



97 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



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May 2010

From the Editor

As I sit putting the final touches on this issue of The Signal, I'm listening to the news. Broadcast are updates on the recent events in Times Square and I watch the brave members of the NYPD and NYFD jump into action. Followed by updates on the oil spill in the gulf, then security camera footage of people walking past an injured person laying on the ground.

Just watching these I'm reminded that regardless of what we are doing, where we are, paid or volunteer, we all have one common goal...to help others! I'm confident each of us is attracted by this gravity...to help others! Maybe someone should make a bumper sticker that simply says... "to help others!"

Remember, our newsletter relies on input from our member departments and companies. If you have information, photos, announcements or events you would like considered for publication, send it in. Also be sure to visit our Web site at www.njnyvfa.org

Be Safe, remember our troops and see you in Ridgefield Park!

Frank

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

Or send to:

Frank Fuchs—The Signal

25 Union Ave. Little Ferry, NJ 07643

Annual NJ-NY VFA Convention Ridgefield Park, NJ

This years convention will be hosted by the Ridgefield Park Fire Department and held on Friday June 4. More details inside.

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

May 16—Annual Memorial Service Bergen County Law and Public Safety Complex—2PM

June 4—Annual Convention—Ridgefield Park FD

June 26—Wet Down, Little Ferry Hook & Ladder

July—No Meeting

August—No Meeting

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 New Jersey & New York Volunteer Firemen's Assn. extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed members.

Robert C. Granger—New Milford, NJ

Herman A. Steffens, Jr.—Whispering Pines, NC.

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 brave
troops at home and
abroad.**



Annual Convention *(continued)*

The Ridgefield Park Fire Dept. will host this years Annual Convention. The convention will be held at the St. Francis Church Parish Hall on Mt. Vernon St. Department Chief John Malool reports all is ready and his members have prepared an enjoyable evening for us. The Ridgefield Park Fire Department consists of six individual fire companies; four engine and two ladder. Ridgefield Park was also the host of the convention in 1992.

This year there will be a Color Guard competition before the convention meeting begins. Malool reports details of the competition along with invitations were mailed to all member companies and departments.

We look forward to seeing you June 4 in Ridgefield Park. Directions are below.

St Francis Parish Hall
114 Mt. Vernon St.
Ridgefield Pk, NJ

From the North:

Take PIP or 9W South. Take Rt46 West to Main St Ridgefield Pk. Make right onto Main St. Continue on Main St to Mt. Vernon, make right. St. Francis Parish Center will be on left.

From the South:

Take Rt 46 East over Hackensack River bridge to Ridgefield Pk. Take first right exit after bridge. Bear right and continue under bridge to Main St. Make left onto Main St. Continue on Main St to Mt Vernon St. Make right onto Mt. Vernon. Parish Center will be on left.

Bogota FD Hose 2 - Centennial

Bogota FD Hose Co. #2 is celebrating their 100th Anniversary in October 2010. Their current fund raising efforts include the sale of Coffee & Beer Mugs as well as Anniversary Tee Shirts. Anyone interested in helping out by purchasing any of these items should contact Tony Culmone at 201-487-0069 or they can write to Hose Co. 2, 164 Central Ave., Bogota, NJ 07603 or call the firehouse at 201-342-1726. Visit <http://hose2.bogotafire.org>

Reminders

If you are a Delegate to the NJ/NY Convention that does not qualify you for any benefits of the Association such as the Death Benefit, Scholarship eligibility or the Life Member status. You can be a Delegate and also be a Personal member of this Association. Applications for membership and Beneficiary forms can be obtained from our Web Site at www.njnyvfa.org. Please do this as soon as you can.

Old Times Having Fun Together

Back in the 60's and 70's our Association would hold an annual Firemen's Field Day. This day-long program would feature contests like bucket brigade races, ladder positioning and climbing, hose set ups and equipment donning. Some events like the ladies bucket brigade would give our ladies auxiliaries a chance at some fun.

The field days were held in the parking lots of the Bergen Mall (now Bergen Town Center) and then to the Garden State Plaza.

Events were judged, refreshments were served and our firefighting families from Bergen County and Rockland County would all get together for a fun-filled day. Our thanks to the Weber and Schwedhelm families, former New Milford Co 2 member Pete Christopher, and Henry Frank (life member LF H&L Co, former Association trustee and one of the organizers of the Field Day) for their photos.



Noteworthy News

The Executive Board of the NJ/NY has made some changes with a couple of items.

The 1st item was with our annual scholarships. We will still give out a total of \$5,000.00 but instead of giving 10 - \$500.00 scholarships we will give 8 - \$500.00 scholarships and 1 - \$1,000.00 scholarship. The \$1,000.00 scholarship will be called the Helene Field Memorial Scholarship and will be picked annually by her brother, Marc Field. Helene and Marc were the co-owners of H & M Leasing. This is the company that handles our clothing bin program which has been extremely successful in supporting our Association.

The 2nd item was to help sponsors of our annual convention. The Association will give \$500.00 to the host department when they host a convention with no parade and \$1,000.00 to the department that hosts the convention with a parade. This will be to help defray some of the cost.

Old Times Having Fun Together

(continued)

I was a New Milford Co. #2 volunteer fireman in the 70's and would like to share some memories about the Fireman's Field Day. I now live in Palmer, Alaska but I still get The Signal. I've attached a photograph taken sometime between 1974 and 1977. From left to right, that's me putting on the scott pack, Glen Thorsen, the late Walter "Fat Wally" Streeton, that's Clint Mobley's legs you see behind Wally, Lt. Al "Super J" Silverman and Keith Heimburg. I remember River Vale's engine going through the paint store window, which I think was 1978, the last year of the event. Also River Edge Co. #1 pulling up with actress Lee Meredith on top of the engine Great memories! Signed: *Pete Christopher*



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