



92 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

the signal



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December 2005

From the Editor

They say "time flies when you're having fun!". Well I can't believe the holiday season is upon us and I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Believe it or not its time to start planning for our 2006 Convention. Inside this issue are applications for our Scholarship awards and the Joe Costello Fireman of the Year award. If your son and/or daughter is planning to or is already attending a college or university, be sure to have them complete the scholarship application and submit it by the April 15 deadline.

Also, nominations are being accepted for the Joe Costello Fireman of the Year award. If a member of your department has performed in a exceptional heroic manner, please nominate that member and help give him/her the recognition they deserve. Be sure to complete the application, provide all required information and submit it by the April 1 deadline.

Have an interesting story to tell? I'm sure we've all experienced a few alarms we'd like to share. Well in this day and age of technology and "blogs", visit www.firefighternearmiss.com. Read some interesting stories and perhaps add a few of your own.

So as I finish this final edition of The Signal for 2005, I'd like to extend from my family to you and yours, the happiest of holiday seasons, a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Be Safe and remember our troops!
Frank

E-mail your submissions and photos to ffuchs9595@aol.com. Please put "Signal" in the subject line. Or you can send to: Frank Fuchs—The Signal 25 Union Ave. Little Ferry, NJ 07643.

Who We Are

by 1st. VP Bob Kirsch

We are a group of 129 member volunteer fire companies from both Bergen County New Jersey & Rockland County New York. We meet once a month at a various fire houses in both States. We do not meet in July, Aug. or Dec. We hold an annual Convention & Parade on the first weekend in June.

We sponsor a death benefit for our members as well as a scholarship fund. We are supported by dues paying personal members of volunteer firefighters and volunteer fire companies. Our officers are duly nominated and elected at the June Convention. They usually serve a two year term. We recently contracted with a local company to collect clothing to help offset our financial benefit programs.

Upcoming Events

Support your Association...Come to a meeting!

December—No Meeting—Happy Holidays

January 27 —Piermont, NY

February 24 — Carlstadt

March—Westwood

April, May, June—OPEN

LOOKING FOR A JUNE CONVENTION HOST MEETING ONLY , NO PARADE. (UNLESS A TOWN WISHES TO SPONSOR ENTIRE EVENT WITH A PARADE).



In Memory of our departed members

The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed members:

Richard M. Viohl—Pomona, NY

Jerome G. Becker—Westwood (Little Ferry FD), NJ

Norman Vanderbeek—Hannibal, MO

Alfred H. Smith—Westwood, NJ

Carmine J. Vigorito—Ridgefield Park, NJ

Jonas Schweitzer—Fair Lawn, NJ

William J. Herman—Pearl River, NY

Robert Shepherd—Lanoka Harbor, NJ

Stephen P. Ramstad—Maywood, NJ

Peter Murray—East Rutherford, NJ

Please keep in mind listing of deceased members is published based on their last address on record. This address may not be the same as the town in which they served.



In Memory of Peter Murray

(from The Bergen Record)

MURRAY - Peter of East Rutherford on November 20, 2005. He attended Rutgers and Community College and became a sales Manager for Mid-West Automotive Rebuilder retiring in 2000. Peter served on the East Rutherford Board of Education for 8 years and served as East Rutherford Councilman for 21 years and is a member of the N.J. State League of Municipalities Elected Official Hall of Fame. He retired from the East Rutherford Fire Dept., where he was a Fireman for 30 years and served as Fire Chief in 1985, Captain, Lieutenant, President and Vice President. Peter was a State Certified Fire Official, Life Member of N.J. State Firemen's Assoc., Executive Committeeman of Bergen County N.J. Firemen's Assoc. from Oct. 2003 to present. He was presently President of the East Rutherford Firemen's Exempt Assoc., Chairman of the Exempt Firemen's Memorial Assoc., President of the South Bergen Chief's Assoc., N.J. State Fire Chief's Assoc., Bergen County Chief's Assoc., N.J. - N.Y. Fire Assoc., N.J. Exempt Assoc., North Jersey Volunteer Firemen's Assoc., East Rutherford Firemen's Relief Assoc., Bergen County Firemen's Home Assoc., and Past President of C.R.E.W. Assoc. Peter belonged to the Eclipse Lodge #259 of Rutherford, was a Marine Veteran, and a member of the Carlstadt First Presbyterian Church. He was the beloved husband of Daryl J. (nee Smith) Murray. Loving father of Peter W. Murray and his wife Marianne, Timothy E. Murray and his wife Tina, Tammy L. Falco and her husband Michael and Heather A. Murray.. Donations can be made to E.R. Exempt. Firemen's Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 124, East Rutherford, N.J. 07073 or Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital, 77 Frederick St., Hackensack, N.J. 07601.

Important Legislative News SERVE Act

Recently a bill was presented in both the US house and Senate entitled the SERVE act. SERVE stands for the Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act of 2005. The bottom line is that the act is designed "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a \$1,000 refundable credit for individuals who are bona fide volunteer members of volunteer fire fighting and emergency medical service organizations. " Now this is an Act all Volunteers should be behind...

There have been a few attempts at a national effort to support volunteers, but to date the only thing we have gained is participation in the public safety officer's benefit and the AGFP grants. The reason why we don't have more support is the lack of unity and push from the community. It is time. The entire text of the bill is available at <http://www.theorator.com/bills109/s625.html>. What this all means is if you are a volunteer in a Fire or EMS you would get a \$1000 tax credit. Whoever put the bill together took a good look at the current state of the Volunteer market and allows for departments that are already doing paid per call programs or other reimbursement programs.

There are currently bills in both houses, Senate bill S.625 and House bill H.R. 934. The National Volunteer Fire Council is covering the bill and does great work for all volunteers. (<http://www.nvfc.org/news/2005-tax-credit-leg.html>) The problem is, it will take an effort from all of us to get this bill passed.

The bills are currently in committee, and will stay there indefinitely unless there is support across the board. Everyone hears about lobbyists and their influence on public policy, but the truth is that motivated group of citizens can have just as much influence if not more.

There are 750,000 volunteer firefighters throughout the US. Volunteers save the country billions every year and provide a vital service. We all have a vested interest in seeing volunteers grow and expand. The key is to put our numbers to use. That means that every member of every department needs to contact their Senators and Representatives to support the bills. This means writing letters, setting meetings and showing them that not only do we need this bill but so do they. Volunteer firefighters represent a significant voting block and this needs to be shown. I would suggest is writing a letter about the current status of your department. If we all work together, we may end up with a national effort to support volunteers.



Joseph Costello Fireman of the Year Application

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME TEL. NUMBER _____ E MAIL ADDRESS _____

NOMINATING DEPARTMENT CHIEF _____

DEPT. NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE _____

DATE OF INCIDENT _____

TYPE OF INCIDENT _____

REQUIRED ATTACHMENT:

- 1.) DETAILED SYNOPSIS OF INCIDENT DESCRIBING INITIAL DISPATCH CALL, DATE, TIME, ARRIVAL CONDITIONS, WEATHER, FIRST ARRIVING APPARATUS. WAS NOMINEE THE FIRST ARRIVING (I.E. ALONE WITHOUT APPARATUS). INCLUDE DETAILED DISCRIPTION OF EXCEPTIOAL EFFORTS PERFORMED BY NOMINEE. DISCRIPTION OF WORK PERFORMED, PREVENTION OF ADDITIONAL DAMAGE AND LIVES SAVED. INCLUDE "ASSISTED BY" INFORMATION IF APPROPRIATE AND APPLICABLE.
NOTE: THIS ATTACHMENT MUST BE SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF.

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1.) PHOTOCOPIES OF NEW ARTICLES DESCRIBING INCIDENT AS REPORTED BY NEWS MEDIA.
- 2) PHOTOGRAPHS OF INCIDENT (NON-RETURNABLE).

**NOMINATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1
MAIL ALL NOMINATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:**

**ROBERT AITKEN
127 LAKEVIEW AVE.
LITTLE FERRY, NJ 07643**

IN NOMINATING THE ABOVE NAMED PERSON FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE JOSEPH COSTELLO FIREMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD, I CERTIFY THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND ACCOMPANYING INCIDENT SYNOPSIS IS TRUTHFUL AND ACCURATE.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association Scholarship Application



APPLICANT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME TEL. NUMBER _____ E MAIL ADDRESS _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

NAME OF SPONSORING NJ/NY VFA MEMBER _____

HIGH SCHOOL
ATTENDED _____

YEAR GRADUATED

_____ GPA _____

NAME OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
APPLIED TO OR ATTENDING

MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR OR ARE YOU RECEIVING ANY EDUCATIONAL FUNDING FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE? YES ___ NO ___ IF YES, ATTACH BRIEF STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION.

REQUIRED ATTACHEMNTS:

- 1.) CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPTS, SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADES AND COURSES STUDIED. IF NOW ATTENDING COLLEGE, CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPTS OF ALL COLLEGE WORK.
- 2.) AN ORIGINAL ESSAY OF 500 WORDS OR LESS PROVIDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FUTURE PLANS INCLUDING HOW YOU WILL USE THE EDUCATION YOU ARE PERSUING.
- 3.) COPY OF LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FROM THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY IN HIGH SCHOOL, OR A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT COURSE SCHEDULE FOR THOSE CURENTLY ENROLLED IN A COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
- 4.) BREAKDOWN OF TUITION AND FEES.

IN APPLYING FOR CONSIDERATION, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER AT AN ACCREDITED TWO (2) OR FOUR (4) YEAR COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, OR INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE SCHOLARSHIP MAY BE APPLIED TOWARDS THE PAYMENT OF TUITION, BOOKS, OR OTHER EXPENSES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE PURSUIT OF MY STUDIES. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL REQUIRE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP.

SIGNATURE

DATE _____

SPONSORING MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

DATE _____

Return completed application along with required attachments to:
ROBERT KIRSCH 107 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, BERGENFIELD, N. J. 07621
Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 15, 2006**.

2006 Scholarship Award Application

The NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn. is pleased to offer scholarship awards for qualified applications who are pursuing a college or university education. These awards range from \$100.00 TO \$1000.00 (depending on available funds).

Awards are available to any active or life member and their dependant children (including foster or adopted) and grandchildren. The member must be in good standing at the time of application. Applicants must (or planning to) be enrolled in the next scheduled semester of a two (2) or four (4) year accredited college or university. In evaluating the applications, preference will be given to those demonstrating need, desire and initiative. Particular attention should be given to assure the applications are complete. A 500 word essay is required indicating how the applicant intends to use their education in the future.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2006. Applications postmarked after this date will not be accepted. Mail completed applications to: ROBERT KIRSCH 107 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, BERGENFIELD, N. J. 07621

A copy of the scholarship application is included in this issue of The Signal. Please photocopy if additional applications are needed. Be sure to include all required information and submit to the address above by the April 15 deadline. Scholarships will be awarded at the annual convention.

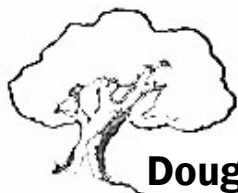
2006 Fireman of the Year Application

For many years the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn. has proudly presented this award to a deserving recipient. In 2005, this award was renamed the **Joe Costello Fireman of the Year** award.

Joe became a member of New Milford Fire Co. #1 in 1961 and served as its President from 1978 to 1982. He was a Trustee and Life Member of Fire Co. #1 and also of a life member of this Association. Joe could always be counted on to speak his mind at meetings and for keeping this Association moving forward.

On November 27, 1072 a fire was reported at Rhine Ct. in New Milford. Joe was severely injured while performing a rescue of a woman with two police officers. His injuries would have defeated most firefighters. Joe decided to continue in the fire service promoting fire safety around the state and as a spokesperson for the Burn Foundation. Some of the awards he received over the years include the NJ/NY "Fireman of the Year" award in 1973, the "Rudy Appeld" award and the "Fire Industry" award at the 100th Annual Fire Chief's convention in Baltimore. Joe also received a valor award from the Borough of New Milford. Joe passed away in February 2004.

It is with great honor that the Association name this award in memory of Joe Costello. Through the generosity of the Costello family there will also be a \$500 stipend presented with this award. A copy of the Fireman of the Year application is included in this issue of The Signal. Be sure to complete the application, include all required information and submit to: Robert Aitken, 127 Lakeview Ave., Little Ferry, NJ 07643. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2006. Winner will be announced at the annual convention.



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