



98 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



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Congratulations and Thank You Cresskill Fire Department 2011 Convention Host

President Jim Cole, the Executive Board, Trustees and all members of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their sincere thanks to Chief Neil Hartmann, the officers and members of the Cresskill



Fire Department for hosting our annual convention meeting. From beginning to end, Chief Hartmann and his department did a wonderful job as host, paying attention to every detail and making our membership, their families and honored guests feel welcome. Our thanks to all!

From the Editor

I can't believe how fast the summer has passed. Since our last issue we've experienced an earthquake and hurricane with substantial flooding. Many towns in Rockland and Bergen Counties suffered tremendous losses. But thanks to all of you, rescues were made, basements were pumped and you all did what you could to keep our towns safe. I too suffered damage with this storm, but felt great when my own dept called me to check on my welfare and offer help. That is what being a firefighter is all about!

Inside this issue is a recap of the 2011 Convention in Cresskill. Our congratulations to the service award and scholarship recipients. **My personal thanks to Tom Biersds from Rockland County for lending his photos for this issue.**

Be Safe and remember our troops!

Frank

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Or send to:

Frank Fuchs—The Signal

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

2011

Sept 24—Ridgefield Hose 1 Wetdown

Sept 30—Pearl River H&L, Pearl River, NY

Oct 28—Garfield Fire Co 2, Garfield NJ

Nov 18—New Milford Co 1, New Milford, NJ

1 week early due to Thanksgiving

December—No Meeting—Happy Holidays

2012

Jan 27—Piermont FD, Piermont, NY

February 24—Old Tappan FD, Old Tappan, NJ

Host a meeting in your town. Contact any Association officer for details



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:

John S Miraglia—River Vale, NJ

Benjamin Gagliano—Moonachie, NJ

Howell N Reitz—Westwood, NJ

Jacob Lawrence, Jr—Little Ferry, NJ

Howard Vander Vliet—Park Ridge, NJ

Charles Lake—Old Tappan, 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**



2011 Convention Highlights & Photos



Photos courtesy of Tom Bierds, Rockland County



2011 Convention Highlights & Photos



Photos courtesy of Tom Bierds, Rockland County

2011 Scholarship Awards

This year 11 scholarships totaling six thousand dollars were awarded at the Annual Convention including the Helene D. Field memorial Scholarship Award. Our sincere thanks to Marc Field and H&M Leasing for their generous support of these scholarships and to our Association.

The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn. congratulate our students and wish them continued success as they further their education. The recipients of the awards are: Danielle L. Armstrong, N. Blauvelt, NY- SUNY College @ Oneonta; Jessika Moshen, Madison, NJ- NJ College PennState; Stephen Ventura, Wallington, NJ-Bergen Community College; Kevin Ventura, Wallington, NJ-Bergen Community College; Justin Meyer, Secaucus, NJ-College of New Jersey; Allison N. Jeffery, Hillsdale, NJ-Tufts University; Matthew Fatovic, Little Ferry, NJ-Bergen Community College; Luke A Hansen, Nanuet, NY-SUNY @ Syracuse; Andrew Hartmann, Cresskill, NJ-Rutgers University; Melissa N. Naylis, Bergenfield, NJ-NJIT; Luke Van Brandengurg, Norwood, NJ-Ithaca College. Best of luck to all of our students.



H&M Leasing truck doing by-weekly clothing pick-up in Little Ferry

2010 Convention Service Award Winners



Rudy Appeld Service Award Gerry Naylis-Bergenfield Fire Dept

Gerry Naylis is a good example of one who doesn't know when to ease off. He joined Bergenfield FD in 1974 and as a firefighter he served 24 years with the Fire Rescue and 10 years as and EMT with the Vol. Ambulance Squad and currently rides as a first responder and Instructor for the Bergenfield FD. Gerry served in every office and desk position and held the title of Chief in 1994 and 2003. He currently serves as a Trustee to the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, has been Past President of numerous organiza-

tions and has been active in the following organizations: Bergen County (BC) Fire Academy Advisory Bd., BC Fire Chief's, BC Juvenile Fire Prevention, BC Fire Protection & Prevention, BC Fire Training Ctr., NJ Fire Safety Comm., NJ Society of Fire Protection Engineers., Int'l. Assn. of Fire Protection Engineers, Chairman NFPA Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications Committee. During his spare time he served one Site Plan and Zoning Boards and the Special Improvement District. He volunteered with the Little League as an announcer and has sung the National Anthem at their events. The New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association is proud to present the 2011 Rudy Appeld Service Award to Gerry Naylis.



Presidential Lifesaving Award Emerson Police Officers and Ambulance

"A Christmas Miracle" On Dec 27 Leonia Fire Chief Troy Wright had collapsed after shoveling snow earlier in the day. Emerson Police Officer Rocco Durado was at another call next door to Chief Wright when the call came in. Officer Durado found Chief Wright on the floor gasping for air and without pulse. He started CPR and fellow officer Randy Velez arrived moment later to assist the Emerson Vol. Ambulance Corps. With members Capt/EMT David Mason, EMT Michael Davis, EMT Andrew Koehler, EMT Janine Solimando, EMT Rebecca Young and EMT Justin Mason. The Corps members, along with Hackensack ALS were a team working together. They all administered CPR, oxygen and used AED in a effort to establish the heart rhythm. From onset, up stairs and en route to the hospital, no one gave up and Chief Wright survived a near fatal heart attack and became a "Christmas Miracle". The New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association is proud to present the 2011 Presidential Lifesaving Award to the Emerson Vol. Ambulance Corps members and Emerson Police Officers in the saving of a life.



2011 Ladies Auxiliary Leadership Award Mary Ann McDevitt-Hillsdale Fire Dept.

Mary Ann joined the Hillsdale Fire Dept Ladies Auxiliary in 1974 and has served many offices, presently President for over five years.

Whenever the Department or Auxiliary experiences the passing of a member, she is readily available with a kind word or a meal to help ease the pain. She also visits the sick or injured, bringing a gift of sunshine on behalf of the Auxiliary. Mary Ann also helps collect food for the local pantry and countless other charities. She has activated the

Auxiliary to assist the Fire Dept during flood assists and with refreshments at serious alarms. Last year a Westwood firefighter, servicing with the Marines in Afghanistan was killed in the line of duty. Mary Ann with the Auxiliary organized to serve refreshments at the Westwood firehouse so the Westwood firefighters and their Ladies Auxiliary could participate in the memorial and funeral service. Mary Ann is a perfect example of the love and help we receive from our Ladies Auxiliaries. The New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association is proud to present the 2011 Ladies Auxiliary Leadership Award to Mary Ann McDevitt.



2011 Joseph Costello “Firefighter of the Year Award” - Sponsored by the Costello Family – Andrew Kolesar—Rockland County Deputy Fire Commissioner

On Jan 14 Rockland County Deputy Fire Commissioner John Kryger noticed heavy smoke near the Haverstraw-West Haverstraw border and immediately notified the Fire Dispatch. Chief George Zayas of West Haverstraw arrived and discovered the building was located in Haverstraw and the Haverstraw FD was dispatched. Capt Ken Patterson

and firefighter George Wargo donned protective gear and commenced a search and there was a possible entrapment on the 3rd floor. It was discovered later the house had illegally been converted into individual rooms. On the second floor they found a locked door which they forced open. While beginning the search Patterson felt his pack alarm activate. With little time to leave the building thick smoke made it difficult to find the exit. With his air tank empty, he searched for the exit until his mask collapsed onto his face. Tearing off his mask he transmitted a MADAY.

While the alert was transmitted, Ex-Chief Andrew Kolesar was scanning the floor with a thermal camera. He discovered Patterson, unconscious with his mask off. With no time to lose, he grasped Patterson’s SCBA straps and pulled him out, down the stairs where two other firefighters helped to pull him to waiting paramedics. Patterson was treated for high carbon monoxide levels and released.

The training and expertise of Andrew Kolesar and his use of state-of-the-art technology kept the outcome of this incident from becoming a tragedy.

The New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association is proud to present the 2011 Joseph Costello Firefighter of the Year Award to Rockland County Deputy Fire Commissioner Andrew Kolesar.

RCVFPA 70th Anniversary Brunch 2012 Convention

The Rockland County Volunteer Fire Police Assn will celebrate its 70th Anniversary with a brunch and journal on Sun Oct 16. The celebration will begin at 1PM at the Gordon Wren Sr Hall at the Hillcrest Mt Ivy Substation. New officers will also be sworn in during the brunch and the Fire Police Person of the Year will also be named. Pres John Stuercke of Tappan invites all to this event. Tickets are \$25. Check to RCVFPA and mail to Rudy Hansen, 240 Ehrhardt Rd., Pearl River, NY 10965. 735-8873

We are still in need of a host for the 2012 Annual Convention. As always we will assist the host company and financial help can be made available to help offset the cost. No parade is necessary.

Join in the fun and enjoy a memorable evening with your fellow firefighters from across Bergen and Rockland County. Contact any Association officer for details.



Rockland Graduates

RCVFA Pres. Frank Voce reports that at the recent FF1 and FF2 graduation, for the first time ALL 26 Rockland County Fire Departments had firefighters participating in the graduation. Congratulations to all on your recruitments and training.

Keeping the Records

For all the records kept. With the three Spring Valley fire companies responded to the most alarms for 2010, their neighbors were also busy. Hillcrest was 2nd at 813 calls, Tallman with 708 and Monsey with 676.

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