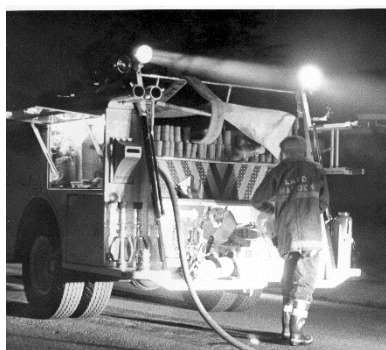




Santa Clara County Black Firefighters Association

IN 1972, TWO BLACK FIREFIGHTERS WERE SITTING ON THE BACK OF A FIRE ENGINE, during a break, at a Mutual Aid Drill in Los Altos. The drill encompassed the Stanford, Palo Alto and Los Altos Fire Departments.

These firefighters were the first Blacks hired by their respective departments. Russell Hayden, of the Los Altos Fire Department was the only Black in his department (for his entire five years with the department) and Kenneth Moore, of the Stanford Fire Department, was one of two in his department.



These Black Firefighters expressed concern and asked each other why and what could be done about the lack of Blacks in the fire service.

After several meetings, Kenneth asked Russell: “Why don’t we get all the Brothers in the county together and start some sort of group to address our concerns and issues?”



The first meeting was called in January 1973 at the Trotters Inn in the City of Los Altos.

Present at the 1st meeting of the Santa Clara County Black Firefighters Association (SCCBFA) now a chapter of the Southwest Region of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters were:

Kenneth Moore (D-2006), Stanford Fire Department, now a part of the Palo Alto Fire Department; **Dudley Bynoe** (D-2022), San Jose Fire Department; **Angelo Chancellor** Central Fire Department, now a part of the Santa Clara County Fire Department; **Jerry Williams** (D-2018), San Jose Fire Department; **Dennis Wright**, Palo Alto Fire Department; and **Russell Hayden** Los Altos Fire Department, now a part of the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Also included in the original membership, but not present at the first meeting were: **Booker Law** (D-1990), San Jose Fire Department, **Cleveland Kennard** (D-2014), Stanford Fire Department, now part of Palo Alto Fire Department, **Ivy Chretien**, Mountain View Fire Department, **Booker Moore** Santa Clara Fire Department, and **Jerome Riggins** (D-2018), San Jose Fire Department.

Status of our Founding Members as of 2/3/23:
Red = Deceased, **Black** = Unknown, **Green** = Living

The initial goals of the SCCBFA, that still holds true today, are:

Increase the number of blacks, women and other people of color in the fire service

- Promote upward mobility
- Provide a sounding board for those with like causes and problems of being in a predominantly all-white, male profession
- Educate the community about the fire service
- Foster a better working relationship within the fire service and the community
- Increase the total number of new hires into the fire service to reflect the makeup of our community
- Russell Hayden – The co-founder is retired from San Jose Fire Department and is still very active in the goal of diversity within the fire service as the Founder of a company called Firefighter's ABCs – www.FirefightersABCs.com.



Left to right

1st Pres. Russell Hayden – 1st VP Kenneth Moore – 1st Sect. Angelo Chancellor



Although not a member of the SCCBFA LaJoyce Gentry now (Hayden) was the first Black Fire / Police Dispatcher in Santa Clara County

Hired Circa Early 70's



Photo of the original logo for the Santa Clara County Black Firefighters Association

Created by Russell G. Hayden of then Los Altos Fire Department

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Revised 2/12/23 – Please Send Updates to – RussellHayden@FirefightersABCs.com

History

International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

The 1st Convention was in Hartford Connecticut, October of 1970:

The first President was Captain David J. Floyd of the Vulcan Society of New York. Although now deceased his efforts shall never be forgotten.



Colors:

Red, **Black** and **Green** were the colors used by Marcus Garvey's Black Pride of Africa movement of the 1930's. The "Red" is for our blood, the "Black" is for the race, and the "Green" is for hope and the land.



Hand:

The hand was selected because of the number five (5). The five fingers represent the five founding organizations of the international, which were Phoenix Society, Hartford, CT.; Valiants Inc. of Philadelphia, PA; Vulcan Pioneers of Hudson County, Jersey City, NJ; Vulcan Pioneers of NJ, Newark, NJ and Vulcan Society Inc., New York, NY.

Clenched Fist:

Symbolized strength and power when the fingers (organizations) came together.

Outline of Fingers:

It was strongly felt by the designer that the Almighty had a guiding hand in bringing Black Firefighters together from across the nation. The outline of the fingers was shaped to form the Arabic work "Allah" which means "God".

Flame:

Represents the heat that is necessary to take something old (five groups), and forge them into something new (the International).



Seated in 1st row middle David Floyd – 1st President of the IABPFF

Back row second from left Russell G. Hayden – third from left Angelo Chancellor

Meeting of the
International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

Circa 1970's

Claremont Hotel
Oakland, CA

