



95 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

# The Signal

[www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org)



Volume 48 No. 2 Official Publication of NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association

March 2009

## From the Editor

As we start to gear up for our annual convention this issue includes applications for our Rudy Appeld Service Award and Scholarship presentations. If you have a member who not only is active in the fire service but also in other community organizations, think about nominating them. How about a student that is furthering their education? Submit their name for scholarship consideration!

During a recent issue I wrote about the upcoming convention and mentioned the names of several Little Ferry members who are or have been active in our Association. I neglected to mention Henry Frank. Henry also served as a Trustee of the association and was an important organizer of the annual Firemen's Field Day events held at the Garden State Plaza parking lots. Sorry Henry...I always give credit where credit is due.

Be Safe and remember our troops!

Frank

E-mail submissions and photos to [ffuchs9595@aol.com](mailto:ffuchs9595@aol.com).

Or send to:

Frank Fuchs—The Signal

25 Union Ave. Little Ferry, NJ 07643



## Bergen County Firemen's Home Assn.

by Milt Cole

Since it was founded in 1954 the Firemen's Home Assn. has provided birthday and Christmas gifts and hosted many special events to provide comfort to the guests at the home in Boonton. Below is the schedule of events for 2009. Stop by and say Hi to your fellow firefighters and their families. Your fire company or department can help support these efforts by making a contribution to the Association. Please mail your contribution to:

Bergen County Firemen's Home Association  
C/O Jeffery Palma  
277 Harriot Ave. Harrington Pk, NJ 07640

### Upcoming Events

April 19, June 14, August 16, October 18—Entertainment  
December 6—Annual Christmas Party

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

Support your Association...Come to a meeting!  
Meeting locations and directions via Mapquest are listed on our Web site at [www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org)

March—NY Columbian Hose Co. 63-65 West St.  
Spring Valley

April—New City, NY

April 5—Norwood Fire Explorer Pancake Breakfast  
602 Broadway Call (201) 214-8417

May 17—Annual Memorial Service 2PM

Bergen County Law & Public Safety Complex

June—Annual Convention—Little Ferry, NJ

Sept. - Open Date

October 2009—Carlstadt, NJ

Nov. 2009—New Milford, NJ

December 2009—No Meeting

January 2010—Piermont, NY

Host a meeting at your firehouse. Contact any Association officer to arrange a date.



## 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:

Leon Mazza—Garfield, NJ

Wilbur R. Daniels—Boonton, NJ

Donald Baird—Merritt Is., FL

Joseph J. Miller, Jr.—Manahawkin, NJ

*Listing of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.*

## Remember Our Troops



## RCVFA

By Stu Gates

### *RCVFA Scholarship*

Applications for the 2009 RCVFA/Stuart L gates Scholarships are now available. The hope is to honor two high school seniors from RCVFA member families. Each scholarship award is \$1,250. Applications with their essays are due Monday June 13 to: Chairman Hartwick—C/O 50 Central Ave. Nyack, NY 10960. Call 845-353-0577 for additional information. Applications can also be downloaded from the RCVFA Web site.

### *Hudson Valley Home—July 19*

2nd Vice President Paul D. Schlegel announces a "Plan To Join Us" bus trip to visit the NY State Firemen's Home on Sunday July 19. The bus trip is free and refreshments are included. Come visit the home at Hudson and have a great time!

### *Rockland EXPO—April 25*

The 2009 EXPO is scheduled for Saturday April 25. Sponsored by the Rockland Fire Museum Board, the expo will be open from 10AM to 4PM. Admission is free! This show of antique and modern fire apparatus plus demonstrations is geared to buffs, photographers and families young and old.

### *Rockland Firefighters help Gaza Firemen*

During January eight Rockland volunteers travelled to Israel to help their fellow Jewish community firemen in the hot zone in Gaza. They provided assistance to local fire departments in Ashkelon, Ashdod, Sderot, Be'er Seva and Jerusalem. All accomplished their goal and returned home safely. In the true spirit of helping others, our congratulations to these dedicated firefighters:

Itamar Yeager, Gadi Wolicki, Levi Schwartz, Chaim Rosenberg, Yosh Jacobson, Jonathan Kaufman, Gary Rothschild and C.D. Adler.

## Annual Memorial Service

By 2nd VP R. Kirsch, Memorial Chairman

The annual NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn Memorial Service will be held Sunday May 17 at 2PM in the Hall of Heroes at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah. A memorial wreath will be placed in Firemen's Plaza. Light refreshments will be served.

So that officers and departments throughout Bergen and Rockland County have a better way to communicate, a special e-mail address has been established to the Memorial Chairman. You can reach him at [NJNYFDMEMORIAL@AOL.COM](mailto:NJNYFDMEMORIAL@AOL.COM)

## NJ&NYVFA

## Scholarship Guidelines

In keeping with the ideals of the New Jersey & New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, the following requirements shall be considered when choosing applicants.

All Applicants will have a SPONSOR. No one will nominate himself or herself. The SPONSOR shall be a member in good standing (dues fully paid). This SPONSOR must be a Personal or Life member of the New Jersey & New York Volunteer Firemen's Association ...not just a delegate.

First Preference:

- To an Active dues paying member or Life member of the NJ&NYVFA.
- A Child or Grandchild of any Active dues paying member or Life member.
- Applications may be Graduating High School Seniors or in College.
- Applications should be active in their respective municipalities Emergence Service Organizations. This can include Junior FD Responders, Probationary Firefighters, Rescue Squad/EMT (EMS) or Active Firefighters in their municipalities.

Second Preference:

- High School Seniors that are graduating and going to college, or may already be College students. (These students are children/grandchildren of NJ&NYVFA members and are NOT in any FD related organizations).

Third Preference:

- Applicants who are graduating High School or are already in college and suffer extreme financial hardships outside their control. The applicant who plans to pursue a degree that will make the fire service better shall be considered.

Each applicant shall be considered on its own merit and hardship. There shall be no precedent set. It is highly suggested that Applicants shall be pursuing degrees in Fire Science, Nursing/Medicine, Crime Scene Forensics (CSI) Criminal Justice or Law. (the thought is to make the fire service & fire service family better)

The Scholarship Committee will meet and discuss all applications and take each application on its own merit. The Scholarship Committee will report to the Executive Board prior to the June convention. If the Committee cannot reach a decision, the President will have final say on any application.

An applicant must be enrolled in or planning to enroll in the next scheduled semester of a two (2) or four (4) year accredited college or university.

Applications must be postmarked by May 1<sup>st</sup>.



New Jersey and New York  
Volunteer Firemen's Association  
**Rudy Appeld Service Award**  
*formally The Hillsdale Award*

Nominees Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominees Fire Company or Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name and Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a summary of nominees qualifications covering the criteria listed below. Summaries should be at least one page but no more than two, double-spaced. Include any additional information such as newspaper articles, citations and excerpts from meeting minutes.

Consideration for the award will be based on the following:

- 1) Service to his/her Fire Company/Dept. in firefighting, length of service, special services, committee activities, etc.
- 2) Service to the Fire Service in general such as mutual aid or other organizations promoting the fire service.
- 3) Service to the community such as Scouting, YM-YWCA, Little League, Veterans services, Municipal Boards and other community activities that benefit children and adults.

Deadline: All applications must be postmarked by **May 1**.

Mail application to:

Bob Aitken  
127 Lakeview Ave.  
Little Ferry, NJ 07643



New Jersey and New York  
Volunteer Firemen's Association  
**Scholarship Award Application**

Applicants Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
please print

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

High School attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school / college / university  
planning to attend or are attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Major course of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Required: Attach a written essay about your background and future goals.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicants Signature Date

Name of NJNY-VFA Member sponsoring your application

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature

All must be postmarked no later than **May 1st**.

Return to:

Robert E. Kirsch  
107 Roosevelt Ave.  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621  
201-385-0644  
robtekirsch@yahoo.com

**Each and every application is taken on it's own merit**



# Happenings in Norwood NJ

By Richard Bator—Norwood FD



Recently the Norwood Tiger Cubs from Pack 120 took a tour of the Norwood firehouse. Firefighters Ron and Bob (in turnout gear) taught them how we fight fires, discussed fire prevention and demonstrated the fire trucks and equipment.

As is their annual custom of attending religious services at a different church in Norwood at the start of each year, the officers and firefighters of Norwood Fire Company No. 1 on January 4th. attended religious services at the Presbyterian Church. Each year, for the past 53 years, these volunteer firefighters attend services on one of the first Sundays of

each year to rededicate themselves to service in the Borough of Norwood

The line-officers of 2008 named Michael Congiusti, the 2008 Norwood Firefighter of the year.

Officers of Norwood Fire Company No. 1 for 2009 are:

President: Dominick Congiusti	Vice President: Gary J. Cerbasi
Treasurer: Bernard J. Tuite, Jr.	Recording Secretary: Kevin McLaughlin
Corresponding Secretary: Joan Kuerzi	Losap Recording Secretary: Richard J. Hess
Trustees: Richard Hess, Ronald VanBrandenburg	Sergeant at Arms: Justin Krapels

The line-officers for 2009 are:

Fire Chief: Christopher Mazzilli	Assistant Fire Chief: Bernard J. Tuite, Jr.
Captain: Michael S. Aanonsen	Lieutenants: Daniel Ochse, Brian Bourke, John Straub

Officers of Fire Explorer Post 911 for 2009 are:

President: Michael Goodman	Vice President: Michael Panella
Treasurer: Jason Shepard	Secretary: Ryan Leggett

The Norwood Fire Explorer Post 911 will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday April 5 8 AM—12 Noon 602 Broadway  
Tickets \$6.00—\$3.00 for children under 10

**Rev. David C. Shepson, Chaplain Emeritus**  
Of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association  
has written a book

**"Answering the Calls and More"**  
(Pastoral—Fire—Police—Motels—Chauffeuring—Ship)

This 311 page book relates a bit about himself and the various calls he has answered as a pastor and as a chaplain of nine different civil and civilian organizations. To obtain a copy, write to him at 7700S.W. 112th Lane, Ocala, Florida, 34476—OR e-mail him at my46book@aol.com—OR phone 352-873-9213.  
Price: \$10.50 INCLUDING postage. Thank You.

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