

# LOS BOMBEROS DE PUERTO PLATA

## Training starts Firefighter Project.

In June of 2011, three Puerto Plata firefighters, “bomberos,” Chief Pedro Martínez, Sgt. Pedro Martínez Jr., and Sgt. Major Roberto González, flew to Rochester to attend an intensive three week period of Firefighter I training and lodge and gain field experience with RPD fire companies. Under the tutelage and guidance of Monroe Community College and Monroe County Fire Bureau instructors and Rochester firefighter volunteers at the Public Safety Training Facility on Scottsville Road, the Dominican firemen received state of the art training followed by a thorough evaluation of the program and their experience.



Sgt Maj Gonzalez, Sgt Martinez, Chief Martinez

The Dominican firefighters enthusiastically performed the daily tasks with vigor and passed their final exams with flying colors, all the time expressing their sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Rochester firemen. To insure continued success, a framework for follow up in Puerto Plata was given to Chief Pedro Martínez and a request to report back to Rochester during the year.

Several Rochester firefighters want to travel to Puerto Plata next year to provide further instruction and exchange of ideas attests to the success of this cultural, humanitarian aid, and professional exchange endeavor.

This training is the first step to implement two top priorities of the Puerto Plata-Rochester Sister Cities Committee that result from the opportunities assessment visit to Puerto Plata by an 11-member Rochester delegation in November 2010 (See Spring 2011 ISCOR News). The Committee selected the two most highly feasible projects, expanding the Conani Pre-School for needy children and the Puerto Plata Firefighters’ project, as their top priorities.

The training opportunity arose on very short notice. With the commitment and active involvement of Monroe Community College, the Monroe County Fire Bureau, the Rochester City Fire Department, and the Puerto Plata Rochester Sister Cities Committee, and invaluable assistance from the US Embassy to Dominican Republic and staff of the Consulate, the firefighters’ project took flight.



Graduation Ceremony at Fire Academy

The Conani School expansion project is expected to commence during Spring 2012.

The Committee seeks a total of \$25,000 to send donated functional surplus firefighter turnout gear, hoses, and other equipment, two fire trucks and two ambulances to the Puerto Plata fire department, and to provide the final \$8000 needed to supplement \$20,000 has already raised for the school by Dominican Hope, led by Chris and Mayor Carl Luft of Lima, NY. Contact Relton Roland, PPRSCC Chairman, 585-473-5346, if you would like to assist in this effort.

*Submitted by Lynn Pigage and Michael Leach*

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