



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS & PARAMEDICS LOCAL 1826 / I.A.F.F., INC.

12651 McGregor Blvd • Suite 2-203 • Fort Myers,
Florida 33919 (239) 334-8222 • (239) 334-8240 • Fax:
(239) 790-2715
E-mail: www.local1826.com

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

J.P. DUNCAN
President

HENRY GARCIA
Vice President

MISSI MIDDLETON
Secretary/Treasurer

ANGELA YOUNG
Field Representative

DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS 1 & 16
Fort Myers

DISTRICT 2
Lee Co. EMS

DISTRICTS 3 & 15
Fort Myers Beach

DISTRICT 4
North Fort Myers

DISTRICT 5
South Trail

DISTRICTS 6 & 19
Lehigh Acres

DISTRICT 7 & 25
Iona McGregor

DISTRICT 8
Tice

DISTRICTS 9 & 21
San Carlos Park

DISTRICT 10
Lee Co. CFR

DISTRICT 11
Estero

DISTRICT 12
Bayshore

DISTRICT 13
Pine Island

DISTRICT 14
Collier Co. EMS

DISTRICT 17
Sanibel

DISTRICTS 18 & 20
Fort Myers Shores

DISTRICTS 22

DISTRICT 23
Henry Co. EMS

DISTRICT 24
Alva

Dear prospective Southwest Florida Professional Fire Fighter & Paramedic member,

The intention of this letter is to serve as an open invitation to all employees from various emergency departments within the Southwest Florida area to join our local organization as a member of the Southwest Florida Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 1826 Inc., (an affiliate of the International Association of Fire Fighters and Florida Professional Fire Fighters). It is designed to explain the purpose as well as some of the goals of our organization.

The main purpose of the Southwest Florida Fire Fighters & Paramedics, IAFF, Local 1826 Inc. is to maintain an endless fight for members in areas of wages, hours, terms, and conditions of employment in exchange for the professional life-saving service our members provide. We strive to assure that our members are afforded the latest state of the art training and provided the best possible safety equipment. We continue to work with management in developing fair and consistent policies for the betterment of all department members.

We, as Professional Fire Fighters, Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians throughout the state of Florida have worked tirelessly in achieving the legal right for public employees to not only be allowed to join this public employee union but also to be free from harassment, ridicule and most importantly free from management's ability to threaten termination of one's employment. Basic job protected rights were not always available to public employees. These and many other rights for public employees are in Florida Statute 447. Such rights were only achieved by collective organizing as one group bonded together for the same cause.

Our organization currently represents twenty-five bargaining units in nineteen separate departments. Each bargaining unit bargains for wages, terms, and conditions of employment at their respective agencies. These various departments are called districts, and each district elects its own District Vice President (DVP) every three years. The DVP organizes the day to day affairs of the district, as well as being active in assisting with negotiating the collective bargaining agreement with their employer, and members within each district vote to approve its district contract.

Application for Membership:

- Please forward the dues deduction authorization to your payroll department.
- Return information forms you fill out to the union office.
- Please fill in all the information areas provided.

*Affiliated with: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
Florida Professional Fire Fighters*

Personal and Confidential Data Information

**Application for Membership into the:
Southwest Florida Professional Firefighters & Paramedics IAFF Local 1826
International Association of Firefighters
Florida Professional Firefighters**

Date _____ Department Employed by _____ Sex _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ **Personal Email Address** _____

Required for IAFF

opt in: Text _____

Email _____

Dues Deduction Authorization, I.A.F.F. Local 1826

I hereby authorize the _____, or its agents, to deduct from my earnings, the regular monthly dues (uniform in dollar amount) in the amount certified by the Treasurer of Local 1826, I.A.F.F. Inc., said local union. This authorization is revocable by a notice in writing to the _____.

I hereby waive all rights and claims for said monies so deducted and transmitted in accordance with this authorization and, further and separately, relieve

_____ and any agent of
_____ from liability
therefore.

Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____



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DISTRICT 24
Alva

2020 Local 1826 Bi-Monthly Meetings

February 27th, 2020

April 23rd, 2020

June 25th, 2020

August 27th, 2020

October 22nd, 2020

December 3rd, 2020

Local 1826 Bi-Monthly meetings are held at
the SWFL International Airport Training Center.
15924 Air Cargo Lane, Fort Myers, Fl.
Meetings start promptly at 6:30PM.

*Affiliated with: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
Florida Professional Fire Fighters*

Google Maps 12651 McGregor Blvd



LOCAL 1826 OFFICE



Challenge Coin History

During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilots' aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive.

CHALLENGE COIN RULES

- The challenge is initiated by drawing your coin, holding it in the air by whatever means possible and state, scream, shout or otherwise verbally acknowledge that you are initiating a coin check.
 - Another, but less vocal method is to firmly place it on the bar, table, or counter (*this should produce an audible noise which can be easily heard by those being challenged, but try not to leave a permanent imprint*).
- If you accidentally drop your coin and it makes an audible sound upon impact, then you have just "accidentally" initiated a coin check. (*This is called paying the price for improper care of your coin, and you buy a round of drinks for the group*)
- The response consists of all those persons being challenged drawing their coin in a like manner.
- If you are challenged and are unable to properly respond, you must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and the group being challenged.
- If everyone being challenged responds in the correct manner, the challenger must buy a round of drinks for all those people they challenged.
- Failure to buy a round is a **despicable crime** and will require that you turn-in your Coin to the issuing agency.
- Coin checks are permitted, **ANY TIME, ANY PLACE.**
- There are no exceptions to the rules. They apply to those clothed or unclothed. At the time of the challenge you are permitted one step and "an-arms" reach to locate your coin. If you still cannot reach it – **SORRY ABOUT THAT!**