ORGANIZED:
Organized in Hartford, Connecticut, October 3, 1970

FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS:
Vulcan Society, Inc., New York, NY
Phoenix Society Inc., Hartford, Connecticut
Vulcan Pioneers of New Jersey Inc., Newark, NJ
Vulcan Pioneers of Hudson County Inc., Jersey City, NJ
Valiants Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
The IABPFF has 180 Chapters and represents approximately 8,000 fire service professionals.

CONVENTION SITES:
1970 – Hartford, Connecticut
1972 – St. Louis, Missouri
1974 – Atlanta, Georgia
1976 – San Diego, California
1978 – Washington, DC
1980 – Detroit, Michigan
1982 – Lexington, Kentucky
1984 – Seattle, Washington
1986 – Buffalo, New York
1988 – San Francisco, California
1990 – Miami, Florida
1992 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1994 – New Orleans, Louisiana
1996 – Chicago, Illinois
1998 – Seattle Washington
2000 – Barbados, West Indies
2002 – Buffalo, New York
2004 – Los Angeles, California
2006 – Fort Lauderdale, Florida
2008 – Detroit, Michigan
2010 – New Orleans, Louisiana
2012 – Seattle, Washington

ABSTRACT AS PRESENTED TO NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND ADMINISTRATION

In September of 1969, black and minority fire fighters of all ranks from municipalities across the United States met in New York City for two days of discussion on the injustices that exist in the following categories: The recruitment of black youth into the fire service, firefighters-community relations with special emphasis on relations with the residents of neighborhoods inhabited by black, inter-group relations and practices in fire departments, and the need to improve fire prevention programs in the areas of greatest need, the inner city ghettos which are inhabited by our most disadvantaged, neglected and exploited citizens. The meeting was very productive and out of it was born the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters.

In October of 1970, the first convention of Black Professional Fire Fighters was held in Hartford, Connecticut. The constitution and the proposed structure of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters were adopted.

The IABPFF is not to be looked upon as a black separatist organization and its chapters are autonomous. Since many unions, locals and city governments failed to institute an affirmative action plan in the testing, recruiting and promotional process areas, it is therefore incumbent upon organized minority fire fighters to press for wide scale reforms. And in the course of dealing with these problems, we expect to reduce the number of fire deaths and property loss in our respective communities as well as to reduce the high rate of false fire alarms. We are convinced that the black community has an abundance of untapped talent to offer the fire service. Conversely, we expect to improve the economic development and employment opportunities for minorities.

As black fire fighters, it is our challenge to make the fire service more relevant to the needs and aspirations of minority citizens. The IABPFF will insist that black and minority fire department officials become full partners in the leadership and decision making arenas of the fire service.

PREAMBLE

Whereas, we, Black Fire Fighters, aware of the increasing complexity of our problems and those of our Brothers and Sisters within the community, feel called upon to form an organization for the purpose of studying and solving such problems in order to take our place in the vanguard of civilization. We hereby form ourselves into an organization for the purpose of cultivating and maintaining professional competence among fire fighters, and establishment of unity and brotherhood, also keeping alive the interest among retired members for the avowed purpose of improving the social status of our RACE, and increasing professional efficiency.

PURPOSE & AIMS

To create a liaison between our Black Brothers and Sisters, to collect and evaluate data on all deleterious conditions incumbent in all areas where minorities exist, and to compile information concerning the injustices that exist in the working conditions in the Fire Service, and implement action to correct them.

To promote interracial progress throughout the Fire Service, and to see that competent Blacks are recruited and employed as fire fighters, wherever they reside, and to aid in motivating our Black Brothers and Sisters to seek advancement to elevated ranks throughout the Fire Service.

MEMBERSHIP

The members of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS shall comprise those who are paid professional fire fighters in a Black Fire Fighting Organization, and that organization is a member of the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS.

This organization may admit to membership Black professional fire fighting individuals where no local association within the International exists.
Explaination of the IABPFF Logo

David James Floyd, the first president of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, designed the IABPFF Logo. The following is his explanation of the design.

COLORS • Red, black and green were the colors used by Marcus Garvey’s black pride or African movement of the 1930’s. The “Red” is for our blood, the “Black” is for the race, and the “Green” is for hope.

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

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 fire fighters together from across the nation. The outline of the fingers was shaped to form the Arabic word “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).

REGIONS

NORTH CENTRAL
Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Arkansas
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Missouri
Oklahoma
Texas
West Virginia

NORTH EAST
Connecticut
Delaware
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

SOUTH EAST REGION
Alabama
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Maryland
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

NORTH WEST REGION
Alaska
Idaho
Montana
Oregon
Washington
Wyoming

SOUTH WEST REGION
Arizona
Utah
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Nevada
New Mexico

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Fax: 202-434-8707

LIFE MEMBERS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)

MEMBERS
NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE