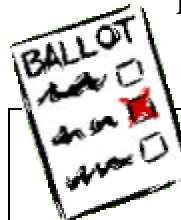
Late Registration
Sunday, June 30 – July 12, 2002...\$325.00

After Saturday, July 13th, 2002...\$350.00

Contact your Chapter President
or

The National Office
8700 Central Avenue
Landover, MD 20785-4831

1-301-808-0804



Election 2002 *Take Time To Vote!!!*

IABPFF Candidate for President
(Ballot ID #12)
Captain Daniel Williams – Ladder 25/B
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

IABPFF Candidate for Vice-President
(Ballot ID #22)
Fire Fighter Joseph Muhammad
West Chester, New York

IABPFF Candidate for Secretary (Recording)
(Ballot ID #32)
Granville White
Cleveland, Ohio

Announcements

Condolences

Valiants Inc. would like to send condolences to our brother, James Anderson and his family upon the loss of his father.



Sick

Valiants members are sending get well wishes and prayers to the following members...

Carlton Brown, Engine 54
Preston Easley, Ladder 25
Samuel Gordon, Ladder 25
Everett Grant, Engine 40
Charles Johnson, Engine 39
Fredrick Johnson, Engine 19
Jeremiah Laster, EMS
Richard Marks, Engine 39
Sean Myers, Engine 63
Robert Schell, Engine 57
Craig West, Engine 78
Arthur Witherspoon, Engine 51

GET WELL...SOON!!!



Promotions

Congratulations to all of the following on their promotions...

Capt. Richard Davison, TSU
Capt. Eric Fleming, Division 2/B
Capt. Carlton Grymes, Division 1/A
Lt. Don Burgess, Engine 9/B
Lt. Malcolm Clay, Division 1/D
Lt. Scott Crawford, Engine 3/B
Lt. Bruce Gant, Engine 63/A
Lt. Troy Gore, Division 1/B
Lt. Wesley Handy, Division 1/B
Lt. Derrick Harvey, Division 1/A
Lt. Rudolph Hill, Engine 41/A
Lt. Orin Joiner, Division 2/B
Lt. Carl Randolph, Ladder 18/A
Lt. Robert Taylor, Division 2D

Retired

Joseph Ballow
Henry Burnett
Tyrone Eberhardt
Sydney Evans
John Gathers
Wayne Rush

Birthday's (August 2002)

Larry Clark - 08/01
Lloyd Booker - 08/01
Kinzel Edwards - 08/01
William Tillman - 08/02
Barry Boone - 08/03
Glenn Brooks - 08/03
Arturo Alleyne - 08/03
John DeLeon - 08/05
Khary Hunt - 08/05
Frederick Vaughn - 08/06
Mark Henderson - 08/06
Robert Wilson - 08/06



A Thought from the Chaplain:

? James Anderson

An Inspirational Story

The Fire
Author Unknown

A couple, which we shall call John and Mary, had a nice home and two lovely children, a boy and a girl. John had a good job and had just been asked to go on a business trip to another city and would be gone for several days. It was decided that Mary needed an outing and would go along, too. They hired a reliable woman to care for the children and made the trip, returning home a little earlier than they had planned.

As they drove into their hometown feeling glad to be back, they noticed smoke, and they went off their usual route to see what it was. They found a home in flames. Mary said, "Oh well it isn't our fire, let's go home."

But John drove closer and exclaimed, "That home belongs to Fred Jones who works at the plant. He wouldn't be off work yet, maybe there is something we could do. Mary protesting, "It has nothing to do with us. And, you have your good clothes on lets not get any closer."

But John drove up and stopped and they were both horror stricken to see the whole house in flames. A woman on the lawn was in hysterics screaming, "The children! Get the children!" John grabbed her by the shoulder saying, "Get a hold of yourself and tell us where the children are!" "In the basement," sobbed the woman, "down the hall and to the left."

In spite of Mary's protests John grabbed the water hose and soaked his clothes, put his wet handkerchief on his head and bolted for the basement which was full of smoke and scorching hot. He found the door and grabbed two children, holding one under each arm like the football player he was. As he left he could hear some more whimpering. He delivered the two

badly frightened and nearly suffocated children into waiting arms and filled his lungs with fresh air and started back asking how many more children were down there. They told him two more and Mary grabbed his arm and screamed, "John! Don't go back! It's suicide! That house will cave in any second!"

But he shook her off and went back by feeling his way down the smoke filled hallway and into the room. It seemed an eternity before he found both children and started back. There were all three coughing and he stooped low to get what available air he could. As he stumbled up the endless steps the thought went through his mind that there was something strangely familiar about the little bodies clinging to him, and at last when they came out into the sunlight and fresh air, he found that he had just rescued his own children.

The baby-sitter had left them at this home while she did some shopping.



Announcements (continued)



Birthday's (August 2002)

Anthony Minor - 08/06
Jeffrey Tillery - 08/06
Gregory Holmes - 08/07
Carl Beeks - 08/07
Stacey Jones - 08/07
Donald Montgomery - 08/09
John Pelzer - 08/09
Michael Grant - 08/15
Andrew Robinson - 08/16
Dorsey Jackson - 08/17

Ralph Epperson - 08/18
Nelson Parrish - 08/18
Vincent Waters - 08/20
Kevin Fair - 08/21
Claude Smith - 08/21
Robert Leach - 08/21
Derrick Sawyer - 08/21
Corey Grigger - 08/21
Thomas Johnson - 08/21
Anthony Goodwin - 08/22
Walter Clay - 08/22
Anthony Carter - 08/23

James Anderson - 08/25
Anthony Hudgins - 08/25
Calvin Monroe - 08/26
Theophilus Watkins - 08/26
Charles Johnson - 08/28
William Hogg - 08/28
Joseph Haines - 08/29
Stacey Harley - 08/30
Vernon Broadus - 08/31
Don Williams - 08/31

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA) Travel to Washington, DC for the Millions for Reparations Rally

Saturday, August 16, 2002, Tickets - \$25.00



Buses leave from the following locations:

54th and City Avenue

Progress Plaza
(Broad and Jefferson Streets)

Broad Street and Washington Avenue

08:00 AM (Departure)

04:00 PM (Return)

Please send your check or money order, listing your name, address, phone number and departure location to the following address:

NCOBRA, P.O. Box 42765, Philadelphia, PA 19101
215-604-3658

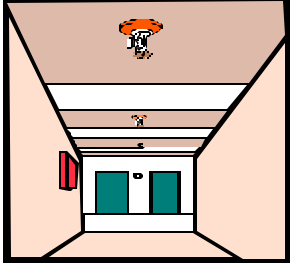
Tickets will be sent via return mail.

Valiants Hall Open House

(Wednesday Evenings)

07:30 PM - Midnight

Refreshments and Fun!!!



Reminder!!!

The National Fire Fighter's website may be accessed at any time ...

www.iabpff.org.com

House Plants for Sale



Looking for house plants to brighten the interior or exterior of your home.

See Sergeant-At-Arms Lloyd Edwards

Any member wishing to submit an opinion to the Valiants Newsletter, may do so by sending his/her letter to:

**Valiants, Inc.
Attn: J. Davis
7543 Williams Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211**



Founder's Day Survey

(Your comments are important.)

Rate the celebration by circling one of the following words, e.g., poor, fair, good, excellent.

Poor Fair Good Excellent

Comments: _____

Tear off this portion and send or bring to...

Valiants, Inc.

Attn: J. Davis

7543 Williams Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211



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Valiants, Inc.*

Edited by: J. Davis

Comments and articles welcome.

This newsletter does not necessarily reflect the official views of Club Valiants, Inc., and does not imply endorsement thereof.

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Charter Member

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF)

7543 Williams Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211

REQUEST ADDRESS CORRECTION



Moved Lately? Changed Your Telephone Number?

Any change in your status (retired/active) or your location/telephone number, let us know.

Tear off this portion and send to...

Valiants, Inc., Attn: J. Davis, 7543 Williams Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19150-2211

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street Address _____ Apartment _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code + 4 _____

Engine # _____ CT # _____

e-Mail Address _____

Valiants Hotline – Valiants Hotline – Valiants Hotline

215-276-8222

Don't forget the Valiants Hotline is in service. If you wish to leave a message for a Board Member, Executive Officer, or member, call anytime day or night!

IN THE EVENT OF A DEATH IN A MEMBERS FAMILY CONTACT ANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER.