



95 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



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August 2009

From the Editor

A short time ago I put out the call to anyone that had photos of the Firemen's Field Days that were held at the Garden State Plaza. Well you being firefighters you answered the call and responded by sending me some great photos and funny stories and I'll include these in an upcoming issue.

I'll offer congratulations to all of our brave award winners who were recognized at the June convention. Additionally best wishes to all of our 2009 Scholarship recipients. Study hard, enjoy school and don't forget to call home once in a while!

On behalf of Pres. Stu Gates and all the Association officers we'd like to thank the Little Ferry Hook and Ladder Co No 1 for hosting the 2009 Convention. Your hospitality and active participation in our Association is greatly appreciated.

Be Safe and remember our troops!

Frank

E-mail submissions and photos to ffuchs9595@aol.com.

Or send to: Frank Fuchs—The Signal

25 Union Ave. Little Ferry, NJ 07643

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

Sept 25 2009— Elmwood Park Co 2—72 Parkview Ave.

October 2009—Carlstadt, NJ

Nov. 2009—New Milford, NJ Co 1—249 Center St.

December 2009—No Meeting—Happy Holidays!

January 2010—Piermont, NY

Congratulations to Piermont. This is their 51st consecutive year hosting the January meeting.

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

Annual Convention—Little Ferry



Pres. Stu Gates presents plaque to Little Ferry Chief Paul Schwedhelm in appreciation for hosting the 2009 Convention. More photos and convention news inside.



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:

Bruno Swiston—Wallington, NJ

George Werns—Manahawkin, NJ

Edward Kneisler—Bergenfield, NJ

Alfred E Sanders—Oakland, NJ

Henry M. Aherns Jr.—Maywood, 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



2009 Convention Highlights & Photos



Opening invocation by
Chaplain William Drew



Cynthia Naylis sings our National Anthem



Pres. Gates welcomes all to the convention
and displays certificate from Bergen County
Executive Dennis McNerney



Little Ferry Mayor Mauro Raguseo wel-
comes the association to Little Ferry



Fire Commissioner Roberta Henriquez offers
comments and thanks to all firefighters



1st Vice President James Cole offers report



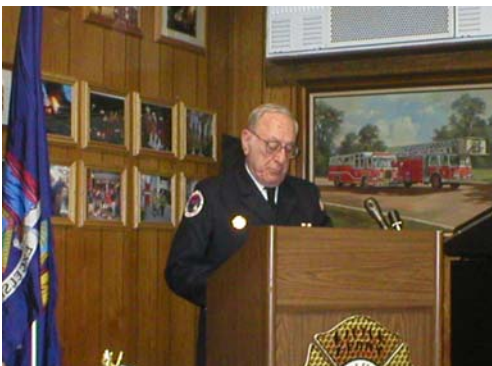
2nd Vice President Robert Kirsch presents
his report to the convention



Secretary Peter DeVries offers reports and
submits minutes



Financial Secretary John P. Schwedhelm



Treasurer George Saigh



Dan Loftus reports on the Bergen County
Firemen's Home



Past President Robert Aitken reports on the
successful clothing bin efforts

2009 Convention Service Award Winners



Presidential Lifesaving Award Angelica Mercado

On November 20, 2008 a gasoline tanker carrying over 8,000 gallons of gasoline rolled over on the exit ramp of the NJ Turnpike Exit 16. Within minutes the truck exploded. The driver of the truck, Rajinder Singh of Queens managed to get himself out of the truck and onto the roadway. Angelica Mercado, a student nurse with Holy Name Hospital was on her way to work the night shift. When she saw the tanker explode, she immediately pulled over and could see Singh was engulfed in flames. Without hesitation, she ran toward him, removing her coat and used it to smother the flames on Singh. Once extinguished she placed him in her car, driving him to the nearest hospital, University Hospital in Newark.

Later he was transferred to the burn unit at St Barnabus Hospital where he was described as "critical but stable condition" with second and third degree burns over 40 percent of his body. Angelica Mercado's intervention was heroic in such a dangerous situation, one that many people would run from, not toward. For such a young woman to have disregarded her own safety to help another is extraordinary. The NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn is proud to present the 2009 Presidential Lifesaving Award to Angelica Mercado.



2009 Citizens Award The Gardner Family

John & Kyra Gardner, parents of three teenage children, lived in a cedar-sided home in Ramsey NJ. Although the children poked fun at the parents ordering monthly fire drills in their own home, they practiced again and again for the day they hoped would never come. Monthly drills, escape plans, smoke alarm batteries - all things that people know they should do but tend to overlook.. All that practice paid off the one morning in March as the Gardner family woke to the sound of smoke detectors. Fire gutted their DeBaun Ave home in a pre-dawn fire where the Gardners narrowly escaped with their lives. "Fire" Kyra yelled, just as they rehearsed. Immediately the couples three children took their places in their door-

ways on the second floor of their home. Kyra grabbed 18-year old Alex, who has autism, and John went for Nicholas (17) and McKenzie (14). As one unit, John led the way with all three children in between and Kyra following up in the rear. John slipped down the stairs as they reached the front door and found the door sealed shut. The Gardners now put their back-up plan into effect and headed for the back door. As the flames grew bigger, windows shattered and heavy smoke filled the air, they rushed outside without anything on their feet and raced across the street where neighbors called 911. The entire evacuation took about 2 1/2 minutes. Fire trucks lined the usually quite street where crowds gathered to watch firefighters battle the blaze. Ramsey Chief Mike Scalione said upon arrival the house was fully involved and it took firefighters 30 minutes to get the fire under control. Although all occupants escaped, unfortunately the family's three dogs perished in the fire. Regular fire drills and working smoke detectors were key to saving the family's lives. The NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association is proud to present the 2009 Citizens Award to The Gardner family for conducting drills and educating their family that there are two ways out.



Mark from H&M Leasing (our clothing bin partner) present gift cards to the Gardner family

2009 Convention Service Award Winners



Rudy Appeld Service Award Frank C. Gluckler

Frank Gluckler was nominated by his peers to receive this award because of his dedicated service not only to the fire service, but also to the community. Born April 28, 1925. After a fire in his house he joined Hillsdale FD Hose Co 1 on Oct. 27, 1959. Earned Exemption Oct. 1966. Life Member of NJ Exempts. Chief of Dept 1973. Dept. Drill-master for 15 yrs. Asst. Chaplain 1962-1988. Chaplain 1988-present. Clerk/Asst Clerk to Bd of Fire Officers 1966—1998. Dept Secretary 1991-1998. Exempt Assn President 1976—1977. Secretary 1988 to present. Exec. Committeeman NJ State Exempt Firemen's Assn.

2003—present. Narrator NJ State Firemen's Convention Parade since 1981. Host of TV interview "Firemen Speak" since 1990. Member organizing committee and marching/maneuvering instructor (8yrs) for Valley Grenadiers Drum & Bugle Corps. Teacher & Superintendent of Third Reformed Church Sunday School for 17 yrs. Sailing & boat construction instructor of Hillsdale Girl Scout Troop 189. NRA instructor—30yrs. The NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn is proud to present the 2009 Rudy Appeld Service Award to Frank C. Gluckler.



2009 Unit Citation Award—Leonia Fire Dept Capt. Robert Chace, Ex-Chief Steven Oxnard, Dep Chief Troy Wright

On the morning of July 23, 2008 a call came in as a report of smoke in the neighborhood. Misty fog helped to make poor visibility and made it difficult to trace the fire. As apparatus arrived they found the 2nd. Floor engulfed in fire. Chief Ron Chace called a 2nd alarm mutual aid. Dep Chief Roy Wright and Capt Robert Chace began primary search without the benefit of a hose line. They were met with high heat and zero visibility, putting them at risk. They found the main

staircase at the rear of the house and ascended towards the third bedroom which was now fully involved. Ex-Chief Oxnard also began a secondary search of the living room. As conditions quickly worsened Oxnard found an unconscious male, located between a table and chair. He called for assistance and was joined by Dep Chief Wright and Capt Chace. Once they were out of the house CPR was begun immediately. Despite the efforts of firefighters and EMTs, the victim later succumbed to his injuries. The NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association is proud to present the 2009 Unit Citation Award to Captain Robert Chace, Ex-Chief Steven Oxnard and Dep Chief Troy Wright.



2009 Joseph Costello "Firefighter of the Year Award" - Hackensack Fire Dept. Lt. James J. Walker—Douglas C. Reinhart

On October 1 2008 Ladder Co 1 responded to smoke coming from a first floor apartment. Ladder #1 was under command of Lt. Walker. Walker and Firefighter Reinhart entered the building. Once inside they forced entry and found a working fire involving the living room and its contents. Firefighter used a water can to hold the fire in check while Lt. Walker conducted a primary search, discovering a female occupant sleeping. Walker and Reinhart were able to remove the oc-

cupant where EMS evaluated her condition. The efficient manner and rapid precision on the part of these firefighters helped to avoid a potential loss of life or serious injury. The NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn is proud to present the 2009 Joseph Costello Firefighter of the Year Award to Lt. James J. Walker and Firefighter Douglas C Reinhart of the Hackensack Fire Dept.

2009 Scholarship Award Recipients

Congratulations to our 2009 Scholarship Award recipients. Victor Bonachea-Elmwood Pk Truck 4-NJIT Engineering; Jaclyn Curran-River Edge Co1-Stockton College-Criminal Justice; Robert Aitken Jr-Little Ferry H&L Co1-Montclair State-English; Reena Mishory-River Edge FD- Ramapo College-Nursing; Joseph Discepolo-River Vale FD & Vol Amb Corps-Bergen Community-FDNY Paramedic; Courtney Scheideler-Ridgefield Pk FD-Albright College-Elementary Education; Christopher Naylis-Bergenfield FD Prospect Fire Co 1-NJ City University-Fire Science; Steven Naylis-Bergenfield FD Prospect Fire Co1-Bergen Community-Business; Michael Naylis-Bergenfield FD Prospect Fire Co1-Bergen Community-Horticulture/Landscaping



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

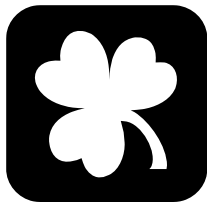
"Answering the Calls and More"
(Pastoral—Fire—Police—Motels—Chauffeuring—Ship)

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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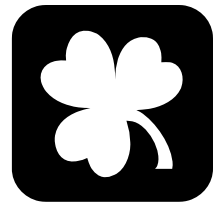
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