



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER



Vol. LX. No. 3

DECEMBER 2009

ISSUE No. 457

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

A Word from 2nd Vice President, Delbe Spath

As I picked up the paper today and saw the highway crews putting on snow plows and seeing the snow we got yesterday, it made me remember the E-MAIL that John sent out about the Christmas edition of the Firefighter. So here I go. At the meeting in Ossining (Oct. 11th) Jason Sherry of Sherry Management spoke about the convention in June 2010. By now, you should have received a packet with a letter for an ad in the RED BOOK which is the only book and one of the only fund raisers of the HVVFA. Please support the ad book. In the mailing is the invite to the Mardi Gras Parade and Dress Parade. The convention headquarters will be the Fort William Henry and the parade will end there. There will be free soda and water given out at the end of the parade, but with the liability insurance, the cost was too much, so the beer will be sold at a reasonable price. Hope to see all of you at the convention.

I wish you and your family a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

*Delbe Spath
2nd Vice President*

FASNY's FIREMEN'S HOME ACQUIRES A NEW ADMINISTRATOR

The Board of Trustees, the staff and residents of the Fireman's Home welcomed our new Administrator at a reception held on Friday October 23. Karen Woodcock was introduced to and greeted by, most of the staff and many of the residents at a reception held on the front porch of the home. At the same time the Trustees all thanked the Patrice R. Torrey and Al Pasinella for their service to the home over the last six months for filling in as our Acting Administrator and Temporary Administrator.

Karen comes to FASNY with an extensive education, experience and even a fire service background which includes her father, two brothers and a nephew who all have volunteered for many years. Her father and her brother rose through the ranks to serve as Chief of the Corinth Fire Department in Saratoga County. Currently Karen still resides in Saratoga County but is looking into relocating closer to the home.

Karen has experience which includes serving as Assistant Administrator of a 227 bed facility in Saratoga County, Administrator of an 82 bed adult day care and out-patient facility in Warren County and Administrator of a 60 bed assisted living facility also in Warren County. Karen is a graduate of Plattsburg State College with a bachelor's degree as well as a master's degree from Russell Sage College. Karen's qualifying education is more than adequate to take the reins of the Firemen's Home. Her back ground in public relations, quick wit and humor will fit right in with the members and staff of our "home away from home".



*Article and picture submitted by:
Tom McKinney, PP HVVFA and
Trustee of the Firemen's Home*



News from The Home

**Billy "Scoop" Rosenhagen
Correspondent**

After the FASNY Convention, (just what I needed) a day in "Mama's Kitchen", the LAFASNY monthly Birthday Party, and on Sunday August 30, the Iron Riders and Highland Fire Department held their barbecue. These events are great for my diet. I must be polite and show the hosts how much I enjoy their hospitality. On Sept. 3rd, I went to "Mama's Kitchen" on a mission of mercy. I had to eat those DELICIOUS brownies and chocolate chip cookies and wash them down with some coffee. It's a tough job but someone has to do it. On Sunday some residents went to Philmont Firehouse for their usual tasty breakfast. Upon returning to the Home we enjoyed horse racing in the multi purpose room. On Sept 11 and 12, a group of residents followed Horace Greeley's advice to "go west young man, go west" and west we went to Greene County, Town of Hunter for the GCVFA Annual Convention. We had a great time, but rain dampened their events.

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, "Big Red" made the trip to Lake George, NY for Lake George Fire Department's annual outing for the Home residents—the boat ride on the lake. What a great time we all had. The "best" part of the outing is the "escort out of town" that LGFD arranges for us. Big Red is situated in the middle of LGFD's trucks, and they escort us out of town. I

think that's why this event is always filled to capacity; we all enjoy it so much. The boat ride and lunch are great too, but what a send off we get. Thanks guys! Incidentally, this event will now be known as "The Annual Wayde Earl Home Cruise", in honor of Mr. Wayde Earl who started this event some twenty eight years ago and who recently passed away. It was further noted that this event should continue until such time as the residents of the Home no longer expressed a desire for it. (That will probably never happen.)

On Sunday, Sept. 20, Long Island emptied out and visited the Home. I can't believe all the "Islanders" that showed up at our front door. They came on buses, in cars or vans, and on motorcycles. What a line for food! I don't think we've seen that many visitors since the "Opening" of the Home celebration.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, I visited with Jack and Lucy (the therapy dog); I really needed and enjoyed that visit. Later that

evening, a bunch of residents were the guests of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests for their annual installation dinner. This was a warm-up exercise for Sunday's Hudson Valley Day at the Home and their Legislative Caucus.

The following week was another party, Ulster-Sullivan Day. Unfortunately the rains cancelled any plans for the parade. On October 11, we returned to Philmont for another delicious breakfast.

On October 25, LAHVVFA hosted their annual Halloween Party in the Home multi purpose room complete with decorations and costumes. Once again, all in attendance had a great time. On Wednesday, Oct. 28, LAFASNY's "Birthday Girls" did their thing by hosting another Halloween/Birthday Party which was sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delmar FD.

I might add that these events are all held in conjunction with the staff of the Home who ensure that all goes well. Thanks are extended to ALL who help make our (my) stay here more enjoyable.



*"The Exodus" after the
Lake George F.D.
Boat Ride.*



Aboard the ship.



*Long Island Day
At the Home.*



NEWS FROM PUTNAM COUNTY

Our September meeting at the Mahopac Falls Fire Department was dedicated to Art Brady (a 100 year old charter member of MFFD) as well as Robert Johnson (also from MFFD who passed away in the line of duty last October after falling off a fire truck teaching fire prevention) and Life Member Sonny Cohen from Wassaic and formerly of Lake Carmel FD. Sonny was the chaplain for the Putnam Northern Westchester Fire Police Association. The 2009 Fire Prevention supplies were ordered; all departments got coloring books and smoke detectors and we also have smoke detectors for the seniors of Putnam County Office of the Aging for our fire prevention program for the seniors. Plans are underway for the 60th Anniversary of the Putnam County Volunteer Firemen's Association in 2011, a formal dinner is planned.

The Brewster Fire Department Explorers Post 11 had a boot drive at the fire department's annual open house on October 11th for the Fallen Buffalo and Yonkers LODD Firefighters families and raised \$200 dollars. See attached photos of their booth.

Our next meeting is Monday, November, 30th at the Carmel Volunteer Ambulance Corp at 8 PM with our Past President's recognition night and nominations of officers. All are welcome.



*Submitted by:
Jeff Bergstrom
Putnam Vice President*

OCTOBER 2009 LAFASNY BIRTHDAY PARTY



**Seeking Fire Police Officer
of the Year Candidates**

The HVVFA Fire Police Committee encourages Chiefs and their

departments to submit a name of candidate for consideration to receive the Annual Ken Merriman Fire Police Officer of the Year Award to be presented at the 2010 HVVFA Convention.

Deadline for submissions is
March 13, 2010.

Send nominations to
Robert Ruston, Chairman,
HVVFA Fire Police Committee
8 Arrowhead Court
Newburgh, NY 12550.

Submissions should include documentation of a special act, outstanding, heroic, or unusual services performed by the individual, any newspaper accounting of an incident for which the nominee is being recognized, and other details or incident report.

The Hudson Valley Firefighter

Published six times a year by the publications committee of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association in the interest of the volunteer fire service throughout the Hudson Valley.

All communications to do with news articles and issue content, *other than address changes*, should be mailed to the Editor at

1041 Blue Mountain Road, Saugerties, NY 12477

fax to 1-208-246-3911

Home--845-246-7805

Or email me at john@bmfe.net

Paul M. Fisher—Founding Editor—Hudson Valley Fireman

John J Balling Editor—Hudson Valley Firefighter

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ADVERTISING RATES (per issue)

Business Card \$25—Quarter Page \$40—Half Page \$65

Full Page \$125

5% discount for a year's advertising.

Memorial / Sponsor Page Donations \$100

DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

June 20 for August issue (issue #1)

August 20 for October (issue #2)

October 20 for December (issue #3)

December 20 for February (issue #4)

February 20 for April (issue #5)

April 20 for June-Convention Issue (issue #6)

For all news items - ads - and photos

BULLETIN BOARD

ALL HUDSON VALLEY FIREMEN OF THE YEAR-2010

Applications go to

Chairman Douglas Mann

103 North Liberty Dr. Stony Point NY 10980

Applications must be received by February 15, 2010

ALL HUDSON VALLEY FIRE POLICEMAN OF THE YEAR-2010

Applications go to Chairman Robert Ruston

8 Arrow Head Court, Newburgh NY 12550

& must be received by March 1, 2010

Colonie Village Fire Company Hosts "Old Timers' Dinner"

On October 24, 2009 Colonie Village Fire Company held their Old Timers Dinner. There were eight inductees into the prestigious ranks of CVFC Old Timers. In addition, two of the Old Timers received plaques for their service in the EMS area. Ray Hughes, Jr. achieved 50 Years in EMS and his son Ray Hughes III had 30 Years in EMS. Both received a plaque from the Town of Colonie EMS Department, presented by EMS Chief Jonathan Politis.



Town of Colonie EMS Dept. Chief Jonathan Politis presenting a plaque to Ray Hughes, Jr. for 50 Years of EMS Service.



Town of Colonie EMS Dept. Chief Jonathan Politis presenting a plaque to Ray Hughes, III for 30 Years of EMS Service.



Eight new inductees. Their name from left to right are: Mike Slipperly; Ed Johnson; John Baker; Billy Tamaroff; Bill Battista and Pete Beigel.



Colonie Village Fire Co. Chief Mike Powers, Ray Hughes, Jr., Ray Hughes III, and Town of Colonie EMS Chief Jonathan Politis.

Submitted by:
Tom With, Fuller Road FD

DATES WE HOPE TO SEE YOU

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Submitted by Mike Cesare. Locations of various meetings not available at press time. If you have information, please email to: cidmazur32@aol.com

December	9	Sullivan County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting Fallsburg Fire Department 8:00 PM
	11	Albany County VFA Quarterly Meeting 8:00 PM Rockland County VFA Meeting Nanuet Fire Engine Company No. 1 8:00 PM
	19	Royal Order of the Blue Vests Christmas Party Firemen's Home – Hudson Starts Noontime
January	3	Westchester County VFA Quarterly Meeting Mellor Engine & Hose Company No. 3 Port Chester – Starts 1:30 PM
	8	Rockland County VFA Meeting Empire Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 Upper Nyack 8:00 PM
	13	Columbia County VFA Quarterly Meeting Ghent Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 7:30 PM
	16	Hudson Valley VFA Winter Meeting Holiday Inn – Turf Albany 1:00 PM Hudson Valley VFA Past Presidents Dinner Special Honoree Thomas J. McKinney Holiday Inn Albany Starts 6:00 PM
	17	Royal Order of the Blue Vests Winter Meeting Starts Noontime
	19	Dutchess County VFA Quarterly Meeting Lewis Tompkins Hose Company No. 1 Beacon – Starts 8:00 PM Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting Starts 8:00 PM
	20	Rockland County VSOA Monthly Meeting Pearl River Hook & Ladder 7:30 PM Orange County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting Middle Hope Fire Company 8:00 PM
February	4	Greene County VFA Quarterly Meeting Catskill Fire Department 8:00 PM
	9	Sullivan County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting Summitville Fire Company 8:00 PM
	10	Saratoga County VFA Quarterly Meeting 7:30 PM
	12	Rockland County VFA Meeting Central Engine Company No. 6 Central Nyack 8:00 PM
	16	Ulster County VFA Meeting 8:00 PM
	17	Rockland County VSOA Monthly Meeting Sloatsburg Fire Department 7:30 PM
March	6	WCVFA, HVVFA, FASNY Legislative Seminar Cortland Engine Company Montrose – Westchester County 9:00 AM
	10	Albany County VFA Quarterly Meeting 8:00 PM
	12	Rockland County VFA Meeting Excelsior Fire Engine Company Pearl River 8:00 PM
	16	Ulster County VFA Meeting Starts 8:00 PM
	17	Rockland County VSOA Monthly Meeting Ramapo Equestrian Center – Suffern 7:30 PM
	29	Putnam County VFA Meeting Kent Volunteer Fire Company 8:00 PM
	30	Orange County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting Winona Lake Engine No. 2 8:00 PM

NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF HVVFA



Where are all the news items that YOU ladies are suppose to be sending to me? I can't send in to The Newsletter what I don't know about. The Association is kind enough to give us this column space so please let us make good use of it.

Saratoga Co. LA Annual Meeting was held at the JW Ford Hose Co., Waterford. The following were elected to office: President Terri Fiorino (Newland Woods, Stillwater) Vice President Rita Demary (Newland Woods), Secretary Crystal Shippey (Mechanicville), Treasurer Mary Michalonis (JW Ford Hose Co.), and Three year Trustee Sue Rock, (Waterford). The Ladies were installed by Michael Cesare, Secretary SCVFA. All these ladies are members of LA Hudson Valley. Their Annual Cabin Fever Party will be held January 24, 2010, at JW Ford Hose Co., Waterford.

Hudson Mohawk VFA and LA are planning two parties at the Home. The Great Shoot Out Bingo on Nov. 14 and a Great Christmas Party complete with Santa and his elves with gifts, food and Bingo on December 12.

Thank you to LA Montrose and Ossining for hosting our September Meeting. The next meeting will be November 1 in Saugerties. Thank you for hosting us. The April Spring meeting soon to be announced. Save all those books you will be reading this winter and bring them to the April meeting for we are having a used book sale. Please remember on

January 16, 2010, the Association will be honoring thier Past Presidents' with a dinner for their newest Past President, Tom McKinney. Plan to attend! It's always a great party.

Happy Holidays to you all. Stay warm and safe during the winter. See you in the Spring where ever we may be.

Thank you,

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Full Page \$125
5% discount for a year's advertising.
Memorial / Sponsor Page Donations \$100

Cedar Grove Fire Company Honors Joseph Dengler for 50 Years of Service

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, the members of the Cedar Grove Fire Company assembled on the grounds of the Center-ville Fire Company to pay tribute to Joseph T. Dengler on the fete of attaining 50 years of service to the community.



Joe was praised by many of his firefighting buddies as well as Ulster County Legislators Gary Bischoff and Dean Fabiano, who presented Joe with a plaque from the Ulster County Legislature honoring "elite group of people". Joe also received certificates and/or plaques from Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, the Firemen's Association of the State of New York' and the N.Y.S. Association of



Fire Districts. These were presented by John Balling; H.V.V.F.A. Past President Robert T. Wescott, Sr. was scheduled to do the presentation, but was recuperating from surgery.

The members of the Cedar Grove Fire Company were summoned to the speaker's dais for a special presentation. The members have elected to name their Social Room in their new firehouse after Joe. Joe was instrumental in raising funds for the original firehouse as well as the newly built station on NY State Route 32 in the Town of Saugerties, NY. Joe remains an active, "hands-on" worker within the fire company.

Assistant Chief Phil Butta presented Joe's wife, Jan, with a flower arrangement to thank her for "sharing" him with the company and community for all these years.

Joe is also a Life Member of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, who you often can find at our convention. Approximately sixty five people were in attendance to praise Joe for his continued dedication,



*Article and pictures submitted by:
John Balling*

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS: If you chair a committee which generates revenue for, or expenses to the Association, you are required to submit a Budget Proposal to the Budget and Finance Committee by May 1 of each year for the following year. Failure to do so will result in no funds being allotted for your committee. It has not been strictly enforced in the past but it is going to be in the future. **THEREFORE:** Any committee which does not submit a Budget Proposal to the Budget and Finance Committee by April 15, 2010, will not receive any funding for the 2010-2011 year. Budget Proposals can be sent to:

Michael G. Karashay – Chair
Budget & Finance Committee
21 Division Street
Saugerties, NY 12477
(845) 246-8395
MKARASHAY@HVC.RR.COM



THE BLUE VEST REPORT

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests

October Blue Vests Meeting

The West Clinton Fire Company No. 1 in Dutchess County hosted the Royal Order of the Blue Vests meeting on October 18, 2009. It is the home of the new Royal Order of the Blue Vests President, John D. Shafer.

The registration started at noontime with many members arriving earlier. President Shafer decided that a Directors Meeting not was necessary. Special note: President Shafer should have had a Directors meeting. As a direct result of not having a business meeting, we were forced to watch the NY Giants on the large screen TV. When President Shafer called for the business meeting, the Giants were losing by a score of 21 – 3.

President Shafer opened the business meeting at 2:00 PM. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Frederick A. Van Loan (Athens Fire Department, Greene County). The Committee reports included the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Installation and Banquet (Sept. 26), the Annual Christmas Home Day Program (Dec. 19), the Annual Election and Picnic meeting that will be hosted by the Brewster Fire Department (May 22), and the Annual Steak Roast outing (June 17). Fin.Sec. /Treas. George H. Hill reminded everyone that the 2009 Annual Dues are long past due and that he has started collecting the 2010 Annual Dues.

Under New Business, the topic of the deceased member's plaque was discussed. A motion was made to have the missing names updated on the deceased member's plaque. It was mentioned that we would need several large plaques. This will be addressed and reported at the Blue Vest meeting in January. John P. Farrell Jr., Vice President of the Board of Trustees, gave a report on the happenings at the Firemen's Home. An employee's recognition dinner was held honoring many employees. Mrs. Jackson was honored as having 26 years working on the "A" (early) shift and has not missed a day of work. On September 11, children from the Hudson School arrived and placed flags on the graves in the cemetery. This tradition will be enhanced starting next year. John discussed the FASNY Legislative weekend and stated that the N.Y.S. Fire Administrator, Floyd Madison, would be a speaker. Director Fred Pettingell gave a brief report on the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Past President Henry Tabor, announced that the decals for the Royal Order of the Blue Vests are now available for the name tags. The cost of the name tags are \$6.00. Please contact Past President Tabor if you wish to order a name tag. The Fund Raising Chairman, Past President Joseph Garcia, discussed the lack of the timely response to the members returning their sold raffle tickets and that more members are needed to sell the raffle tickets.

President Shafer requested that Vice President Pettingell to please come to the dais. Vice President Pettingell then presented a certificate to President Shafer for hosting the meeting. Mrs. Joanne Shafer announced that there were several members in attendance from the West Clinton Fire Company No. 1. Vice President Van Loan took the certificate from President Shafer and presented it to Mrs. Shafer. President Shafer then called for the drawing of the winning 50/50 ticket. Tracy Noroian was requested to draw the winning ticket. The winning member this meeting was Ms. Tracy Noroian. Tracy drew her own raffle ticket. As always, there were a lot of "Boo's & Hisses" from all of the unlucky ticket buyers. It should be noted that Tracy divided the monies between the members from the Firemen's Home and kept none for herself. Thank you Tracy.

Refreshments were available before and after the meeting. Everyone was welcome and the refreshments were delicious. A special Thank You goes to the members of the West Clinton Fire Company No. 1 for hosting the October meeting, for their wonderful hospitality, for the great refreshments, and to Road Kill Barrett for his usual special refreshments.

Submitted by:
Mike Cesare

McQuoid Engine & Ladder Co. No. 3

Honor Ed Cummings for 50 Years of Service

Middletown, NY—Edward D. Cummings of the McQuoid Engine & Ladder Co., No. 3 was recognized for 50 years of volunteer service to his community at a Company breakfast on Sunday, October 25, 2009, at the Orange County Community College.

Cummings, a past president and a past captain of the McQuoids, was presented with departmental and company gold badges by Kevin Duggan, Middletown Fire Chief, and Richard E. Kearns, McQuoid President, and a past Middletown Fire Chief. Cummings, a former Middletown Alderman and Civil Service Commission member, now serves on the City's Police Commission.

Guest speaker at the breakfast was MFD Fire Inspector Timothy Welch, who described the responsibilities and operation of the fire inspection office. More than 45 McQuoids and guests attended the event in OCCC's George F. Shepard Student Center.

Before the breakfast, the McQuoids attended the 8:30 AM Mass at Saint Joseph's Church in Middletown to remember the deceased members of the Company.

Submitted by:
John J. McMahon,
McQuoids Secretary

POSTAGE POT DONATIONS

DAVID W. SCHULTZ, ROCHESTER, NY
FASNY HOME TRUSTEE

HVVFA LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Hudson Valley Legislative Committee

James Hartwick, Chairman of the Legislative Committee reports that 44 HVVFA members attended the legislative meeting held on September 27 in conjunction with Hudson Valley Day at the Fireman's Home. The Chairman noted that the State legislature in the '09 session accomplished very little due to the turmoil in the Senate and the fiscal problems with the budget.

Two significant bills were enacted, one positive and the other adverse. The Commercial Drivers License (CDL) law was amended which eliminates the requirement that drivers of the apparatus have a CDL; and therefore the privilege to drive to all functions is restored. The second bill enacted is the "NY Reorganization & Citizen Empowerment Act" better referred to as the "Consolidation Law" which the fire service lobbied against. The new law may have far reaching adverse impact and amending the law is a priority next year. A significant amount of time was spent reviewing FASNY's Q and A information on what the law requires.

A review of the FASNY Scorecard followed and it was agreed that the number of bills on the scorecard should be pared down to a more manageable level. Budget bills are always a priority and a part of the annual budget process and could be eliminated. The Personal Income Tax Credit Adjustment, Volunteer Job Protection and Cost Recovery for Fire Department Ambulance Service bills could be removed, but still pursued as non scorecard issues. The "Issues of United Concern" adopted by the fire & emergency organizations across the state must be the concentrated effort.

A lengthy discussion followed on the VFBL reform package and the issues on what constitutes an approved physical fitness program and supervised vs. unsupervised. Clarification will be discussed at the FASNY caucus October 23rd - 25.

The purpose of the legislative committee is to support the ideas and interests of our members pertaining to new legislation or amending laws to enhance the education, health & safety of the volunteer fire service. In addition to the FASNY conference, two HVVFA regional meetings will be held in conjunction with FASNY'S Outreach Program. The dates for these meetings will be announced when finalized.

Submitted by:
Jim Hartwick,
Legislative Comm. Chairman

HVVFA Legislative Committee is comprised of:

James Hartwick, chairman
Michael G. Karashay, co-chairman
Robert T. Wescott, Sr.
John Balling
Joseph F. Kelly
Santo "Chan" Rivera
Rick Dillon

Gomer W. Morgan Line of Duty Death August 11, 1926

At this year's New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on October 6th, Gomer W. Morgan of Mazeppa Engine Co. No. 2 of the Nyack Fire Department was memorialized and his name added to the memorial wall. His line of duty death occurred on August 11, 1926.

Along with Department Chief Robert Booth and members of Mazeppa Engine Co. and Orangetown Fire Co. No. 1, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren of the Morgan family attended the memorial service. Mr. Morgan's son Gomer E. Morgan was only two years old when his father passed away and was an only child. He became an active fireman with Highland Hose Co. No.5. He served for over 50 years until he passed away a few years ago. His son Dennis who accepted the NY State Flag at the ceremony on behalf of the family was also a firefighter with Highland Hose for 23 years.

The following is an excerpt of the fire that Mr. Morgan was involved in that caused his untimely line of duty death:

On August 10, 1926, the \$60,000 yacht Luvina had just returned from a four day cruise to Long Island and was moored at the Nyack Main Street dock to be refueled. While taking on 750 gallons of fuel, the yacht suddenly exploded setting the Luvina ablaze. Shortly after the fire department arrived, a second explosion occurred and it was feared that the remaining gasoline in the hold would go up, thus endangering the firemen who were fighting the blaze.

Morgan without stopping to ask for aid jumped on board and climbed into the blazing and smoking hold. There he found a five gallon tank of gasoline. Seizing it, he was carrying it up to either throw it overboard or pass to shore. Before he could meet his objective, the gas exploded in his hands. The tragic explosion occurred at 2:30 pm. In spite of the best efforts of his fellow firefighters in rushing Morgan to Nyack Hospital, at 8:00 am the following morning, he succumbed to his severe injuries.

Gomer "Doc" Morgan is remembered as a brave and unselfish man. He was the first aid instructor for the Nyack Fire Department and was well known and liked. None felt the loss more than his fellow firefighters of the Nyack Fire Department and the members of Mazeppa Engine Co. No. 2.

Submitted by:
Jim Hartwick

Season's Greetings

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Billy "Scoop" Resenhagen

Steve Buttafucce

Mike Cesare

John Mulligan

Michael Whelan

Joseph Tuxiera

Stu Gates

Nancy Ferretti

Siana Ballin g

Mary Lou Nash

News from East Greenbush From Peter Lehmann



Life Members of the East Greenbush Fire Company pose for a group shot with the oldest pieces in the fleet, the 1987 Hahn pumper

A delightfully sunny late summer afternoon was backdrop for the 15 Annual East Greenbush Fire Company Golf Outing. Over 130 golfers attended this event and were served a catered lunch, a robust 18 hole round of golf which was topped off with a steak bake. Among the prizes available on the 18 holes were two prize packages for shooting a hole in one. Matt Polsinello, Past President of the E. F. Hart Hose Company of the City of Rensselaer, shot an unprecedented hole in one on the 13th green and won a 5 day cruise package. While Matt will be heading off on the high seas, his golfing colleagues enjoyed an event and a meal worth remembering.

The East Greenbush Fire Company held it's 10 Annual Life Members Day on Sunday, September 20. The annual event celebrated the many accomplishments performed by the Life Members and recognized the Life Members that have answered their last alarms. Members enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie, a great meal and a beautiful day.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the members of the Publications Committee, I would like to extend a hearty "Season's Greetings" to all who read this publication.

I would also like to thank those members of the committee who so diligently do their jobs in getting this newsletter out to you. This can be a monumental chore at times; I don't get articles from you the readers, therefore I scrape the bottom of the barrel for fillers or pictures to fill the vacant spaces.

Over the course of the years I've been doing this newsletter, we've gone from a high of twenty-eight pages to the current sixteen, which we've held for some time only because I

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR AND MY FRIENDS

October 27, 2009

John Balling, Editor
1041 Blue Mountain Road
Saugerties, New York

Hello John:

I have never had to put forth words of Thanks and Appreciation in the past, such as today. Yes, I was sick, very sick, with a pain so severe I figured it was my appendix, so I checked myself into Saratoga Hospital. Emergency room, blood checks, many times, then a Cat Scan, EKG, Stomach Scan, and admitted to E3, room 320, bed 2. NOT HAPPY! Four IVs in right arm, two in my left arm. More blood drawn, blood pressure checks, too many times. Nothing to eat the entire week until just going home, two pear halves and a cup of coffee. Thank you. Stood up and fell across the next bed, empty, thank God. Donna helped me organize, then a wheelchair to downstairs. I remember assisting my wife Nancy like this, never dreaming of something befalling me, a Marine —

rough and tough. What a joke. I was a mess for the better part of the week. Ever have an MRI, 20 minutes in a steel can?

What caused it all? A kidney infection causing a message to my Pancreas, then to my liver, which they tell me is "a little bit fatty". A follow up between my physician, Dr. Buff, and Saratoga Hospital staff the cause, the blame,, probably/possibly the passing of a Kidney Stone.

I am back, driving at EML #1, what else, where else?

Now, at this writing I have received 167 get well cards from Long Island to Lake Erie, many visits to the hospital, flowers, phone calls, some more tried to visit, but I had gone home. **I cannot thank you all enough for your thoughtfulness during my problem.** God bless you all for caring and sharing your time with me and for me. I love you all and am eternally grateful and appreciative, believe me.

(signed) Bob Creifelds

will send in their area news. To these people I say "THANK YOU!!!"

John Balling, Editor

2010 HVVFA Convention & Parades
CONVENTION UPDATE

(October 2009) As you may or may not have heard, the 2010 Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Convention & Parades will be held in Lake George, NY from June 16 until June 19. At the 2009 Convention, the HVVFA Board of Directors voted to hire a local event promotion company, Sherry Management, LLC to coordinate and promote the convention and parade. Since that time, the company has been moving forward with their plans. In an effort to keep you informed, we will include a brief "Convention Update" in each issue of "The Hudson Valley Firefighter" between now and the Convention.

HOST HOTEL

The 2010 HVVFA Convention & Parades host hotel will be the Fort William Henry. With their expansive meeting space, the resort is capable of hosting both the HVVFA and the HVVFA Auxiliary meetings and events. The hotel is offering an overnight room rate of \$139 for two or more nights, and a rate of \$179 for Saturday only. The Fort William Henry can be reached at 518-668-3081 and you can get more information about the hotel at www.FortWilliamHenry.com.

OTHER HOTELS

We encourage all HVVFA members to support the hotels, motels and other lodging establishments that support the annual HVVFA convention. The convention's website www.HVVFAConvention.org will soon have a listing of lodging establishments that have committed their support at some level. Feel free to contact any of these establishments and make reservations. If you have any difficulty finding rooms for your organization under terms that are acceptable to you, please contact the promotion company by emailing info@HVVFAConvention.org.

PARADES

Plans are underway for the Dress Parade and the Mardi Gras Parade. We are working on a new route that will allow the parades to end on the Fort William Henry grounds. All post-parade activities will be held there as well. All members should make a special note that NO BEER will be given away at the end of the parade. Due to changes in the way the convention and parade are organized, the HVVFA cannot take on the liability required to giveaway beer. Beer will however, be available at a reasonable price to all parade participants. We have also settled on a theme for the Mardi Gras parade, which will be "REAL SUPER HEROES WEAR MASKS." We encourage participating members to interpret the theme as they feel appropriate.

CONVENTION JOURNAL

In conjunction with producing the Convention & Parades, Sherry Management has also been hired to solicit for support of the HVVFA and the HVVFA Convention by selling ads in the Convention Journal. This new publication will replace both the RED BOOK and the AD Journal. Only one publication will be solicited for and your ad will support both general HVVFA activities and the annual Convention & Parades. Sherry Management has hired Barbara McGuirk to act as an agent selling ads in the Convention Journal. She will be contacting you and we would appreciate your generous support.

INITIAL MAILING

If you have not received it yet, you will soon be receiving an initial mailing from the Convention Committee. The initial mailing will include registration forms for both the Dress Parade and the Mardi Gras Parade. It will also include an ad contract for the Convention Journal. Please feel free to contact Sherry Management at info@HVVFAConvention.com with any questions.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN JUNE IN LAKE GEORGE!

*Jason L. Sherry, President
Sherry Management, LLC
Adirondack Promotions, LLC*

THE BLUE VEST REPORT
The Royal Order of the Blue Vests

Annual Installation & Banquet

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Installation & Banquet was held on September 26, 2008, at the Firemen's Home in Hudson honoring the new President John D. Shafer of Dutchess County.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was Paul D. McCagg, immediate Past President. Paul introduced our honored and invited guests for the evening. The honored guests included the President of the Board of Trustees, John B. Montrose, Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary of FASNY Elaine Montrose, and Paul Beaumont from the Firemen's Home. The invited guests included many of the large group of Residents that were in attendance.

The dinner was served after the introductions were completed. The dinner selections were Steak, Stuffed Breast of Chicken and Stuffed Sole. The dinners and desserts were terrific. A special Thank You to Paul Beaumont and his staff from the Firemen's Home kitchen for the delicious meal and for the excellent service they provided. Special note: The hors d'oeuvres included Manhattan clam chowder, cheese (sharp, horseradish, & jalapeno), pepperoni, shrimp (three & four bite size), steamed clams, beer, wine, and soda.

The formal part of the ceremony was about to start. Paul McCagg assembled the new officers in front of the dining hall. Mr. John Montrose was called upon to administer the Oath of Office. John installed the new officers and everyone was congratulated. The officers for the Year 2009 – 2010 are as follows:

President John D. Shafer, Dutchess County; First Vice President Fred P. Pettingell, Albany County; Second Vice President Paul D. Schlegel, Rockland County; Third Vice President Frederick A. Van Loan, Greene County; Fin. Sec. & Treas. George H. Hill, Dutchess County; Recording Secretary Jennifer Mackenzie, Sullivan County; Chaplain Frederick A. Van Loan, Greene County; Chaplain Robert J. Creifelds, Saratoga County; Sergeant at Arms Garth W. Walker, Greene County

The fun part of the evening was about to start. The raffle tickets were sold to all in attendance. The raffle tickets were used to dispense the many door prizes provided by the Officers and to select the 50/50 winner. John Montrose selected the first winning raffle ticket to a shout of YES and many grunts and groans. The lucky winner received \$90.00.

Everyone had a good time. If you missed this Annual Installation & Banquet, don't worry, we are already starting to form plans for the Year 2010 Annual Installation & Banquet. A special Thank You to Master of Ceremonies, Paul D. McCagg, Chef Paul Beaumont, the staff that assisted the Residents & who served the dinners, John Montrose, Elaine Montrose, James A. Coons, George W. Harp, and everyone else that lent a helping hand. A very special Thank You goes to the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Home for allowing the Royal Order of the Blue Vests to use the Firemen's Home for this gala occasion.

Submitted by:
Mike Cesare

Selkirk Fire District Honors Frank With for His Service

October 23, 2009 marked a milestone for the Selkirk Fire District. Frank With retired after completing 47 years as Commissioner Secretary / Treasurer. The Selkirk Fire Department, South Bethlehem Co. #3, gave a surprise "thank you" to Frank at their Annual Firefighter Recognition Dinner. The Dinner



Frank With receiving plaque from Paul Miller, Commissioner SF District.

was put on by the Ladies Auxiliary of South Bethlehem Co. #3. Firefighters, Chiefs, and Commissioners from all three

Companies attended the Dinner. Frank With received a plaque of Appreciation from Commissioner Paul Miller and a decorated cake baked by the Ladies Auxiliary of Company #3. Frank is the father of Tom With (Fuller Road FD), current Secretary / Treasurer of the New York Fire Service Council.



Attendees at the Annual Firefighter Recognition Dinner, including Frank, his wife Anna Mary, daughter Catherine, and son Tom.

Submitted by:
Tom With
Fuller Road FD
(Photographer)

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

**FROM THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS
OF THE HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER
FIREFMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

ALBANY COUNTY REPORTS

BY ALBANY COUNTY V.P.

KATHIE WOOD

On Saturday September 26, the Albany County VFA held their 3rd Muster at Cook Park sponsored by Colonie Fire Company.

Congratulations go out to the winners:

Best Pumper, Voorheesville Fire Department, Best Rescue East Berne Fire



Department, and Best Appearing Ladies Auxiliary West Albany Fire Department. The Walter Eck Memorial Traveling Trophy for Overall Best Appearing went to Voorheesville Fire Department. Thank you to all who participated and to our wonderful host Colonie Fire Company.

Congratulations to the Albany County to the five members who have obtained 50 years in their Fire Company/Department. What an achievement! From West Albany Fire Department Leo Dott, Thomas Dott and William Krug and from S.W. Pitts Hose Co. were Warren Hobson and Bob Belanger.



Also at this time of year we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a time for reflection, and to be thankful we are part of the brotherhood of the fire service. I have always considered the fire service as one big family. So please remember those who might not be as fortunate as you are and offer a helping hand or a kind word. Many people fight depression at this time of year so if you have a free day or a few hours take a trip to the Firemen's Home and let our brothers and sisters know that you care and they are not alone during the holiday season.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season and looking forward to what the New Year will bring the association.



PRESIDENT FARRELL WINS 'PUTTING SHOOTOUT'



President Donald Farrell may not enjoy or like coffee and donuts but he must enjoy putting on the greens. Don won the Putting Shootout which was held at the FASNY Legislative Conference Weekend.

Photo courtesy of Wayne and Laurie Butts

Rombout FD Hosts Car Show

(Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York) At a recent car show held at Rombout Fire Company the following people and their vehicles won in the following categories. For the best Truck of the Show was the 1936 Ford Truck from Service Master. Eugene Newman from Glenham and his 1964 GTO won for the Best Muscle car. Anne Currier and her 1974 Volkswagen Super Bug from Beacon placed first in the Best Classic car. Helen and William Johosky of Newburgh won Best Custom car with their 1922 T-Bucket "Total Insanity". The Rombout Fire Company would like to thank all those who participated in this year car shows and supporting the Rombout Fire Co.

Helen and William Johosky of Newburgh won Rombout Fire Company Best Custom car with their 1922 T-Bucket "Total Insanity".



Photos and article Submitted by: Kevin Barry, PIO Rombout F.D.

Rombout Fire Department Hosts Fire Prevention Seminar For the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

(Fishkill, New York) Rombout Fire Company, in partnership with Taconic Resources for Independence Living, hosted a fire prevention seminar for the deaf and hearing impaired community. This event was the first of its kind in the region aimed at a particular community with disabilities for the people in the Rombout Fire District and the surrounding area. This event required the hiring of certified sign language translators who were sponsored by Emery & Webb Insurance of Fishkill. The seminar started with the staff of Taconic Resources and about 20 plus guests experiencing the simulated smoke conditions in the Town of Fishkill Fire Prevention Safety Trailer. The trailer informs about fire prevention at home and planning and practicing a fire escape plan. This was followed by a car extrication drill with the Jaws of Life. Both were very popular and informative for the attendees.

Firefighter Adam Montfort suited up in his bunker gear and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), providing what a firefighter would look like searching for a victim. Rombout First Assistance Chief Wes Hall, who is also a 911 dispatcher and was a representative for the Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, had a presentation about the Sorenson Video Relay Service used by the dispatch center. This service provides a video link between a victim's home and a sign language translator at a national call center. The translator is in phone contact with a 911 dispatcher center and translates the information about the emergency to the dispatcher. The translator relays any questions from the 911 center to the home owner.

This seminar was to inform the deaf community about fire prevention and it also helped Rombout firefighters better understand the needs of this community. The biggest item that was bought up by Taconic Resources staff members was the need by the emergency personal to inform the 911 center that a sign language translator will be needed at the hospital. This will help to minimize the delay of a translator to the hospital. When this problem was brought to the attention of Dutchess County Emergency Response Center, the next day the staff and emergency agencies were informed of this problem and the center now has the 24/7 phone number for a translator.

Jeanine Byrnes from Taconic Resources said "They definitely learned a lot from the smoke house, and with fire safety in the home! They also learned about the stop, drop and roll and we were surprised some adults didn't know that." Taconic Resources is a non-profit agency for independent living in Dutchess County.



Mark Howard was interviewed by Kristine Conte of Time-Warner Cable6 News thru a sign language translator why this fire prevention seminar was so important to the deaf community.



Rombout firefighter Sharon Forbes answer a question about fire prevention in the smoke trailer doorway thru a sign language translator at a recent fire prevention seminar for the deaf and hearing impaired.

*Photos and article
Submitted by:
Kevin Barry, PIO
Rombout F.D.*

HV Area Legislative Outreach Sessions

Lower Hudson Valley 3/6/10 at Montrose - Westchester County

, We tentatively set the following April 10, 2010 in Saugerties and May 22, 2010 in Middlefalls.

**PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER
HONORING
Past President Thomas McKinney**

SATURDAY JANUARY 16, 2010

AT THE HOLIDAY INN ALBANY

205 WOLFE ROAD ALBANY, NY 12205 PHONE 518-458-7264

**ROOMS ARE HELD UNDER HUDSON VALLEY AT \$109.PER NIGHT
AND YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY.**

DINNER MENUS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRIME RIBS OF BEEF AU JUS WITH ROSEMARY, BLACK PEPPERCORNS AND GARLIC;

VEGETABLE WELLINGTON;

**CHAR GRILLED SALMON, MARINATED WITH FRESH HERBS,
BRUSHED WITH MAITRE D'HOTEL BUTTER;**

**CHICKEN CHARDONNAY STUFFED WITH RICE, SOUR CREAM,
MUSHROOMS AND LEEKS TOPPED WITH LIGHT CHARDONNAY CREAM SAUCE.**

TICKETS ARE \$50. PER PERSON AND ARE TO BE PURCHASED THROUGH BARBARA MCGUIRK AT 518-361-4496. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HVVFA AND SEND TO BARBARA AT 156 JENNI JILL DRIVE, WARRENSBURG, NY 12885.

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 2010!

**COCKTAIL HOUR IS FROM 6 PM TO 7 PM;
DINNER IS AT 7 PM.**

**ENTERTAINMENT FOLLOWING DINNER IN COURTYARD BY
TNT (TIM AND TODD LAWSON).**

Application for Membership
Hudson Valley
Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Last Name _____ Name _____ M.I. _____

Fire Dept./Co. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County of _____ Phone No. _____

E-Mail Address _____

Hereby makes an application for membership in the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association.
Organization dues are \$ 10.00 and individual dues are \$8.00 per year.

Date _____

Proposed by _____

(signature of Presiding Officer or Secretary of Organization
Or signature of an Individual Member and HVVFA Member)

Make checks payable to Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department, association of volunteer or exempt volunteer firemen or any active or exempt volunteer fireman who is serving or has served in any such organization the territory in which the Hudson Valley Firemen's Association is authorized to conduct business.

Each member organization annually chooses one delegate to represent it at the convention of the Association.

Delegates so chosen may continue as individual members by payment of annual dues of \$8.00.

Send application with remittance, to the Financial Secretary of the Association, at address shown below.

George H. Hill
Financial Secretary
Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Assn.
854 Berkshire Rd.
Wingdale, NY 12594

WEBSITE:
www.hvvfa.com

HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

EDITOR: 1041 Blue Mountain Road Saugerties, NY 12477

MEMBERSHIP: George Hill
854 Berkshire Rd. Wingdale, NY 12594

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TO:

FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

100% MEMBERSHIP 2009

Brewster F.D., Fearless Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, Highland Falls F.D., Highland Lake F.D., Hortonville Volunteer Fire Co., Kerhonkson Fire Co., Lake George F.D., Lake Placid F.D., Mahopac F.D., Napanoch Fire Co., Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Co., South Glens Falls Fire Co., South Queensbury Volunteer fire Co., Wallkill Hook, Ladder & Hose Co.

We welcome the following New Members:

Jame Daly-Slingerlands F.D., Francis Ney and Philip Robare-Delmar F.D., Dennis Eickhoff-Colton F.D., Brian Yates-Pawling F.D., Ralph and Shane LaVecchia-Woodbourne F.D., John Meehan-Chatham F.D., Richard Hopeck-Arvin Hart Fire Co., Joseph Winnicki Jr.-East Greenbush Fire Co., Michelle Williams-Bloomington F.D., Linda Urban-Briarcliff Manor F.D., Tracy Noroian-Putnam Lake F.D., Kurt Mulligan-Wayne Hose Co. No.1, Mary Stimson-Lake Carmel F.D., Holly Eichler, Michael Eichler Sr., Michael Scott, Leah and Thomas Grant-Buchanan Engine Co. #1, Gerard Neville-Village of Mamaroneck F.D., Bernard Boulio- Carthage F.D.

**If any Company or Department is interested in 100% Membership
in the HVVFA**

Please contact the Financial Secretary. Thank You.

George H. Hill

HVVFA Fin.Sec.

854 Berkshire Road

Wingdale, NY 12594-1205

bluevests@optonline.net

(845) 832-7148 or (845) 494-4975