



102 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

# The Signal

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



**Volume 53 No. 6** Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **December 2015**



## **From the President's Pen...**

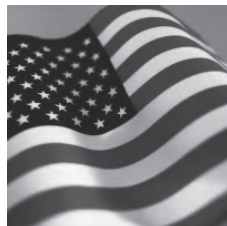
- Our recruitment drive for new members is off to a good start. We voted in 8 new members at our November meeting and as of this date I have 10 applications to submit at the January meeting. We still need your help. Bring a friend to the next meeting.
- Haworth has taken the 2016 Convention. It will be held at Sacred Heart School. Details to follow. Thanks for stepping up, Haworth.
- We now have a host for every meeting in 2016. Not too early to consider hosting a meeting in 2017. See any officer.
- Please remember to pay your dues. You must be paid up to be eligible for the varied benefits of membership. We have some members within a year or two of life membership (no more dues), and have not paid their dues. Please check with our Financial Secretary, if in doubt of your dues status.
- Lastly, and most importantly, let me wish each of you and your families a most wonderful, safe and joyous holiday season.

**See you in Piermont.....Bill**

## **Remember Our Troops**

Visit us at  
[www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org)

Also on 



## **NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association**

Please go to the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association website [njnyvfa.org](http://njnyvfa.org) for many excellent Firefighting Training Articles and Videos. Just look under the heading **TRAINING-STAY SMART, STAY SAFE.**

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### **Membership Meetings-Last Friday of the Month**

*\*Unless otherwise noted*

#### **2015**

**December - NO MEETING - MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY HANUKKAH**

#### **2016**

January 29 - Piermont Fire Dept.  
554 Piermont Ave., Piermont, NY 10968  
February 26 - Old Tappan Fire Dept.  
231 Old Tappan Rd, Old Tappan, NJ 07675  
March 18\* - Pearl River Excelsior Fire Engine Co. 1  
1 Mike Kernan Dr., Pearl River, NY 10965  
April 29 - Little Ferry H & L  
124 Main, Little Ferry, NJ 07643  
May 15 - Memorial Service  
2PM Bergen County Fire Academy  
281-291 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430

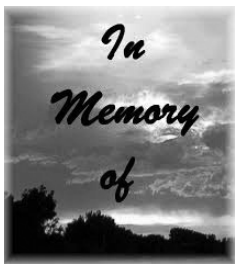
June 3 - CONVENTION - Haworth, NJ Fire Dept.  
8 PM Sacred Heart School  
100 Park St., Haworth, NJ 07407  
September 30 - Elmwood Park Fire Dept., Defender Engine Co. 2  
70 Parkview Ave., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407  
October 28 - Blauvelt Fire Co. 1  
548 Western Hwy., Blauvelt, NY 10913  
November 18\*\* - New Milford Fire Co. 2  
680 Trenton St., New Milford, NJ 07646

**December - NO MEETING - MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY HANUKKAH**

*\*1 week early due to Good Friday*

*\*\*1 week early due to Thanksgiving*

**ALL MEETINGS START AT 8:00 PM**



The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed members:

**FF Paul O. Kaske, New Milford, NJ FD**  
**FF Jack Lewis, Harrington Park, NJ FD**  
**FF William Geisler, Dumont, NJ FD**  
**FF Kenneth J. Shedlock, Lodi, NJ FD**  
**FF David P. Alfis, Sr., Northvale, NJ FD**  
**Ex-Chief Robert Olson Sr., Paramus, NJ FD**  
**FF Jay Murphy, Tenafly, NJ FD**  
**FF Frank Dyer, Little Ferry, NJ FD**

*Listings 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.*

## 2016 CONVENTION

We are pleased to announce that the Haworth Fire department will be hosting the New Jersey & New York Volunteer Fireman's Association Convention for 2016. It will be held at Sacred Heart School. As we get closer to the time there will be more information in the "Signal" and on our web site [www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org). Save the date, Friday June 3, 2016.

## NOTICE

At the last Executive Board meeting it was brought up, by the financial Secretary, that a lot of members have paid anywhere from 15 to 19 years of dues and then stopped. A member needs 20 years of paid up dues to become a Life member. If you think that you are close to that point and have not paid any dues in a while you can do the following. Contact the Financial Secretary, John Schwedhelm, by email at [llfd11@aol.com](mailto:llfd11@aol.com). He can look up your account and find out how many years of dues you have paid and will get back to you with the information.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS UPDATE**

1. A death benefit currently of \$1,000
2. Eligible to apply for higher education scholarships. 12 scholarships are currently awarded annually. You must be a personal member to apply or endorse an application for a scholarship (spouse, child, dependent).
3. Ability to attend meetings where information of timely importance is discussed and participating by voting at meetings and the annual convention. A meal is usually served at the conclusion of each meeting.
4. Each personal member receives a copy of our association newsletter, The Signal mailed to their home or by email, if requested.
5. Participation in the tuition discount program (15%) for Colorado Technical University

These benefits are for personal and life members only. After 20 years as a personal member you become a life member. Life members do not have to pay dues.

### **Other activities of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association include:**

1. Valor Awards program
2. 2 Training scholarships annually for FDs to use the Bergenfield Fire Training Center for live fire training
3. Gift card program for families that are burned out. These are delivered in conjunction with the local FD so that the good will generated extends to the local FD as well as the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association.
4. Free training programs sponsored by the association for the benefit of local FDs.
5. Conducts an annual memorial service to remember those firefighters that have passed away in the previous year. A Memorial Certificate is presented to the family of each deceased firefighter and a Memorial Wreath is placed at the monument (located at the Bergen County Fire Academy that is owned and maintained by the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association).
6. Maintains a very robust web site that contains valuable information, both training and social, for the fire service

I am strongly encouraging you to have every one of your FD members join as personal members of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association. Convention Delegates do not qualify for the above benefits but may apply for membership while a Delegate.

Annual dues are a mere \$10.

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## **NEW ITEMS**

Any fire department, fire company or fire organization that has any news or functions that they want advertised, please send them to me. If I get them in a timely manner, I can put them in the next edition of the Signal. If the date of the event is too close then I will put it on our web site immediately. I can get it on the web site within 1-2 days after receiving it. For the time being you can send it to my personal email, **gs7320@msn.com**, until we set up our new Gmail account, **njnyvfa@gmail.com**, at which time all notices will go to the new email account.

We are also still looking for an editor for the Signal. If you are interested, please contact me.

George E. Saigh  
Signal Editor  
NJ/NY Treasurer

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## **"FIREFIGHTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-PROTECTING OUR OWN"**

On Tuesday, January 5, 2016, the Rockland County Fire Chiefs Association will be hosting a seminar at the Fire Training Center. The seminar is being presented by Mike McEvoy. It is titled "Firefighter Behavioral Health-Protecting Our Own". The seminar will cover behavioral and mental health issues involving firefighters and first responders. It also will include information about how to achieve greater personal success and happiness and demonstrate what individuals and fire departments can do to protect the physical and mental well-being of their members. If you have been paying attention, there is a tremendous increase in firefighter suicides of late. Not good! This type of topic is long overdue and needs to be brought to the forefront. Mike has given this seminar throughout the state and it has been very well received. I encourage you to put this date on your calendar and to please ask your officers and members to attend. The seminar begins at 7pm. Registration begins at 6pm. It is \$25 per person. The seminar will run between 2-2 1/2 hours, No longer. A flyer has been created but some changes were needed so that is why it has not gotten out yet. Once corrected, it will get distributed. Please call Sheryl at the FTC to register your members. Also check the NJ/NY web site at [www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org) for the flyer.

# Rudy Appeld Award

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

Nominees Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominees Fire Company or Department \_\_\_\_\_

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

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a summary of the Nominees qualifications covering the criteria below. Summaries should be at least one page (double spaced) and no more than 2 pages in length. Additional information, such as newspaper clippings, citations, and excerpts from minutes may accompany the summary.

**The deadline for the award to be POSTMARKED NOT  
LATER THAN MAY 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Consideration for the award will be based on the following:**

- 1 - Service to his Fire Company or Department in fire fighting, long 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 his community in activities such as scouting, YM- YWCA, Little league, veterans activities. Municipal boards and other community activities that benefit children and adults.**

**Return to:    Bob Aitken  
                  127 Lakeview Avenue  
                  Little Ferry, N.J. 07643**



# New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association

## **LADIES' AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP 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 from a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary who has over the years been outstanding in her support of not only the Ladies' Auxiliary, but of their Fire Department and municipality.
- 2) Some of these outstanding ladies may have been a member only a few years, but she has been outstanding in her organizational skills and her support of the Fire Department. Whether it has been to raise funds for the Auxiliary, or in braving a sleet filled January night to bring refreshments to the men, or responding to a heat and humidity filled event in July with water when the Fire Department has been called out to a lengthy house fire, we firefighters would like to show our deep appreciation for the love which has been shown to us.
- 3) The candidate of this award may be nominated by a Chief Officer of any member Department, by a vote of the Department itself or by vote of any organized Ladies' Auxiliary.
- 4) It is recognized that the Ladies' Auxiliaries, by virtue of their main reason for being – to support their Fire Department – do not receive the publicity they deserve. The filled in application may not have any particular newspaper clippings to refer to their service, but clippings of a fire and other written anecdotal references to other events may be submitted.

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

Mail application to:  
Bob Aitken  
127 Lakeview Ave.  
Little Ferry, NJ 07643



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