

Resolution No. 18

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Resolutions

Re: Nomination of Harold A. Schaitberger for General President Emeritus of the International Association of Fire Fighters

1 WHEREAS, Harold A. Schaitberger began his
2 firefighting career as a 20-year-old kid on August 1,
3 1966; and

4 WHEREAS, Harold A. Schaitberger in 1970, at
5 the age of 24, began the organizing campaign that led
6 to the establishment of IAFF Local 2068 Fairfax
7 County, Virginia; and

8 WHEREAS, Harold A. Schaitberger in 1973
9 became the President of the Virginia Professional
10 Fire Fighters (VPPF); and

11 WHEREAS, in 1976, IAFF General President
12 Howie McClennan asked Harold A. Schaitberger to
13 serve the International as the Legislative and Political
14 Director to help build the IAFF's political and
15 lobbying program, and with just 10 years on his
16 department and as a newly promoted Lieutenant,
17 Harold A. Schaitberger left his firefighting career to
18 go to work at 1750 New York Avenue, the IAFF's
19 headquarters, on June 1, 1976; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1988, Alfred K. Whitehead was
21 elected as General President and asked Harold A.
22 Schaitberger to serve as his Chief of Staff; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2000, Harold A. Schaitberger was
24 elected as the IAFF's General President, and was re-
25 elected by acclamation four more times, serving this
26 great union for 20 years; and

27 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's

28 leadership, IAFF membership has increased by
29 119,000, and the IAFF is still growing each and
30 every month, even in this challenging COVID-19
31 environment; and

32 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
33 leadership, the IAFF created the powerful gold and
34 black political brand and program, building the
35 IAFF's political action committee, FIREPAC, into
36 the top 1% of all Federal PACs which has allowed
37 the IAFF to punch well outside its weight class and
38 influence political discussions in a way that is
39 virtually unrivaled in the broader labor movement;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
42 leadership, the IAFF pushed the boundaries of health
43 and safety, creating the IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness
44 Initiative (WFI) and the Candidate Physical Ability
45 Test (CPAT); and

46 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
47 leadership, the IAFF made the bold decision to invest
48 \$1 million to send 1,000 IAFF leaders to the NFPA
49 Convention in Anaheim, California, to control the
50 NFPA rule-making process and pass the historical
51 NFPA 1710 staffing standard, which continues to
52 increase staffing in fire departments and save lives
53 today; and

54 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
55 leadership, the IAFF established the District Field
56 Service Representative (DFSR) program to provide
57 the IAFF Executive Board with their own field
58 specialists to deliver direct assistance and support to
59 our locals; and

60 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's

61 leadership, the IAFF's response to the horrific attack
62 on September 11, 2001, in New York City and the
63 Pentagon provided in the very first week a \$10,000
64 check to the families of every one of the IAFF and
65 FDNY's 343 lost that tragic day; and

66 WHEREAS, ultimately, the IAFF raised \$167
67 million, with every penny going to the families; and

68 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
69 leadership, the IAFF created the Guardian legal
70 program that has protected more than 1,000 IAFF
71 affiliate officers who have been attacked or had
72 adverse actions taken against them for doing their job
73 representing our members; and

74 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
75 leadership, the IAFF created the IAFF Financial
76 Corporation (IAFF-FC) in 2003; and

77 WHEREAS, today, the IAFF-FC manages \$12.4
78 billion in assets, providing millions of dollars back
79 into the IAFF's budget, paying for programs that do
80 not have to come out of members' paychecks in
81 increased dues; and

82 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
83 leadership, the IAFF established the Partnership
84 Education Program (PEP), the Affiliate Leadership
85 Training Summit (ALTS), the life-saving Fire
86 Ground Survival (FGS) program, the expansion of
87 IAFF HazMat Training program and many more
88 education deliverables; and

89 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
90 leadership, the IAFF worked through the U.S.
91 Congress to win the passage of the Staffing for
92 Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
93 grant program and the billions of dollars that have

94 literally created and brought back more than 15,000
95 fire fighter jobs across the country; and

96 WHEREAS, the IAFF also won passage of the
97 Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant program and
98 the billions of dollars that provide equipment,
99 turnouts, SCBA, apparatus, PPE and training to our
100 departments across the nation; and

101 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
102 leadership, the IAFF Political Training Academies in
103 the U.S. and Canada have trained IAFF members in
104 high-level political skills so they could harness the
105 power of political action for their locals; and

106 WHEREAS, similarly, the Communications
107 Training Academy was developed to empower our
108 affiliates and make sure our voices are heard across
109 the various platforms and channels in this 24/7 news
110 and social media cycle we live in; and

111 WHEREAS, the IAFF established our own media
112 production company, E-18 Media, along with a fully
113 equipped broadcast and recording studio to support
114 our affiliates and our union's messaging needs; and

115 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
116 leadership, the IAFF, following Hurricane Katrina,
117 created the IAFF Disaster Relief program, assisting
118 members whose homes are damaged while they are
119 on the frontlines responding to disasters; and

120 WHEREAS, the IAFF has expanded that work to
121 include a Go Team of IAFF members experienced in
122 disaster response and four new disaster relief trailers
123 to help them help our own; and

124 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
125 leadership, the IAFF has built programs to promote
126 and help our affiliates embrace diversity and

127 welcome everyone into our union and profession as
128 sisters and brothers united in this IAFF; and

129 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
130 leadership, the IAFF has significantly expanded the
131 research and expertise in how cancer is killing IAFF
132 members at alarming rates and have developed
133 critical protocols to reduce exposures to deadly
134 toxins; and

135 WHEREAS, under Harold A. Schaitberger's
136 leadership, the IAFF, by recognizing and focusing on
137 behavioral health and post-traumatic stress, has made
138 great strides in helping our members struggling with
139 behavioral health issues; and

140 WHEREAS, the IAFF created Peer Support
141 Teams four years ago, and now has more than 6,000
142 trained members ready to help their sisters and
143 brothers in need; and

144 WHEREAS, the IAFF established a one-of-a-kind
145 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health
146 Treatment and Recovery, which has now provided
147 life-changing and life-saving treatment to more than
148 1,400 of our own, giving them a new chance in life,
149 saving their careers and keeping their families
150 together; and

151 WHEREAS, in over 50 years of IAFF leadership,
152 Harold A. Schaitberger has advanced not only the
153 causes critical to fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics,
154 and emergency dispatchers in North America, but has
155 also served as a model example of trade unionism
156 and has become one of the most respected and
157 recognizable contemporary labor leaders throughout
158 the U.S. and Canada; and

159 WHEREAS, for these and many more reasons,

160 the 320,000 IAFF members across North America
161 have seen their safety, strength, and quality of life
162 significantly improved under 50 years of Harold A.
163 Schaitberger's leadership; therefore be it
164 RESOLVED, That the delegates assembled at the
165 55th Convention of the International Association of
166 Fire Fighters formally bestow upon Harold A.
167 Schaitberger the title of General President Emeritus
168 of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 2665, Professional Fire Fighters of
 Eastern Missouri

Mark Woolbright, 2nd District Vice President
Thomas Thornberg, 5th District Vice President
Mark Sanders, 8th District Vice President
Ray Rahne, 9th District Vice President
Frank Lima, 10th District Vice President
Walter Dix, 12th District Vice President
Fred LeBlanc, 13th District Vice President
Danny Todd, 14th District Vice President
James Johnson, 16th District Vice President
Alexander Forrest, Canadian Trustee
Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona, A-3
Colorado Professional Fire Fighters, A-6
Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters, A-15
Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union, A-21
Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters, A-22
New Mexico Professional Fire Fighters, A-30
Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters,
 A-34
Professional Fire Fighters of South Carolina,
 A-39
Manitoba Professional Fire Fighters Association,

C-4

Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association,

C-6

Federal Fire Fighters Joint Council, J-001

IAFF Local 2, Chicago, IL

IAFF Local 3, Pueblo, CO

IAFF Local 7, Sioux City, IA

IAFF Local 18, Vancouver, BC

IAFF Local 64, Kansas City, KS

IAFF Local 116, Bay City, MI

IAFF Local 135, Wichita, KS

IAFF Local 255, Calgary, AB

IAFF Local 314, Salem, OR

IAFF Local 412, Dearborn, MI

IAFF Local 516, Shaker Heights, OH

IAFF Local 644, Lincoln, NE

IAFF Local 676, Marion, IN

IAFF Local 682, Winston-Salem Professional
Fire Fighters

IAFF Local 727, West Palm Beach Association
of Fire Fighters

IAFF Local 798, San Francisco, CA

IAFF Local 867, Winnipeg, MB

IAFF Local 905, Nanaimo, BC

IAFF Local 941, Trail, BC

IAFF Local 967, Saanich, BC

IAFF Local 1144, Bay Village, OH

IAFF Local 1304, Kitimat, BC

IAFF Local 1355, Dearborn Heights, MI

IAFF Local 1399, Penticton, BC

IAFF Local 1463, Hawaiian Islands

IAFF Local 1667, Port Alberni, BC

IAFF Local 1746, Revelstoke, BC

IAFF Local 1784, Memphis, TN
IAFF Local 2461, Strathcona County, AB
IAFF Local 2685, Terrace, BC
IAFF Local 2770, Grande Prairie, AB
IAFF Local 2827, Fernie, BC
IAFF Local 2864, Abbotsford, BC
IAFF Local 3382, Toledo Fire Chiefs
IAFF Local 4449, Maple Ridge, BC
IAFF Local 4531, Maryville Professional Fire
Fighters
IAFF Local 4739, Leduc, AB
IAFF Local 4841, Sooke, BC
Bruce Anderson, 9th District Vice President for
the Florida Professional Fire Fighters

Cost Estimate: Minimal

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: