



100 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

# The Signal

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



Volume 51 No. 2 Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association

February 2013

## MARCH 23 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

### NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – 1913-2013

Also if you have any special meal requests (Kosher or special diet) the committee would like to know, as soon as possible. Please notify Pres. Bob Kirsch at 201 385-0644 or 201 697-6966<sup>st</sup> VP Nick Gatti at 845-359-6079 or 845-721-1128 or Ron Quackenbush at 201 767-3456. They will be meeting with the catering hall and relay your requests.

\$50.00 per person. Make check payable to NJ/NY VFA and mark "100th Dinner" in the memo. Mail your reservation to:  
George Saigh—Treasurer NJ-NY, 306 Luhmann Dr., New Milford, NJ 07646-2327.  
Include your name, address, phone number and indicate how many people are attending.

### Award Application Information

Applications for our Service Awards and Scholarships have been printed in the last two issues of the Signal. If you need additional copies please download them at [njnyvfa.org](http://njnyvfa.org). To submit a Unit Citation nomination, include a letter signed by the Department Chief with supporting documents if available.

Mail Service Award applications to: Bob Aitken, 127 Lakeview Ave., Little Ferry, NJ 07643. Must be postmarked no later than May 1.

Mail Scholarship Award applications to: George Saigh, 306 Luhmann Dr., New Milford, NJ 07646-2327. Must be post-marked no later than April 15. Time is running out, so get your applications in as soon as possible.

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NJ & NY Volunteer  
Firemen's Association



### 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:

STEPHAN W. NICKLUS, HO-HO-KUS  
PAUL REINERT, LITTLE FERRY

*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.*

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

March— Congers, NY

April—Bergen County Fire Academy Hall of Heroes 8PM  
(note: No refreshments will be served)

Sunday May 19—Annual Memorial Service—2PM

June 7—Annual Convention, St Joe's Church, 245 N.  
Main St (Rt 45), Spring Valley. 10977

June 8—Convention Parade (starts Pearl River, ends Montvale, NJ)

## From the Editor

I'll start off by wishing Happy Spring to you and your families. I've dedicated this issue to our upcoming 100th Anniversary celebration, the upcoming dinner and convention and parade. The following page displays photos of the Little Ferry Hook and Ladder firehouse as rebuilding efforts are near completion.

I wish you all the best of health and lets enjoy our 100th Anniversary.

Be Safe and remember our troops! Frank

Send your submissions to ;  
Frank Fuchs—The Signal  
25 Union Ave., Little Ferry, NJ 07643  
ffuchs9595@aol.com

## 100 Years—We Remember How We Began

A group of men, devoted leaders in their respected communities, with an insight of a needed organization, that informed its fellow volunteer members of issues relative to the fire service and social interaction during a developing time of early 1900's. On a strong connection between states by the railroad, the old Erie Railroad line served as the means in which these founders and membership would grow. This means of transportation serviced this organization well from meeting to meeting for many years to come as a connecting branch.

Organizational records show the association was informally started in 1913 as talks between a small group of community servants from both New Jersey and New York discussed formation and on March 27, 1914 a permanent association was formed with roots in counties of Bergen (NJ) and Rockland (NY). This group of visionaries met at the home of the Volunteer Fire Department in Park Ridge, New Jersey. Here plans and ideas for the organization were discussed, and documented, with strong fundamentals forming a sound foundation. The original membership at the first meeting was Park Ridge, Westwood, Hillsdale, Spring Valley and Pearl River. The purpose of this first meeting was to form a leadership group and a recruitment of all volunteer fire companies along the New Jersey and New York Railroad, from North Hackensack, New Jersey to Spring Valley, New York.

During the past century of service to its membership the organization has sponsored many progressive fire service related ideas, such as the formation of each counties fire academies, each known as the best facilities to offer. The first convention and parade held by Spring Valley Hook & Ladder Company, Spring Valley, New York, July 25, 1914. The first Firemen's Day contest at the Bergen County Fair, September 18th, 1915. The formation of the Ladies Auxiliary of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association, on April 6th 1925.

The publishing of the fire service newsletter the "Signal" since the early 1960's. The awarding of many dollars of student scholarships for the continuation of their education. The giving of gift cards program for residents of our counties that have been displaced and lost their possessions to fire to get a new start.

The publishing of the "Signal", the organizations newsletter, has provided sharing of ideas, the gathering of issues and developing of solutions that affect the fire service. Today in 2013 the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association prospers with the latest fire service informational gathering to influence in the future. The Centennial Celebration with our original membership influence of the Convention June 7th in Spring Valley, New York, and the Parade connecting Pearl River, New York with Montvale, New Jersey on June 8th 2013.

For Centennial Celebration we wish all the associated fire companies, officers, members, delegates and guests an enjoyable time as in the past gala events, dances, carnivals, parades, field day competitions and conventions to enjoy with the continued brotherhood and friendship of these two states, these two the counties, that we reach across, to strengthen the volunteer fire service with mutual association of these gatherings.

## Where are they?

We've lost contact with a few of our members and would like to update our records. Do you know where these members are?

FRANK BONAPARTE LAKEHURST NJ  
CHARLES WUNDERLAWN FAIRFIELD OH  
LOUIS CATERINA RIDGEFIELD NJ

If you do please let us know by sending an e-mail to:  
John Schwedhelm—Financial Sec'y. lffd11@aol.com  
Frank Fuchs—Editor, Signal ffuchs9595@aol.com

## Remember Our Troops





# SANDY SLAMS—WE SLAM BACK, TOGETHER!



On February 27 the Little Ferry Hook & Ladder celebrated its grand Re-Opening. Thanks to the efforts of Rebuilding Together, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union, affiliated craftsmen, the Americorps Organization and SEARS, the Main St firehouse is about 80 percent complete and is functional. Gathered to help celebrate were Mayor Mauro Raguseo, members of the LF Council, Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan, Freeholder Chairman David Ganz and members of the Bd of Chosen Freeholders, Senators and members of the Assembly, Representatives and Project Manager of Rebuilding Together and members/volunteers of the "Construction Crew". Rebuilding Together is now undertaking the rebuilding of the Little Ferry Hose Co firehouse.



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