



FLASHPOINT

Winter 2017

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KEN DESMOND

It's a pleasure and honor to be your President for a second term. We as the Officers of the MSFFF's look forward to a safe and healthy new year. I would like all firefighters to look around and see who are members of our organization and if you see someone that is not to recruit them and join.

In 2004, the U.S. Fire Administration and the Department of Homeland Security worked in Partnership with our National Volunteer Fire Council to revise the 1998 text, Recruitment and Retention in the Volunteer Fire Service: Problems and Solutions. Although the recruitment and retention challenges continue to grow, some volunteer organizations maintain good member-

ships while others continue to function with reduced members. Those organizations that seek solutions and adapt to our changing personnel environment are successful. Individuals are still willing to give their time to volunteer emergency services organizations provided the following:

- The experience is rewarding and worth their time.
- The training requirements are not excessive.
- The time demands are adaptable and manageable.
- They are rewarded with a personal sense of value.
- There is good leadership minimizing conflict.

cont'd on page 7

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2018 MSFFF CONVENTION:

MSFFF is looking for a department or county to host our 2018 Convention.

We understand this is short notice, but we are in need of a host site ASAP!

Please contact Joseph Guyotte if you are interested:

dffdfire1@yahoo.com

or 564-2187, 564-2610 or 343-2267

MEMBERSHIP

2017-2018 Membership Renewals will be mailed out to the Fire Departments by the end of this month. Your current membership will expire on June 30, 2017 so be sure to send in your renewal to avoid a lapse in membership!

For detailed information about membership benefits, visit our website at: <http://www.msfff.org/benefits.html>



Join NVFC! Click the following link for more information!

<http://www.nvfc.org/join-nvfc/>

We are pleased to introduce a new benefit to NVFC members. You can now take advantage of special rates and plans to protect yourself and your family in the event of a serious illness or accident. The NVFC partnered with several insurance carriers to provide options to Individual and Department Members regarding cancer, accident, and critical illness coverage. These policies provide peace of mind to fire service families and crucial assistance during times of need. Many of the plans include the ability to add a spouse or family members. Find more information in the Members-Only section of the NVFC web site.

Make sure you are taking advantage of all of the benefits the NVFC offers. Learn more about each benefit on the Members-Only Section of the NVFC web site, or contact us with your questions at nvffoffice@nvfc.org or 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832).

MSFFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2017 MEETING DATES:

Next meeting will be held on February 11, 2017 at MMA

ADVERTISING WITH THE MSFFF:

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters is pleased to offer exclusive annual advertising opportunities to select businesses. If you work with a vendor who would benefit from advertising with us, send them here for all the information they need:

http://www.msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2014.pdf

COUNTY NEWS

Androscoggin

Androscoggin County Firefighter's Association Firefighter of the Year



Firefighter's from across Androscoggin County, area counties, along with members of the Maine Forest Service, and the Maine State Fire Marshal's office all gathered together at the Turner Fire Department for the Androscoggin County Firefighter's Association annual meeting. This year Jared Blake, president of the association gave a year review of trainings and events that were sponsors by the association an also an outline of next year's goals and projects. President Blake announced the newly established Alfred C Siderio Jr. scholarship. Which was established to award firefighter's who are members of the association up to \$250.00 to attend fire service trainings per year.

Also at the meeting President Blake awarded the county firefighter of the year award to Lt. Brandon Siderio of the Wales Fire Dept. Beginning his career in the fire service as a Jr. Firefighter in 2006, Lt. Siderio, completed basic fire school in 2009 and becoming an emergency medical responder in May 2015. He is currently completing the process to become a basic emergency medical technician and recently completed a forestry 130/190 course. Brandon Siderio was promoted to lieutenant of the Wales Fire Department in July of 2014. While serving the Wales Fire Department as lieutenant, he is also a member of Wales Rescue, Sabattus Fire/EMS, Androscoggin County Firefighter's Association, and Maine State Federation of Firefighter's. Coming from a long line of emergency personnel, Lt Siderio, is a third generation firefighter. His grandfather Alfred C Siderio Jr. founded the Wales Fire Dept.

in 1975, and was the town's first fire chief. His father Anthony Siderio Sr. has been a member of the Wales Fire Department over 35 years and is the current fire chief of the Wales Fire Dept., and was an active member of Monmouth Rescue. Lt Siderio's brother Anthony Siderio Jr. currently is a Lieutenant for neighboring Monmouth Fire Department as well as a firefighter for the City of Lewiston.

Always willing to help other firefighter with training, Lt Siderio currently oversees the junior firefighter program for the Wales Fire Department. He has overseen hose testing and maintenance records and was a part in implementing the new emergency reporting program. Whenever the Androscoggin County Firefighter's Association sponsors a training or class, it isn't uncommon to find Lt. Siderio performing a vital role for that event. He is willing to help out with whatever needs that arise on an emergency scene. He is devoted to continue his own training as well as educate younger firefighters in their training. Lt. Siderio makes himself available no matter what the training or incident is. Lt. Siderio is an exceptional firefighter and friend. Congratulations to Lt. Brandon Siderio on becoming 2016 Androscoggin County Firefighter of the Year.

From: Jared Blake, President of Androscoggin County Firefighter's Association

Kennbec

Clinton



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHIEF GARY PETLEY!!!!

Clinton Fire Chief, Chief Gary Petley was recognized for his 25 years of excellent services for the Clinton Fire Department.

When you see him, say thank you for keeping us safe here in Clinton and a job well done.

COUNTY NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS TO ANTHONY BARTON!!!!

The 2016 Clinton, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors Anthony Barton for commendable community service.

Anthony Barton joined the Clinton Fire Department in April 2005, in 2016 Anthony Barton organized a plan to provide free smoke detectors, through the Red Cross, to residents of the Town of Clinton..Anthony Barton stepped up and organized the collection of requests and installation of the smoke detectors. There were 100 smoke detectors installed in the Town of Clinton.

Anthony Barton was recognized by the Board of Selectmen for his outstanding achievements and honor he has brought upon this community with the 2016 Spirit of America Foundation Tribute.

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Monmouth



Monmouth Fire – October 15, 2016

Fire Prevention – Breakfast with Sparky.

At the conclusion to Fire Prevention Week, the Monmouth Fire Department held it's annual Breakfast with Sparky and Open House. Thanks to everyone who attended our event. Our Halloween (Oct. 31st) and Breakfast with Santa (Dec. 3rd) events are just around the corner, so make sure you mark your calendars!

Want to win a LL Bean David Ortiz Limited Edition Tote Bag made from Fenway Park Rain Delay Tarps? Even better that it's filled with Fire Safety Gear! Contact a department member for Raffle Tickets!

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawing is on 12/15 (you do not need to be present to win)

Waterville



Waterville Firefighters Memorial

October 2, 2016 was a historic day for the Waterville Fire Department.

After two centuries they unveiled a Firefighter Memorial in front of the Central Fire station.

"Waterville is like any history of any fire department has firefighters that died in the line of duty, or died while still being an active member of the department. In Waterville we had nothing to really show who these people were So, the guys got together, and we did a history of the fire department to find out who some of these guys were," says Lt. Holst

Waterville has lost three firefighters in the line of duty and 18 while they were still active in the department. "Waterville, just like any other community back in the day, used to have horses and we, in Waterville, had three horses that died while responding to calls. And they are also on this memorial," said Lt. Holst.

"While doing the research spending hours at the library at Colby College, and finding out the interesting stories about these men that are on the wall, you

know, they had to be told," says Lt. Holst

City officials say all Waterville's firefighters-those passed and living-are deserving of the community's honor.

"The firefighters here in Waterville, and really everywhere, these are not a group of guys who go out looking for attention or pats on the back. They just come in, they do the job, and what a wonderful way to honor those who have spent their life in service," says Waterville Mayor Nick Isgro.

The memorial was unveiled against the backdrop of an open house for the Fire Department-a chance to thank those who give so much. Many family members were on hand to view the unveiling. There were even many Great Great Grandchildren of some of Waterville's fighters who passed in the early 1900's.

The afternoon unveiling ceremony drew a large crowd to the Waterville Fire Department on College Avenue. Fire Chief David LaFountain, Lt. Scott Holst and Mayor Nick Isgro spoke at the ceremony, honoring those who served and continue to serve as first responders. The ceremony also featured the national anthem, four firefighters serving as an honor guard and opening and closing prayers. LaFountain read the 21 names of the individuals on the memorial prior to the memorial being unveiled.

"By recognizing these sacrifices, present and future members will see the Waterville Fire Department has a great history in traditions that reach into the city's historic past," LaFountain said.

WATERVILLE FIRES AWARD BANQUET

On Friday October 28th 2016, at the 24th annual City of Waterville employee recognition banquet, one individual and one City department were recognized by their peers with Employee and Department of the Year awards. These awards were based on nominations received by their peers.

The Department of the Year Award went to the hard-working men and women of Waterville Fire - Rescue for "putting themselves out there every day and night responding to high stress situations in a positive and professional manner. It was noted that the fire department's level of care and compassion with the citizens of this city is immeasurable, not only do they respond to fires, but also numerous rescue calls and mutual aid calls; in addition to completing required training, facility maintenance, and life safety inspections. The Waterville Fire Department is in the community keeping people safe and providing an excellent and vital service to the City of Waterville."

Rome



2017 ROME FIRE AWARD

Monday night the Rome Fire Department was recognized by the Maine Department of Labor for the achievement into the S.H.A.P.E. (The Safety and Health Award for Public Employers) program.

The SHAPE award was conceived in 2005 as a way to recognize public-sector employers and employees who are striving to provide a safe and healthful workplace. It is given only to exemplary public-sector employers after a thorough review and inspection of the employer's safety and health policies and procedures by a SafetyWorks! consultant.

The plaque will be placed during this year's town meeting.

Augusta



Augusta Fire Department - New Fire House

Construction of a fire station in the growing commercial hot spot of north Augusta as started. The new station on Leighton Road will be home to both fire trucks and at least one ambulance with firefighter/emergency medical technicians on hand to speed response times to what has become one of the busiest parts of the city. Construction is expected to take 12 to 18 months, so the new station could be ready for use as early as sometime in 2016

Fire Chief Roger Audette said currently the response time to the north Augusta area, which includes the Marketplace at Augusta, Augusta Civic Center and Central Maine Commerce Center, ranges from seven to ten minutes, well above what Audette said is the department's goal of responding to calls within three and five minutes.

"Our goal is to be anywhere within three to five minutes of when a call goes out, and you can't do that unless you have a facility in the neighborhood where we need to be," Audette said Friday.

Augusta voters approved bonding \$3.6 million for the new fire station and \$1 million for a new multi-purpose fire truck to replace the city's 20-year-old ladder truck last week by a vote of 5,143 to 2,432.

Audette said it "feels pretty good" to have voters approve what he described as a long-overdue upgrade to the city's fire facilities. "It feels good to know we're going to be moving forward to put the fire department where it should be, as far as operations go," Audette said. "Facilities are a big part of what we do. It's important we be in the neighborhood."

Audette said the new station should also result in a reduction in insurance premiums for residents and businesses in the area. He said they should call their insurance agent to ask for an adjustment once the new station is built. The decrease would likely be small for most homeowners, but could be sizable for owners

COUNTY NEWS

of larger, multi-million dollar properties in the area.

Oxford

Lovell

Lovell firefighters raise money for Lung Association

LOVELL, Maine — Steve and Evan Armington live in Lovell, Maine, a 3.5-hour drive from One Boston Place, where the American Lung Association's Boston Fight For Air Climb presented by Boston Private, is taking place this Feb. 4. Despite the distance, the father-son duo decided to take on the challenge as representatives from the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department, which they both serve. Motivated by competition, community and their Aunt Jennifer who is currently battling lung cancer, the team has become the event's first place fundraiser.

Evan, Steve's 20-year-old son and fellow firefighter and climber, said, "We love these types of challenges, but we were also really inspired by our aunt Jennifer who is currently fighting lung cancer. We want her to know that she isn't fighting alone — and that we are going to help the Lung Association end lung cancer for good."

Steve's aunt, Jennifer Blood, is also a well-known member of the Lovell community.

The team — consisting of Steve, Evan and Assistant Chief Mark Moulton — are also getting support from fundraiser and coach Beth Armington, Steve's wife. As owner of the local ice cream shop, The Homestead Scoop, now turned team headquarters, Beth has channeled support from all over the community raising nearly \$2,000 with months of work still to go.

On days away from the ice cream shop, Beth has been accompanying Steve on regular climbs of Sabattus

Mountain. He makes the 1.4 mile-trek in full turn out gear, weighing nearly 50 lbs, to prepare for the Firefighter Challenge, as she climbs alongside him, urging him forward.

"There is no better voice for the 'Fight for Air' than the brave men and women that serve our fire departments," said Jeff Seyler, CEO and President of the American Lung Association of the Northeast. "We are especially grateful to the Armington's and their entire Maine community for the support they've shown us. All of our climbers are helping us to get one step close to a world free of lung disease and lung cancer"

"We were motivated by our fellow firefighters and we are extremely grateful to our community, which has been incredibly supportive," Steve said. "When we are on a call, we experience the 'Fight for Air' first hand. This is a great opportunity to show others what daily life is like for millions with lung disease, and why it's so important to support the Lung Association in all they do to protect our lung health."

The Boston Fight For Air Climb presented by Boston Private is one a series of signature fundraising events of the American Lung Association, held in prominent skyscrapers across the country. The Boston Fight for Air Climb will take place on February 4, 2017 at One Boston Place, where participants will race up 82 flights of stairs. The event also includes a Firefighter Challenge, where members of over 100 fire departments, including the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department Team, will race up the stairs in full firefighting gear, weighing nearly 50lbs. The Boston Climb aims to raise \$500k for the Lung Association's mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research.

You can make a donation to support their team at action.lung.org/goto/LVFD.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...(CONT'D)

- There is ample support for the organization.

The emergency services are the most demanding of volunteer activities today. The physical and time demands associated with training, responding to incidents, maintaining facilities, apparatus and equipment, fundraising, and fire prevention activities.

As you can see we have a road ahead of us and the MSFFF's can help. Please contact your Officer in your county for help. Let's be Safe and we all go home safely.

Please save the date for the 2017 Maine State Firefighters Convention September 8-10 at the Boothbay Fire Department.

MSFFF FUNDRAISING

If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising for the Federation, please contact President Ken Desmond.