

Volume 66 Issue 5

September - October 2023

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Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



ABOUT THE COVER

Sedalia, Missouri / August 12, 2019:
Ferris Wheel at Missouri State Fair.
Image by Jon Kraft

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CONTENT

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President's Remarks

Summer Wrap up



Larry Jennings

Greetings all! I hope this edition of the magazine finds you all well. Hopefully, your summer activities were plentiful and you are ready to settle into Missouri's beautiful fall weather.

The Missouri State Fair and the nationally unique operation of the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department (MSFVFD) have come and gone. The weather this year ranged from the "normal" sweltering and humid for August to the unusually pleasant that wouldn't normally be expected until fall.

Of course, a little rain was thrown in because you really can't have the State Fair without at least some rain it seems.

I had the pleasure of being at the fair on opening day and attending a ceremonial Bill signing by Governor Parson at the fire station marking funding appropriations earmarked for much-needed renovations to the fire station. Many times during our meetings you have heard us talking about the importance of knowing and visiting with your Senators and Representatives and this could not have been proven any more correct with the appropriation of the \$2.5 million that came from direct conversations with them about the needs of the department.

I also had the pleasure of visiting with several Senators, Representatives, and State elected officials on the following Thursday during governor's, legislator's, and judge's day.

It is always a pleasure to showcase the department for these very supportive members of our State's and Nation's government. In addition to these officials, I also enjoyed visiting with members of the State Fair Commission. These individuals recognize the value of the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department and are extremely supportive of our mission. To each of the elected individuals and the Commission and of course, the Fair staff, thank you for your continued support of and faith in our abilities to provide fire and EMS services during the State Fair.

If you didn't get the chance to stop by the fair fire department for a visit we hope you will be able to at the next fair. Remember, the department is staffed by FFAM members from all areas of the state, so if you think you are interested in volunteering sometime next year, keep an eye out for the applications and get yours in before the deadline. My thanks to the men and women who donated their time in service at the fair for showing off the many talents of FFAM members and protecting everyone visiting the fair this year. Your outstanding service is noted not only within the organization but across this state and by visitors from many other parts of the country.

THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

A special thanks to the kitchen staff who continue to provide food three times a day for not only the MSFVFD members but other public safety-related groups working during the fair.

It is a heartwarming sight to see so many agencies represented during a meal all sharing their stories and collaborating to make the fair a pleasant and safe environment for all the visitors.

Another special thanks to departing Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department Chief RB Brown.

Chief Brown finished up an extra stint as Chief this year and continues to serve on the State Fair Committee.

His leadership is a valued asset and with the support of the quality staff he has assembled the FFAM is showcased well to all visitors. Thank you Chief Brown for your many years of dedicated service!

Hopefully, you either have events planned or are already involved in providing an extra fire safety message through programs in your area for *Fire Prevention Week*/month. As always this is an outstanding opportunity to interact with your community and particularly with the youth. Delivering a solid safety message early on with our nation's youth helps to build safer communities and may just spark an interest or passion for the fire service as our youth age. The fire service as a whole can always use more members and this is an opportunity for the youth to see the good work the fire service conducts.

As I write this, the plans for the annual *Firefighters Memorial Service* are well underway.

Everyone involved hopes you will be able to set aside at least a part of the weekend of October 7-8 and join other members of the fire service as we recognize those fire service individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the citizens of Missouri and other members who have passed away. The members of the Foundation who oversee this dignified service work diligently all year to provide a ceremony fitting the sacrifices made. Please take the time to travel to Kingdom City and join us for the *Saturday Candlelight Service* or the *Memorial Service* on Sunday or both.

As you become engaged in your community's fall activities remember to represent your agency with pride and professionalism whether you are "wearing the T-shirt" at the event or not.

Your community knows who you are and what you are a part of so remember to always put your professionalism on display no matter how much you may disagree with the opposing team supporters, coach, referee or political gathering. Let's all show our communities, state, and nation the Missouri fire service is filled with quality people working together to manage their worst day ever when we are most needed.

As always, if any of the Board of Directors or I can be of service, please never hesitate to reach out and make sure we are aware of your needs. Be Safe!



Fire Marshal's Update



Tim Bean



I'm stunned we are on the back side of summer. We surveyed the Missouri State Fair and all it offered. I appreciated Governor Parson stopping by and spending time with us at the state fair firehouse. He encouraged us to continue serving our state and taking care of each other. The highlight was when he signed the document allowing \$2.5 million to renovate the outdated, state fair firehouse. Thank you Governor Parson for investing in our first responder's welfare while volunteering during the state fair.

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who attended and served the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department (MSFVFD). The cooks who knocked it out of the park every day, and dispatchers who took every call, and communicated to the first responders. The EMS branch who applied bandages and other medical care issues day and night. The firefighters who responded day and night, providing professional care, and handing out stickers, cold water, and public educational materials each day. Big shout out to Sparky and Smokey the Bear who suited up and spent time entertaining our smaller audience. Big shout out to the departments who donated fire trucks, ambulances, brush trucks, UTVs, tankers, and whatever else I may have missed. Thank you!

We have finished the request for proposal (RFP) process that allows us to release funding for free firefighter training across our state. Our training partners will be conducting classes beginning in September.

Good news related to a class that I have had numerous conversations on with you across the state. The old *Basic Firefighter* class that we all grew up on has been refreshed by MU FRTI. Thank you. It will be offered as a funded class beginning in September. Log onto our webpage (dfs.dps.mo.gov) and find *Introduction to the Fire Service*. The Fire Education Commission agreed to fund this class above any other class. This is a 40-hour class that will move you closer to a Firefighter I certification if you desire. Please request training, your legislators added \$500,000 extra dollars to our training budget, we want to make sure and spend every penny!

Finally, September 11th will be upon us shortly. Several 911 memorial stair climbs will be conducted across our state. Kansas City and Clayton Fire departments will hold their climbs on the historical day of September 11th. The *Springfield Memorial Stair Climb* will be held on September 30th. *The Missouri 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb* will be

held on October 21st here in Jefferson City. I would encourage you to register and climb in one or all of these climbs to memorialize and NEVER FORGET our fellow first responders who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. You can log onto mo911stairclimb.org to register for the Jefferson City climb.

Thank you for everything you do day in and day out. You matter and your communities count on you to be the "best boots on the ground" and "leave something better than you found it."

May God Bless and keep you!



HELP FOR FIREFIGHTER'S WITH CANCER

By Eric Hartman

The Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool was created to aid the state's fire professionals and agencies in containing the human and financial burdens created by serious health issues by providing cancer benefits to the state's firefighters. The program was designed with input from the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri, State Council of Fire Fighters, and Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs, as well as individuals from municipal, county and special district fire agencies.

myriad expenses of battling cancer. Our program provides benefits upon diagnosis of 17 nationally recognized cancers that research suggests are occurring more frequently in the fire service occupation.

For more information, or to join the Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool, please click the following link, or scan the attached QR code.

Read more on page 31.

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MISSOURI FIRE FIGHTERS CRITICAL ILLNESS POOL

President Larry Jennings called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri to order at 9:00 am, Sunday, August 6, 2023, at the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department in Sedalia, MO. The meeting began with the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

OFFICERS

President Larry Jennings, Johnson County FPD; First Vice President Charlie Peel, Southeastern Randolph FPD; Second Vice President Grant Oetting, Higginsville FPD; Secretary-Treasurer Jaime Miller, Johnson County FPD #2; Sergeant-at-Arms Rex Reynolds, Southern FPD of Holt County.

DIRECTORS

District 1, Terry Wynne, Galt FPD; District 3, Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 6, Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; District 7 RB Brown, Union FPD; District 9, Kurt Wilbanks (V), West Plains FD; District 10, Greg Brown, Eureka FPD; District 11, Billy Smith, North Central Carroll Co FPD; District 11, Billy Smith, North Central Carroll Co FPD; District 14, Rick Dozier, Southern FPD of Holt Co.

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1, Janet Cain, Shoal Creek FPD; District 2, Vernon Cash, Shelbina FPD; District 3, Josh Loyd, Martinsburg Area FPD; District 4, Jonathan Evans, Lincoln FD; District 6, Alan Braun, Cole County FPD; District 6, Shawn Ritchie (V), Holts Summit FPD; District 7, Andrew Caldwell (V), Boles FPD; District 11, Josh Koepke (V), Kansas City FD.

GUESTS

Gail Hagans, David Hedrick (V), University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute; Tim Bean, Missouri Division of Fire Safety; Keith Smith, Warrenton FPD; Roy Pennington, Pettis County Ambulance; Kyler Oliver, NTA EMS; Ed Daugherty, Chillicothe FD; Roger Meyers, Concordia FPD; Larry Jones, Dale Ransdell, Madison West Monroe FPD.

*(V) denotes Virtual Attendance

AGENDA

President Jennings asked for additions to the agenda. Rick Dozer moved to accept the agenda as presented. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval. The 2023 convention minutes will be approved at the 2024 convention.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the May-June 2023 financial report. RB Brown moved to accept the financial report presented. Greg Brown seconded the motion and all approved.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S)

Gail Hagans with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported that the *Missouri Emergency Services Instructors Conference* is November 3-5. They are also working on trailer maintenance and repairs.

The \$50k MFA grant application period begins October 1.

Tim Bean with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety reported that there was not a lot of legislative activity this year, but the DFS budget did do well. An additional \$500k was added for firefighter training.

As a reminder, training requests must be submitted through DFS. Departments are encouraged to request classes and spend the money allocated to show that there continues to be a need for funding from the state.

SB24 was a historical moment in the fire service for behavioral and mental health. The cancer pool is also available for departments.

A females in the fire service initiative started last year. It is still ongoing, and work needs to be done. A committee was created and has been holding monthly meetings.

The 2nd annual symposium will be held in October. Bean asked if the FFAM would donate towards the symposium as they did last year in purchasing lunch for the attendees. Discussion followed. Greg Brown moved that FFAM donate \$1,000 towards

the purchase of meals for the October symposium. Terry Wynne seconded and all approved.

A \$10 million grant was given through the legislation with \$3 million going into this year's budget. This grant will be managed by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. More information to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

President Jennings received a recommendation from District 3 Director Rob Erdel for the appointment of Dale Ransdell with the Madison West Monroe FPD to the open position of District 3 Assistant Director. RB Brown moved to appoint Dale Ransdell to District 3 Assistant Director. Grant Oetting seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that with the resignation of District 2 Director Greg Brown at the convention, he recommends that District 2 Assistant Director Vernon Cash be appointed as District 2 Director until the next election. Rick Dozier moved to appoint Vernon Cash as the District 2 Director. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings advised that Larry Jones would like to resign from the convention committee.

The committee has made a recommendation that Dale Ransdell be appointed to the committee. RB Brown moved that Dale Ransdell be appointed to the convention committee. Billy Smith seconded the motion and all approved.

Secretary Miller reported that she has had several recent meetings with Rebecca Stumpf with California Casualty. Due to recent changes and restructuring in their corporation, California Casualty has announced they are withdrawing their business from the state of Missouri and will be ending their partnership with FFAM. This will also end the \$5k annual allocation for the partnership.

President Jennings advised that a Lagers survey was sent out last week in reference to a retirement program for volunteer firefighters. Lagers has created a task force and is researching the potential of offering these benefits to volunteers, but they need your help so please pass along the survey and encourage your personnel to fill it out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel reported that four department grants were awarded to Asbury FD, Monett FD, New Haven Berger FPD and St. James FPD. Several departments were disqualified for not supplying the required budget information as stated on the application.

The award nomination deadline is February 28, but applications are accepted all year long.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel advised that 2024 budget requests are due to the committee by September 5.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report was given.

CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

David Hedrick reported on the MFCC annual training and meeting. It will be in Springfield, September 11-12, at the Greene County Emergency Operation Center in Springfield, Missouri. There will be two classes offered. One will be *Stress Management for the Trauma Service Provider* and the other *Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy*. Details will be available via newsletter and on the Chaplain's website soon. If you have any questions, please contact MFCC Secretary/Treasurer Ed Hatcher at edhat@earthlink.net.

The Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC) Annual Conference is scheduled for October 13-19, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Florida. More info is available on their website at: ffc.wildapricot.org.

CONTEST COMMITTEE

No report was given.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Josh Loyd reported that the Executive Committee met with the Lake Ozark Fire Protection District regarding hosting the 2024






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convention. Their request was approved. The dates and the location are TBD.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

No report was given.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Jaime Miller reported that 5 poster winners will be attending the fair.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Brown reported that the Senate only passed seven house bills last session.

The Firefighter Critical Illness Pool is working on expanding the program, and requirements as well as finding clinicians who are familiar with dealing with first responders and mental health issues.

The culture in the fire service needs to change with early intervention. SB24 is helping to bring this along.

The firefighter training funds need to be spent in order to keep receiving it so departments are encouraged to sign up for training.

If you know of any issues you would like addressed in the next legislative session,

let him know. The Fire Service Alliance is having a meeting later this month.

Get to know your legislators. Those relationships are very important.

Information was distributed on the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer. This data is needed to track firefighter cancer rates. The Critical Illness Pool is currently taking care of ten firefighters in Missouri. Firefighters can join the registry at nfr.cdc.gov.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grant Oetting reported the following membership counts: 499 Directors/Councilman; 436 Retired; 18 Associate; 12 Sustaining; 22 Corporate, 350 Fire Departments; 6564 Active; 1 Educational Entity; 5 Educational Active; 128 Juniors; 4 EMS Department, 160 EMS individuals; 0 911 Entity; 0 911 individuals.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

No report was given.

Continued on page 32.

THE DALMATIAN AND OTHER FIREHOUSE MASCOTS

By David E. Hedrick, Fire Service Director (RET)

Most veteran firefighters consider the firehouse, or fire station, as their home away from home. Whether career or volunteer, firefighters spend a significant amount of time at the station, working assigned shifts, voluntary duty assignments, training, meetings, or socializing (just hanging around). Because the firefighter's assigned fire station becomes that second home, it takes on many of the trappings or accouterments similar to the everyday lifestyle that the personnel share. One of these lifestyle situations is to have a pet at home. In many cases, the fire station is similar to a firehouse mascot or pet. Of course, each fire department is different regarding the policy on allowing animals in the firehouse or the domiciling of pets onsite by personnel.

Fire service history records several endearing pets kept in the firehouse over the early years of the American Fire Service. Of course during the "Era of the fire horse," many of the firemen of the day might have considered their horse team as prized pets, as well as working animals and teammates.¹ However, even during this time, other animals were kept as pets and companions to help pass the time away from family while on duty.

It should be remembered that in the beginning days of a career fireman (firefighter), the occupation required personnel to work full time around the clock and live at the fire station. Firemen were generally granted one hour a day time off to eat a supper meal at home and one day a month of family leave. Other than that, spouses and children had to visit the firehouse if they wanted to see their family members. Talk about dedication to the job! Even volunteer firemen who wanted to be first on the scene, developed the habit of sleeping at the firehouse (bunking) at least several times a week. So it appears only logically that these firefighters would want to bring the companionship of a pet to share their life at the firehouse.

The choice of a firehouse pet is somewhat similar to a family choice that one would have at home, but in this situation, the choice usually has to go through a vetting process by the fire station family unit. Though dogs are popular pets, they are not the only ones found in the firehouse. Other animals such as cats have found a good life at the firehouse. One way an animal gets taken into the firehouse family is by showing



Dalmatian "Mac" the fire dog, author served with him in Tennessee. Photo by Author.

up as a stray and getting adopted. However, others are chosen or selected for specific reasons by shift mates.

Though we will find a variety of animals that have served as pets at the firehouse, perhaps the most popular animal is the dog. Though there are many canine breeds found in the firehouse, the one most associated by the public with the fire department is the iconic Dalmatian. The Dalmatian breed, however, has a unique development and history. To understand how this canine became the iconic fire dog, we need to do a brief review of the history of the breed.

THE DALMATIAN

Just like there is some ambiguity in fire service history, so too is there uncertainty in the history of the development of the Dalmatian canine breed. A common belief is that the breed originated in Dalmatia, which is a "region of Croatia, comprising a central coastal strip and a fringe of islands along the Adriatic Sea."² Today it is part of Yugoslavia. Other accounts are that the breed stems from hounds and pointer breeds developed "somewhere around the Mediterranean."³ Perhaps in Spain. There are depictions of "spotted dogs" in the British Museum dating from the mid-1600s.⁴

In 1790, Thomas Bewick in his illustrated book *A General History of Quadrupeds* has a drawing of a dog that looks like and is labeled "The Dalmatian or Coach Dog." The dog is described as being very common in England, "and is frequently kept in genteel houses, as an elegant attendant on a carriage."⁵ Alfred and Esmeralda Treen in their book, *The New Dalmatian*, state that the Dalmatian "is the only dog that was traditionally bred and trained to run with the horse-drawn vehicles."⁶ Because of this, the dog's accepted job from the very start was "coaching." As coach dogs, the custom in England was for the "dog or dogs to run directly under the front axle near the horses, but always clear of the horses' heels. [Also] Running between two horses and under the pole [drive pole]."⁷ Today this seems like a dangerous practice for the dogs. However, this desire to run in response to the horses would lay the foundation for the next chapter in their working tradition.

CANINE ENTRY INTO THE FIRE SERVICE

As we have seen in this fire service history series, the age of steam brought steam-powered fire pumps into the fire service replacing man-powered pumps. This new age of steam brought many new developments to the fire service and changes to its culture. Over a



“Spot” with author at a training drill.

short period, horses replaced manpower to transport the heavy steam pumpers for rapid response to fires. As was described in the article *Fire Poles, A Historic Tradition in the Fire Service*, “as horses moved into the stations the men retreated by moving their quarters upstairs.”⁸ This shortly led to the invention of the fire sliding pole. Also, with the change to horses to haul the fire steamers and other fire equipment wagons, the Dalmatian had its entry into the fire service. As described previously, Dalmatians were bred as coach dogs that had a working relationship and bond with horses and the carriages they pulled. The Dalmatian dog’s ability to bond with horses, along with its physical ability to run pace with the horses, made it a natural firehouse addition.

Just as the firemen (firefighters) of the day liked to have decorated and shiny apparatus that set their rigs off from the normal wagons of the day, they would certainly be drawn to this unique breed of dog with its black and white spot pattern. This distinctive pattern set their firehouse dog apart from the average canine seen on the city streets. Originally the firehouse canine had a simple duty, “that of companionship.”⁹ The Dalmatian though was more than a domesticated companion, they were also going to

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quickly become a special breed of working dog in the fire service. In 1910, Lt. Wise of the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Engine Company #39 described their mascot Bessie’s job, “by instinct she would run ahead of the horses whooping it up and getting people out of the way for us.”¹⁰ Before the days of sirens, the fire department had only the ringing bell or sometimes the steam whistle of the steamer to warn the congested pedestrian and horse-drawn traffic of the city. The fire dog provided an advance guard that helped create an opening in the traffic crowd, as well as keep other dogs from running out and frightening the firehorse team. Dalmatians not only cleared the way for the responding horse-drawn apparatus, but they guarded the tools and equipment of the engine company on the scene.¹¹

Unfortunately, the assignment to run with the horse teams pulling the fire apparatus was a dangerous job for the fire dogs. Historic accounts of the service of fire dogs in the Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) sadly relate to several incidents where the dog fell or was otherwise run over by the horses. One dog suffered being run over three times but was fortunate to be

treated by the fire department’s veterinary surgeon and each time returned to duty.¹²

Though the Dalmatians had a close working relationship with their counterpart, the fire horse, they also developed a close bond with their firefighter owners. FDNY Secretary Alfred Downes in his book written in 1907, *Fire Fighters and Their Pets*, described numerous incidences where the fire company’s dog would follow the fire crew into the fire and stay alongside the nozzleman.¹³

The Dalmatians were so intelligent that even in the alarm notifications, where the firehouse alarm gongs would tap (ring) out the assigned engine companies, the dogs learned their company’s sequence of bells. Downes’ relates that many of the FDNY dogs “learned to distinguish the signals on which the company rolls, and they have become good ‘counters’.”¹⁴

By the 1900s FDNY dogs wore a collar with a small metal fire helmet “dangling from the collar as the insignia of their membership.”¹⁵ However, it was said that they had to prove themselves to earn their fire helmet insignia.



Painting of "Becky" the fire dog, Springfield FD. Painting by Fire Captain (Ret.) James R. Cottengim, SFD

Not all firehouse dogs were Dalmatians, there were other breeds as well that found a home and duty assignment in the firehouse or with volunteer firefighters. In the early volunteer days of St. Louis' fire service, a pointer named "Ponto" "would rouse his sleeping master when an alarm was sounded, then the dog would race him to the firehouse."¹⁶

FDNY Engine Co. #45 had a Saint Bernard mascot. Though he was not suited as a coach dog to run long distances with the horses, at the sound of the alarm "Prince" would run to the street in front of the station and bark to clear the way for the engine. After the engine left on its assignment, Prince would return to the firehouse door (left open during the response) and guard the firehouse until their return. Downes related several instances where various firehouse dogs would not allow anyone to enter the firehouse while the personnel were away on a call, thus protecting the firefighters' belongings from thieves. Only someone in uniform would be allowed to enter the firehouse by the vigilant fire dog.¹⁷

In researching this article, the author could not find an accurate accounting of what canine breed was most popular in the American fire service. A story regarding the Chicago Fire Department related that they had a record of 291 firehouse dogs of which the most common breed was a multi-breed dog or "mutt".¹⁸

CONTINUING THE DALMATIAN LEGACY

A sad day came for the firefighters along with their Dalmatians when the fire horses were replaced in the firehouse by the mechanization of the fire apparatus in the early 1900's. The firefighters and their coach dogs had closely bonded with their well-trained animal partners. Without the horses, the coach dog had lost part of its duty assignment in the firehouse. But this was not the end of the firehouse dog. Their role would transition to other duties. Some canines would ride with their firefighters on the new mechanized apparatus to calls, while others would stay behind and guard the firehouse.¹⁹ Now when children visited the firehouse, instead of being greeted by the friendly horses they would find the firehouse dog eager to meet visitors and perhaps get a treat.

Nowadays in addition to companionship, firehouse Dalmatians perform numerous duties including assisting with public relations and demonstrating public fire safety education to school children. An example of this is from the fire department in Springfield, MO. Retired Fire Chief David Hall related that in the mid-1980s the fire department linked with a local dog trainer who had a passion for fire safety. The trainer's Dalmatian called "Becky" (Cee Kay Becky Thatcher, UDTX) became a local celebrity performing at schools and local events working with the department in teaching public fire education. Becky would demonstrate stop, drop, roll and crawl low in smoke techniques. She could also pick out fire safety items that were being talked about. Becky retired around 1992 and her daughter "Dottie" took over assisting with public fire education until she retired around 1996. Becky held five American Kennel Club obedience and tracking titles. Becky was honored by being named an official mascot of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #152 and was also immortalized in a painting by Fire Captain (Ret.) James R. Cottengim. The painting is still on display at the fire department headquarters.²⁰

SOME DALMATIAN CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES

All dog breeds have their own characteristics and issues that should be considered when choosing the best type of dog for your situation and family. In considering Dalmatians, they are sturdy, intelligent dogs with good strength and stamina. They have a trusting attitude toward their owner, and a desire to serve and perform. Because of

their breeding, they are highly energetic and obedience training will generally require "a good deal more time and effort."²¹ Also, be prepared to give a Dalmatian plenty of personal time and exercise.

Dalmatians, because of their breed also have some potential issues and health concerns that may develop. Even though they are a short-haired dog, they are "harder to clean up after than the long-haired varieties."²² They also have potential "skin troubles that crop up from time to time" and may require treatment.²³ The Dalmatian has a "urinary system that is rare in canines."²⁴ This attribute may cause bladder or kidney stones to form. Also, "deafness occurs in the breed."²⁵ Make sure the Dalmatian you are considering for a pet has a good bloodline and comes from a reputable breeder.

HISTORIC FIRE HOUSE ANIMALS

Several fire service books and internet articles cover some information on the favored and unusual animal companions that have been a part of our fire service history. The author recommends a couple of books that have interesting fire service animal stories. One book related to the working horses that pulled the fire apparatus in the horse-drawn era is *The Fire Horse, A Historic Look at Horses and Firefighting* by Gloria Austin and Mary Chris Foxworthy, 2018. A historic book that is harder to find is *Fire Fighters and Their Pets*, by Alfred M. Downes, published in 1907. Besides being a time capsule of fire department operations in the early 1900s, the book has some short but fascinating stories about the FDNY pets of the period. Some of these have been briefly touched on in this article.



The close relationship between fire horses and firehouse dogs in the "Era of the Fire Horse", early 1900's. Photo from Alfred M. Downes book, *Fire Fighters and Their Pets*. Assumed to be in the public domain.



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A new litter of Dalmatian puppies born at the fire house. Photo by Author.

Among other firehouse pets in the FDNY in the 1900s included cats. One of the cats was “Barney” who lived at Engine Co. #59. Barney’s unique talent was that he had learned how to slide down the fire pole.²⁶

In Downes’s book, he mentions several stories about monkeys as pets in some firehouses. For the most part, it appears though that the monkeys were a poor fit, constantly causing mischievous incidences such as absconding with shiny objects and stealing peanuts from street vendors.²⁷

Today there is a large variety of firehouse pets or mascots. Though the author has no statistics for it, empirical data suggests that dogs are the most common. However, cats are certainly represented. Other recent additions to the firehouse include birds, pigs, and rabbits.

HISTORY OF SPARKY THE FIRE DOG

Sparky the Fire Dog is an animated character that is used by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to present and teach fire safety to children. Sparky was developed in 1951 by the NFPA in conjunction with the Advertising Council. A symbol was needed to appeal to children and help spread the fire safety message. Based on the success of the United States Forest Service wildfire spokes symbol, “Smokey Bear”, a Dalmatian as the classic fire service mascot was picked after which to model a fire prevention spokes character. According to the NFPA, Sparky “is an anthropomorphic fanciful character depicted as an adult Dalmatian who appears in full firefighter protective clothing at all times.”²⁸ The image of Sparky has “three freckles on each side of his muzzle and five spots on each ear.”²⁹

Sparky the Fire Dog became a great success and continues to be an official “fire service advocate” for public fire education each year. The NFPA produces a multitude of fire safety brochures, coloring books, and other materials that feature Sparky and are designed to assist fire prevention and fire safety efforts by the local fire department. The NFPA’s *Sparky the Fire Dog* is certainly another addition to American culture that has aided in promoting Dalmatians as the iconic fire service mascot.

Images and the name of *Sparky* and *Sparky the Fire Dog* are trademarked by the NFPA and may only be used by permission. More information on Sparky, fire prevention, and fire safety can be obtained at sparky.org.

DALMATIANS IN CINEMA

In 1961, Walt Disney Studios made the movie *One Hundred and One Dalmatians*, an animated movie featuring the adventures of a Dalmatian dog family and based on the children’s book by Dodie Smith. It was a box office hit and brought new publicity for Dalmatians and a love of the breed.³⁰ A theatrical re-release of the movie in 1979 created a revived interest in Dalmatians. Though the author has only antidotal information on this, there was a surge in the purchasing of Dalmatian pups by families inspired by the movie’s re-release. Shortly thereafter as the pups grew and their high-energy nature developed without proper training, a number of these families decided a Dalmatian was not the right fit for their family. The fire department the author was with at the time started receiving numerous phone calls asking if we would be interested in purchasing their pet for the fire stations. Later they came back offering their dog for free if we would take them off their hands. The fire department did acquire one of the donated dogs, but their lack of early obedience training made their socialization at the fire station difficult. Other Dalmatians raised in the department did not have as many issues.

TELEVISION DOGS

Though there have been quite a few memorable heroic and not-so-heroic dogs on television over the many years of the broadcast entertainment medium, there are two dogs that appeared at different times in the same popular fire/rescue-related series back in the 1970s. This television show had a historic impact on the fire service by creating a public perception and demand that their local fire departments have EMS/life



“Bear” the fire dog at fire station where author first served as a rescue/firefighter. Photo by Author.

support capability. This one television series helped redefine the mission and culture of the United States fire service.³¹

Now about the dogs. In the show, “Station 51” over the run of the series two different resident dogs that lived with the on-duty fire crews, neither of them Dalmatians. For bonus history credit, be the first to provide the names of these two firehouse canine companions. For bonus credit can you identify each dog’s breed?

EMERGENCY SERVICE SEARCH DOGS

These days, emergency services use select breeds of canines to perform specialized work tasks. Some of these include emergency-related tasks, such as search and rescue work, cadaver search, or other work assignments. Though these dogs become companions to their handlers as part of a close working team, they are more of a working dog than a companion or mascot to the firehouse. The author has not purposely disregarded this important category of emergency service working canines, but focused this history article on the firehouse pets and mascots, even though the Dalmatians started as working dogs in the era of the fire horse. The Emergency Service Search/Working Canines have a special history and emphasis in the fire service. There is also a separate category for law enforcement or public service dogs related to substance detection, patrolling, and tracking. For more information on search and rescue dogs, please visit Search and Rescue Dogs of the United States (SARDUS) at: sardus.org.

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CONSIDERATION FOR FIREHOUSE PETS

Most fire departments have regulations regarding the housing of pets or companion animals in the fire station. Fire crews need to check with their fire chief, company officer, and/or administration before moving any domesticated animal into quarters. It should also be a consensus opinion of all personnel on all shifts of the fire station to make sure everyone is okay with it and has no allergies that would be affected by joint sharing of the living habitat. Each shift crew assigned to the fire station that has a pet/mascot will be responsible for the caring, feeding, cleanup, and veterinary expenses associated with the companion animal.

CONTINUING TRADITIONS

The author fondly remembers his first full-time duty assignment as a rescue/firefighter. The station had somehow in the past inherited a local multi-breed dog that was affectionately known as "Bear." Bear had no special talent other than getting out of everyone's way when a call came in, and being a friendly companion animal that would provide some comfort to the returning crew after a difficult incident. At these points, Bear excelled as a perfect firehouse companion animal. I remember Bear even after 40-plus years.

I would assume that a significant number of veteran firefighters have experienced at some point in their career/avocation the faithful companionship of a firehouse dog, cat or other pet. Their unconditional devotion was a comfort in difficult emotional times, providing a lasting cherished memory.

Though the Dalmatian and other canines came into the fire service in the 1800s as working animals with a job to do, they transitioned over time to new roles and responsibilities. They grew into a valuable companion in service to their human compatriots. Even firefighters who have never had the experience of serving in a fire station with a mascot, have an understanding of the historic significance of the close bond of the spotted dog and its relationship to those early American firefighters. The lasting memories of service and loyalty of firehouse pets continue through the oral history and traditions of the fire service.

Fire service history and traditions shape many of the things we do and the procedures we follow as career or volunteer firefighters today. The housing of mascots/pets in the fire station to make it a home away from home is one of those traditions based on historic events. Remembering our past, we continue to honor and observe the grand history and traditions of the early American fire service, as it guides us in our continuing mission of service.

AUTHORS COMMENTS

The author wishes to recognize and thank the fire service personnel and organizations



FDNY fire dog "Calico" and friends. Photo from Alfred M. Downes book, *Fire Fighters and Their Pets*. Assumed to be in the public domain.

for their assistance in the development of this article. In particular, the author expresses his appreciation to Fire Chief (Ret.) David Hall, Springfield (MO) Fire Department, and the University of Missouri Ellis Library/Lending Library for assisting the author in obtaining the inter-library loan of various research documents and archival materials.

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By Brian Zinanni

The annual *Supporting Heroes Tribute Gala* was held Saturday, July 15th, 2023 in Owensboro, Kentucky. This year Supporting Heroes honored nearly 60 fallen heroes from the three states we serve (Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri). With over 500 people in attendance, this event showcased those fallen heroes and paid tribute to their service and sacrifice. The tribute gala is just one event of several, that occur over the weekend.

A Friday evening reception, held in conjunction with the Friday after-five event, allowed our family members to gather in a private event space, share a meal, enjoy some yard games, walk up and down the riverfront enjoying the numerous bands, and enjoy ice cream. This “soft” start to the weekend is the perfect way to meet other family members and become integrated into the “magic” that happens when survivors meet other survivors.

On Saturday, our youth participants were treated to a day of fishing, pedal boat rides, go-carts, and lunch at Diamond Lakes Resort. Survivors were invited to lunch, where they had an opportunity to more formally introduce themselves, enjoy a meal, and share a little bit about their fallen hero if they desired. After lunch, younger kids were given the chance to participate in arts & crafts (they made slime!), while the balance of the participants broke up into groups, where those with like-relationship types could share and learn from others who have walked similar paths.

Saturday evening, was the formal tribute gala. While many believe this event is a fundraiser, it is anything but. Surviving family members NEVER pay to attend. This event is open to the public (we encourage you to attend) with registration fees, event

sponsors, and our silent auction all helping to offset the costs associated with hosting the weekend events. An amazing dinner was served to those in attendance. Nashville recording artist Trent Prewitt performed several times during the evening (Trent is from Ebenezer, Missouri). Powerful tributes were given by Ebenezer, MO. Fire Chief Nelson Prewitt and survivor Gail Critchelow. Our evening closed out with our powerful candlelight ceremony.

Our weekend closed out with us gathering for breakfast in our private tent space along the riverfront. This serves as another opportunity for survivors to chat with other survivors, and

“magic” that happens, and witnessing that occur helps reinforce the importance of the work we do, and we cannot do that without your support.

In closing, I want to paraphrase a comment that was made by a Missouri firefighter who attended this event, which I feel truly reflects the peace of mind our organization provides:

I’d be lying if didn’t say these memorials don’t often have me thinking “What if I’m next? What if my child is standing here listening to my name being called”? What if my child is holding a candle in my honor one day”?

Honestly, I don’t know any of those answers. Except I do know Supporting Heroes will be there, and that is a huge relief.

To help support the mission of Supporting Heroes, please consider becoming a member, organizing a fund-raiser, or sponsoring one of our survivor events. For more information, please use one of the QR codes below, or go to our website at SupportingHeroes.org. Don’t forget to follow us on social media.

exchange contact information with those they may have made a connection with, and is a good decompression event from the powerful evening we had the night before.

As your State Coordinator for Supporting Heroes, I cannot begin to share with you what this event provides for the families of our fallen heroes. Above I mentioned the



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By Keith Smith

Welcome to the National Volunteer Fire Council report. As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. With that thought in mind, I received my 15-year pin with NVFC during our Spring meeting in Arlington, VA. It was a quick start serving 1-year as the assistant director before taking over with the passing of Jim Coleberd. It remains my privilege to serve on the NVFC Board on behalf of FFAM.

One year from now, September 18-20, NVFC will be hosting their *Fall Meeting* in Kansas City, Missouri, and waiting for final details on how FFAM might be able to assist. To be clear, NVFC is hosting this meeting by their selection but when having fire service visitors, one does want to provide some hospitality within reason. The NVFC Conference Committee will finalize plans and details during the upcoming *Fall Meeting*.

Having individual NVFC membership provides numerous online free training options and other supporting resources. Just go to NVFC.org and click on "Join The NVFC". A list of the many member benefits is detailed on that link.

IMPORTANT AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS IN BRIEF

National Firefighter Registry (NFR) is located at cdc.gov/NFR. Also, the new Missouri Firefighters Critical Illness Pool is also VERY Important so please pay attention to that information as well. Thank you, Chief Brown and many others, for all the work on that program.

NEW COMMITMENT INITIATIVE

NVFC just launched a Psychologically Healthy Fire Department commitment page

on their website featuring departments that have committed to providing a psychologically healthy culture. This site also provides several informative and supportive tools.

WEBINARS

New online training page for upcoming webinars: nvfc.org/online-trainings.

ODD HOURS, NO PAY, COOL HAT

If you've been watching the NVFC social media, you know Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat is now available for rent or purchase on Apple, Google Play, and Amazon. 50% of the proceeds from the sale of the film support the NVFC.

ANHEUSER BUSCH DRINKING WATER

This is their 6th year partnering with NVFC on free drinking water. This initial 1st round in 2023 involved 2.5 million cans and was awarded to 680 departments with Missouri scoring 29 winners. Two pallets of canned drinking water were delivered to these departments. AB has decided to add another 1 million cans. Not sure if the timing this article will reach the reader in time but here is the link: nvfc.wufoo.com/forms/2023-water-for-wildfires-rapid-response-request.

AWARDS

NVFC has recently received three awards. First, the *Platinum Seal of Transparency on Guidestar*, which provides valuable information about nonprofit entities so donors, sponsors, and others can make educated decisions about where their dollars go. Second, the American Society of Association Executives *Power of Associations Award* for the Psychologically Healthy Fire Department Program. This accomplishment validates their work by association



Chairman Steve Hirsch presenting Keith Smith with a 15-year pin.

peers and showcases what NVFC does to advance the volunteer fire service. Third, IAFC's *Presidents Award* in recognizing NVFC's commitment to the "One Voice initiative" of US Fire Administrator, Dr. Lori Moore-Merrill.

MIKE ROWE

The NVFC corporate partner, Buxus, has ties with Mike Rowe and has connected with NVFC to help highlight the need for volunteers. More to follow in future articles.

NVFC TRAINING SUMMIT IN OKLAHOMA CITY

This three-day event was put on by the NVFC Health, Safety & Training Committee, and the Health & Safety Work Group and is open to all NVFC members. It was by every indication a tremendous success, all seats sold out in advance and the reviews were nearly perfect. Hopefully back again in 2024.

Thank you for your time and allowing Rob and me to serve on your behalf with NVFC.

State Directors attending the Spring Meeting in Arlington, VA





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By Larry Eggen, Public Information Officer

The Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department (MSFVFD) staff this year consisted of 107 members of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri. 61 departments have allowed their members time off for vacation so they can serve with our department. We have a mix of 30% females to 70% males on our staff. We are the only known fire department that forms for an event each year. We own no equipment to operate with. We have FFAM member departments and vendors that supply all our equipment. This year we operated 4 engines, 3 squads, 1 tanker, 5 ambulances, and 9 UTVs. Due to the crowds on the grounds, we used the smaller vehicles for access during the calls and limited the engines to fire calls and standby for the events. We had 30-plus departments that were supplying the equipment and supplies in the apparatus and our first aid.

The MO-DMAT 1 team deployed here this year to assist with the medical needs of anyone on the fairgrounds. They have medical care similar to an urgent care open from 10:00 to 22:00 daily to help relieve the local hospital resources. They use this as a training opportunity for their staff to deploy and train when they would deploy for a disaster. Providing care on the fairgrounds also helps the MSFVFD be more productive as it shortens the time for care to the patient and we do not have to transport off the fairgrounds to the Bothwell Hospital. Our care is also provided to the patients at no cost to them on the fairgrounds.

MO-Cares and Central Jackson County Fire Protection District attended the first weekend to train in CPR and AED for fair attendees so if they need to use the skills, they will be educated. The Missouri State Fire Marshal's office has a display at the firehouse for fire safety and education. Missouri 911 has a booth to educate about when to call and some of the challenges of the organization. MU Air Medical Services gave a classroom presentation and landed a helicopter on the fairgrounds to demonstrate landing zone safety and procedures. The Missouri Electrical Cooperatives organization conducted two live power line demonstrations to show electrical safety. The Kansas Fire Marshal's office supplied a sprinkler demonstration trailer to show the value for use in homes. MU FRTI Director Harry Ward did two live fire demonstrations of why you should close your doors at home to prevent fire from spreading in the home. Our crews have the chance to do live fire evolutions in the Southern Stone Fire Protection District trailer during the fair. We did a trash container fire with their prop also during the fair. The Johnson County Fire Protection District supplied a car fire prop and forcible entry prop for the crews to train with.

Here are the vendors and departments that helped in the fire department operations with equipment, donations of supplies, food and funds: Nold Bryant, Schulenburg Contracting, Don's Towing, Woods Grocery, Missouri Cattleman's Association, Missouri

Pork Producers Association, Rose Acres Farms, Burgers Smokehouse, Central Dairy, Mr. Dell, WinCup, Concordia FPD, Higginsville FPD, Lees Summit Fire Department, Nestle', Missouri 811, John & Brenda Hoselton, Trenton Coca Cola, Pettis County Paramedics and EMT's Union Members IAFF Local 5229, Wheeler Auction, Pepsi, Coca-Cola Sedalia, Tyson, Don & Linda North, Show Me GIS, Accelerant, Ferrell Propane, Dr. David Gustafson, Zoll Medical, Stryker Medical, Randolph County Ambulance District, Pettis County Ambulance District, Wellington-Napolean FPD, Audrain Ambulance district, Union Ambulance District, Ray County Ambulance District, Chillicothe FD, Johnson County Ambulance District, Johnson County FPD, Sullivan Fire Department, Southern Randolph, Warrensburg Fire Department, Holt FPD, Mid-County FPD, Eureka FPD, Central Platte FPD, Cosby-Helena FPD, Alex Air, Gas Technologies, Feld Fire, Jons Mid-America, Dingies Fire, Banner Fire, MES Fire, Remmers Design, Triumph Foods, Johnson County Ambulance District Training Center, MU Air Medical Services, LifeFlight Eagle, MTA EMS/Rescue, Chariton County Ambulance District, MFA Oil.

We appreciate all the support from all the members who helped throughout the year to make this unique fire department successful.



By Larry Jennings, President

For those of you who have worked at the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department, visited the station, or attended a class there it has not been a well-kept secret that the aged station has needed many repairs or upgrades for some time. Much talk has taken place about where to find funding to support the needed changes and planning/designing what may be needed was started in earnest in August 2021.

A working committee was established and conversations were started with the Fair Administration to look for adequate funding that would address the needs identified by the committee.

A presentation of what was needed was on display during the 2022 Missouri State Fair and was viewed by many elected state officials and members of the Fair Commission. Working with suggestions made, alterations were considered and the committee kept moving forward to inch the dream of upgrades closer to reality.

Many FFAM members and many of our supporters worked diligently both behind the scenes and in public fashion to explain the needs of the fire department and the benefits that could be gained by making the necessary upgrades.

A direct face-to-face campaign was carried out during the 2023 Firefighter's Day at the Capitol with information being distributed to many legislators during our visits.

Although some of them were aware of the conditions at the fair, this may have been the first exposure for some.

With the outstanding support of Representative Brad Pollitt and Senator Sandy Crawford among others, funding for the repairs/upgrades at the fire station was added to the State budget proposal. After clearing the scrutiny of the House and Senate the funding remained intact and was sent to the Governor as part of the final proposed State budget.

Thanks go out to Governor Mike Parson for recognizing and supporting the needs of the FD by allowing the requested funding to remain in the final budget. With his signature approving the budget, \$2,500,000 was appropriated exclusively for repairs and renovations to the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department facility. Wow!

What a win for the fire department and the citizens of Missouri and all visitors to the fair. The work doesn't stop there as we move forward through the process of design modifications, contracts, and execution of the project. We will continue working closely with the Fair Administration to keep the project moving and a much-needed renovated station will be available for use for many, many, many more fairs.

Thank you to each individual involved in reaching this milestone! Your help was and is invaluable.











By Kegan Wilson, Assistant Chief

The 61st year of operations for the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department (MSFVFD) has come to a close. I would like to say thank you to all of the departments and vendors who have supported us by allowing us to use their equipment and supplies. If you know anything about the fair, you know that we would never be able to do the things that we do without the support.

Another huge thank you goes to all of the volunteers throughout our organization who give of their time to come to the fair and staff our department. We all know it's not easy to get off of work and spend that much time away from our families and homes, but we could not do this without all of you and your sacrifices. We had tons of new people

come this year which is awesome. I hope you fall in love with it as much as I have and keep coming for many years to come.

The fair presents a unique set of challenges and this year was no exception. The men and women of the MSFVFD rose to the occasion and performed their duties with honor and professionalism.

This year brought larger than usual crowd sizes to concerts and events, with one concert being sold out at the grandstand. It truly is a beautiful thing to see men and women who don't work with each other every day come together with a common goal and make a large incident like that flow smoothly and efficiently. And we did that more than once this year.

On a personal note, I would like to say thank you to Chief RB Brown. I have learned so much from you in the 14 fairs I have worked with you. You have been an awesome mentor and Chief. I hope that I can be even half the Chief that you have been to me.

You certainly leave some big shoes to fill.

To the rest of the Department, it is an honor to be named as the next Chief. I love the fair, I love that place and I love our department. If I told you that I was not nervous about the future I'd be lying, but I know we have a fantastic team full of great people. You all are amazing and together we will do great things.

Thank You for a great 61 and here's to an even better 62.

STATE FAIR BUSINESS RECOGNITION

You may or may not know that one of the missions of the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department (MSFVFD) is to support different causes throughout the State of Missouri so that we may be able to continue to progress one of our main missions, helping others. Many fire department, EMS, and dispatch members come to our department to dedicate their time and energy, and when needed, we hope to be able to return the favor.

To achieve this mission, in 1998 the members of the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department established our Union, the International Order of Dragon Slayers. The purpose of this Union has been to raise funds for charitable causes that are brought forth and voted on by the members of the MSFVFD. This year, we switched things up a bit and auctioned off items that were donated by multiple businesses throughout the State of Missouri.

We would like to recognize the following businesses for donating to our cause because, with their support, we were able to support all the causes brought forth to us by our members. In total, between our "Union Dues," "Fines," direct donations, and items donated for us to auction off to our members, we were able to raise \$3200 this year! With this money, we were able to sponsor a floor at the *Missouri State Fire*

Marshal's 911 Stair Climb, give a donation to the Leslie and Jason (Van Far Ambulance) Benefit Fund, give a donation to the Dr. Scott Hall Scholarship, and give a donation to one of our own, Donnie Rogers, as he battles health complications.

The following businesses contributed to our department auction and on behalf of the MSFVFD and the Fraternal Order of Dragon Slayers, we would like to thank them for their support. If you have the chance, please support these businesses as they have supported us in our mission.

- Engine Company Leather - Kale Brucks
- Black Lantern Outdoors, LLC - Frank and Joanna Lohnes
- Banner Fire Equipment, Inc. - Mike McNeill
- Taylor's Tins
- Flagpole Solutions - Dan (MO State Fair Vendor)
- Alewel's Country Meats - (MO State Fair Vendor)
- Public Safety Solutions MO - Dustin Gay
- Mackinac Fudge Co. - (MO State Fair Vendor)
- Kitchens Are Forever - Cutco Pat (MO State Fair Vendor)
- Weston Tobacco - Maggie (MO State Fair Vendor)
- Koty Davis with BG Davis Distributing- MO State Fire Dept Member



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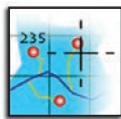
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Phone C (660)229-4525
grant_oetting@yahoo.com



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SDR Office: 800-238-1911



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Andrew Caldwell

FFAM District 7 Assistant Director
Boles FPD Captain

3838 Lorraine Dr.
Catawissa, MO 63015
(636)303-8223
acaldwell@bolesfiredistrict.org



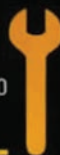
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A Message From The 2nd VP



Grant Oetting

Wow, summer is over, where did the time go? The Missouri State Fair has just been completed, the kids are returning to school, and before we know it, fall will be upon us and the temperatures will start to cool off.

I just returned from the state fair, where the department ran 192 calls this year. Thank you goes to Chief RB Brown and Assistant Chief Kegan Wilson and your staff for a great fair and experience.

In this article I will be writing about a Fire Department Mentor Program and how much of an asset it is to you and your department.

The fire service is always in a period of growth and transition. The growth of the communities in this state has led to a need for more firefighters. Also, the fire service is experiencing the retirement of many of its senior firefighters and officers. Both situations are creating a situation of rapid promotion of firefighters to technical grades and officer grades.

Training of these firefighters is generally very good. But, the lack of experience is a concern. To address this need and to implement a program that is of benefit to any organization, a mentoring program can and should be developed. A mentoring program can be developed to create a culture of mentoring within any department; a culture that ideally will develop into increased informal mentoring throughout the organization.

The formal aspects of mentoring can be implemented through education by giving mentoring training to all officers. In addition, all newly promoted firefighters would complete one year of formal mentoring as mentors. The reason for this is to impart knowledge, share experience, and provide a nurturing environment for success.

Mentoring is to complement performance and task success. Mentoring strives to accomplish the successful integration of the

firefighters into the technical and officer ranks. At some point, the program should be self-perpetuating through informal and formal mentoring by officers who were once firefighters.

Mentoring is firefighter-centered, not mentor, supervisor, teacher, or trainer-centered.

Not all leader behaviors can be classified as mentoring behaviors. The common mentoring behaviors and functions are:

- Clarifying roles and objectives
- Monitoring
- Motivating and inspiring
- Supporting
- Developing
- Recognizing/Rewarding
- Role Modeling
- Counseling
- Coaching
- Providing acceptance/confirmation

Leader activity that is generally not mentoring activity is:

- Planning and Organizing
- Problem-Solving
- Informing
- Monitoring
- Delegating
- Supervising

Goals of Mentoring:

- The primary goal of the mentor/protege relationship is to guide the protege to achieve growth.
- Also, it helps the protege see the possibilities and rise to the next level, both personally and professionally. Training augmented by mentoring increases a manager's productivity by 88%.

Objectives of Mentoring:

- Establishing a relationship of trust.
- Modeling of behavioral norms.
- Listening to personal and job concerns.
- Helping search for alternative solutions.
- Sharing own relevant experiences.
- Responding to emotional needs without creating dependency on the mentor.
- Develop long-lasting personal and informal relationships.

People relate more readily and positively to peer assistance than to supervisory direction. It provides a non-threatening environment for learning and growth to occur. Mentors

and mentoring relationships have a positive and powerful impact on professional growth, career advancement, and career mobility. It promotes the things a person moving into a managerial/leadership role must learn:

- Politics of the organization
- Norms
- Standards
- Values
- Ideology
- History of the organization
- Increased job satisfaction
- Sharing and taking pride in their firefighter's accomplishments
- Invigorates and renews their commitment to their job and their profession
- Leaves a legacy of the mentor

Organization Benefits:

- More employees complete their probationary periods.
- The enthusiasm, camaraderie, and professionalism that mentoring programs often achieve affect positively the entire culture of the organization.
- Promotes organizational values, norms and standards. Improved employee performance.
- Increased commitment to the organization.
- Improved flow of organizational information.
- Improved leadership/management development.

These are a few ideas that should be considered in the development and implementation of your program.

- Involve the entire department membership in the program development and implementation. Getting buy-in will be much more difficult if you do not.
- Keep the precepting and mentoring separate. Precepting is task, supervisory, directive, and evaluative oriented. Mentoring is relationship; career and personal success-oriented. Preceptors can informally mentor, Mentors should not precept.
- When a firefighter picks a mentor of their choosing, it most closely resembles informal mentoring, which is more powerful than formal mentoring. Consider having the firefighter choose any senior officer as their mentor. In all cases, the mentor would also need to accept the firefighter.



- Provide support and encouragement to all parties in the firefighter /mentor teams. Do not let them squander their time and do not let the relationship drift.
- Provide mentoring training to the department and the mentors. Also, give the mentors communications training.
- Evaluate the program throughout its progress and with a yearly evaluation and year-end report.
- Maintain all confidence. If confidentiality is not maintained between the mentors and the firefighter the program will fail, not just the pairing.
- The Fire Department must provide support and resources for the success of the program. The administration, management, and supervisors must be participants and supporters. Money and time must be allocated.
- If the department is not ready to implement a program, wait until all is in place. It will be very difficult to recapture and rebuild the lost support and buy-in if failure occurs due to poor planning, lack of resources, or lack of involvement.

Informal mentoring is very powerful. It has been taken for granted that it occurs throughout a fire department. This is not necessarily the case today with rapid promotions, fluid personnel shifting to new assignments, and the large number of retirements occurring. A formal mentoring program should be implemented, implemented correctly, to create a culture of mentoring in your fire department that promotes informal mentoring. Build a mentoring program to pass on your fire department's positive role modeling, history and culture.

If the FFAM can be of any assistance, or if you would like to invite us to an event, please reach out to me by email at grant_oetting@yahoo.com or call my cell at 660-229-4525, if I don't answer please leave me a voicemail. Until next time...Be safe my brothers and sisters.



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The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Diane Wynne at 9:00 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Wynne, Galt FPD; Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Theresa Cox, Wentzville FPD; Joni Fields, Paris RFPD; Ann Jones, Madison West Monroe; Missy Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; Nancy Ransdell, Madison West Monroe; Debbie Meyers, Concordia FD; Rosanna Jorgenson, South Holt.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Theresa reviewed the financial report. Joni made a motion to accept the financial report as read, seconded by Sheri, motion passed.

MINUTES

Handouts of the last minutes were available for viewing. Missy made a motion to accept the last minutes, Seconded by Ann, the motion passed.

MEMBERSHIP

Sheri reported as of today we currently have 113 paid, 13 honorary, for a total of 126 members, with 28 departments. Diane said she spoke to the Milan Fire Department recently about joining. They are working on getting their local auxiliary established and then plan to join us. Galt FPD will be mentoring them in their process. Sheri mentioned the Fire Marshal's office will be sending out a survey soon. The survey will include a contact person for the auxiliary to reach out to for recruiting purposes.

CONTEST

Sheri stated Gary wants any input or ideas for new games for the contest. Reach out to Gary Berendzen the chairman of the contest.

The contest team is looking into giving out plaques or certificates to the winners of the contest in the future.

This is due to the cost, non-use of some trophies, room available for trophies at fire stations, etc. Joni suggested banners are the fad right now.

Diane stated her department reuses their old trophies by replacing the placard with a new one. Need to look into the cost of that. Diane suggested we hold our games at the State Fair on *Firefighter's Day*. This will draw attention to the FFAM. Joni suggested we should hold a competition for getting sponsorships for the convention.

The winner would get a portion of the proceeds for their department.

POSTERS

RB is waiting to get them for posting at the fair. This year had to disqualify some posters due to paper size again.

OLD BUSINESS

This year's *Memorial Services* will be held at Kingdom City on Saturday, October 7, at 7:00 pm and Sunday, October 8, at 10:30 am.

NEW BUSINESS

We have three departments wanting to host the conventions; Lake Ozark, Maryville, and Southern Stone.

Ann stated the need for basic first aid supplies; such as band-aids, first aid ointments, etc., at the state fair. She made a motion for us to make a \$200 donation to the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department, to be used to purchase basic first aid supplies for the fair. The motion was seconded by Joni, motion passed. The check was given to them today.

Rosanna Jorgenson was introduced as the person in charge of the kitchen at the fair this year.

Saturday, August 12, 2023, is *Fire Fighters Appreciation Day* at the State Fair. Everyone is welcome to join in the festivities.

Discussed next year we will be voting on new officers at the convention. Our bylaws indicate the past three (3) presidents are responsible for submitting a slate of officers. Currently, we do not have three past presidents to complete this task. Joni will review the bylaws and present any changes as needed.

Charlie Peel stated the Revolution BBQ made \$1,612 this year. The meat and many other supplies were donated, which made this such a success.

He stated this will be an annual event going forth. Theresa wanted to recognize Charlie Peel, he got our corporate sponsorship; Missouri 811, for the convention. Missouri 811 has pledged to donate a minimum of \$5,000 each year as a sponsor going forward.

Thank you to Missouri 811 and Charlie Peel.

State Fire Marshal Tim Bean joined us and recapped what was going on at the fire marshal's office.

Theresa made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joni, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Theresa Cox, Secretary/Treasurer

THIRD ANNUAL FIRE ENGINE RALLY

Sponsored by Local Fire Chief's Association & Howell County Commissioners

October 7, 2023 • East Main & Howell Ave in West Plains

(Go Cat parking lot across from the Civic Center)

Event Schedule

- 9:00 am Competition Sign-ups
- 10:00 am Howell County Honor Guard
Plaque presentation
- 11:00 am Competitions

Everyone is Welcome

Howell County Rural Fire Auxiliary will have hot dogs, chips, and drinks for sale. Kettle corn and lemonade vendors will be available.

Competition Schedule

- Reverse Hose Lay for Adults
- Tug-o-War for kids
- Tug-o-War for adults
- 5 Man Alarm for adults
- Truck Pull for kids
- Truck Pull for adults
- Tricycle Race for kids
- Tricycle Race for adults
- Bucket Brigade for kids
- Bucket Brigade for adults

Join us in the Fun!

Any department that would like to enter a team or has questions contact Christel Cantrell at 417-257-4441.



MISSOURI FIRE FIGHTERS CRITICAL ILLNESS POOL

The Fire Service continues to face new and ever more dangerous challenges in our ever-changing world. The Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool was created from the need to better protect our Missouri Fire Fighters. Fire Fighters have a 9% higher risk of getting cancer than the public and have a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer. The numbers are continuing to increase, because of changes in building products and finishes of furnishings. The carcinogens in the products of combustion have dramatically increased in the last 50 years. Often, the instance of cancer in a Fire Fighter is disputed by Workers Compensation and claims are litigated and that may take years to work its way through the Legal system. After years of trying to get legislation to have certain types of cancer looked at as a work exposure-related illness, Fire Service leadership formed a coalition of management, labor, and insurance companies to see what may work to assist our firefighters. An Agency can purchase coverage for their firefighters that will provide a benefit to cover out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles, or other expenses that may arise from contracting any one of the 17 types of cancer that are covered by the Pool.

The Pool also is working towards changing the culture of the Fire Service by requiring members to follow practices to decrease exposure and aid in detecting cancer earlier, getting treatment and hopefully returning to full health.

More information on the Pool can be found on the website at www.MFFCIP.org. The website shows the benefit levels, required policies and procedures, and the pricing structure, and there is a great deal of information that anyone can look at and use to better protect

our firefighters. There is a way on the website to arrange for a presentation about the Pool.

The Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool has recently received Statutory authority to expand into developing a behavioral health injury system for First Responders in Missouri. This system is currently being designed to cover the State's firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and Tele-communicators. It will provide "Best Practices" for Agencies to place in policy and procedures, augment and support a Peer Support Network for First Responders, and develop a network of clinicians and treatment facilities that have knowledge and facilities that are training in dealing with First Responders. It is the goal of the MFFCIP to have this program introduced sometime in the first quarter of 2024.

Just recently, the MFFCIP has brought in National speakers on both subjects and provided free training in Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia, and Springfield. The Pool intends to have those presentations on the website and to continue to provide annual training from some top people working in the field of First Responder Health, Wellness and Science.

The MFFCIP was created in 2021 with the passage of SB45 and expanded in 2023 with the passage of SB24. Both pieces of legislation were the work and strong support of the Missouri Fire Service by Senator Lincoln Hough.

Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool. "Prevention. Support. Protection."

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NVFC COMMITTEE

Keith Smith reported that NVFC is also championing the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer and encourages everyone to sign up.

Anheuser-Busch has donated water to 640 fire departments in the US with 28 departments in Missouri. The next application period for free water has just opened.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

No report was given.

STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

RB Brown gave a special thanks to Ed Daugherty for his work on the 1929 engine.

The a/c was replaced in the bunk room and faucets were replaced in the shower. 42 new members are coming this year. August 12 is *First Responder Day* and first responders can get in for free.

September 8-10 the civil air patrol will be using the fire station for training.

October 14-15 MOPERC will be hosting a propane class at the fire station.

HB18 passed legislation that allocated \$2.5 million to rehab and renovate the Missouri State Fair fire station.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

No report was given.

MAGAZINE

Jaime Miller reported that the next magazine deadline will be August 21.

HISTORIAN REPORT

No report was given.

FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

Keith Smith advised that memorial t-shirts are available for sale on the funeral team website. The t-shirt lists the names of those who are being recognized this year.

EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

Jaime Miller reported on behalf of Greg Wright. We have had 1 non-lodd visitation and funeral since our last meeting.

Our website went down, and we are in the process of building a new one. Chris Thompson is working very hard on it. It is up but he is still working on pages for it. The url moemsfuneralteam.com or .org will get you there.

The state raffle fundraiser is going well. Grant Oetting and Chris both should have tickets if you are interested. The grand prize is \$1000 in Omaha Steak gift cards and 2nd prize is a \$500 Bass Pro gift card. Tickets are on sale till October 13. Drawing is October 14 at 4 pm.

The conference is getting closer. October 13-15 at the Inn at Grand Glaize. Early bird registration is \$99 and ends September 1, which includes some meals, training, refreshments, etc. After September 1, registration is \$129. This year's training is on logistics, behind the scenes of a visitation and funeral. All are welcome. Instructors from Kentucky, Indiana and Missouri will be there. For more information or to register contact Greg at gwright000@gmail.com.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Keith Smith reported that Tracy Gray and Janet Cain are new members of the board.

The phased interior project at the museum is almost complete including electrical and bathrooms. They are continuing fundraising efforts.

As mentioned before, memorial t-shirts are available for sale. Captain Gavin Mosby, PIO St. Louis Fire Department, is the keynote speaker.

The foundation will be providing information at the state fair for patrons who want to learn more about the museum and memorial.

Charlie Peel reported that the State Fair BBQ Team cooked for Revolutionary Fire Tactics at the Lake in July. All of the food was donated by Taylors Tins and the team prepared everything for donations. \$1612 was raised and a check was presented to Keith Smith for the museum project.

Smith also reported that help is needed at the memorial for site clean-up before the October services. Contact him if you are interested in volunteering. Continued help at the site year-round is also needed and appreciated.

Discussion was held on holding an FFAM meeting at the memorial in 2024 so everyone can take a look at the progress of the museum project.

President Jennings adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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jeffcofireenginerally.com • Jeffco Fire Engine Rally on Facebook

OVERDUE DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION

By Eric Hartman, Mutual Aid Coordinator, Missouri Division of Fire Safety

The following Missouri fire departments are overdue with their fire department registration for 2023. All Missouri fire departments are required to register with the State Fire Marshal annually IAW RSMo. 320.271. For assistance in completing your registration, please contact Eric Hartman at 573-751-1601 or by email eric.hartman@dfs.dps.mo.gov.



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Anderson Fire Department
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Arbyrd Volunteer Fire Department
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Aurora Fire Department
Auxvasse Fire Department
Avilla Fire Protection District
Barnard Fire Protection District
Bell City Volunteer Fire Department
Berkeley Fire Department
Bevier Fire Protection District
Bismarck City Fire Department
Bismarck Fire Protection District
Bismarck Rural Fire Protection Association, Inc.
Blairstown Fire Department
Bois D'arc Fire Protection District
Bolckow Fire Protection District
Browning Volunteer Fire Department
Bucklin Volunteer Fire Department
Cabool Fire Department
Cainsville Fire Protection District
Caney Mountain Volunteer Fire Department
Caplinger Mills Volunteer Fire Department, Inc
Cartersville Fire Department
Center City And Rural Fire Department
Clarence Community Fire Association
Clarksville Volunteer Fire Department
Clarkton Fire Department
Claycomo Fire Department
Clever Fire Protection District
Columbia Fire Department
Competition Volunteer Fire Department
Conway Volunteer Fire Department
Crane City Fire Department
Dent County Fire Protection District
Doe Run Fire Protection District
Downing Community Fire Association
Dudley Volunteer Fire Department
Duke Rural Fire Department
East Lynne-Gunn City Fire Protection District
East Perry County Rural Fire Protection Assoc
East Prairie Fire Department
Edgar Springs Fire Protection District
Eldridge Fire Department
Elmer Rural Fire Association
Everton City Fire Department
Everton Rural Fire Department
Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department
Farber Volunteer Fire Department
Fillmore Fire Protection District
Foster Volunteer Fire Department
Fremont Fire Protection District
Gilman City Fire Protection District
Glasgow Fire Protection District
Goose Creek Lake Fire Department
Green City Fire Department
Green City Rural Fire Department, Inc.
Green Township Fire Protection Dist. #40666
Hamilton Fire Department
Houstonia Fire Department
Humansville Fire And Rescue
Hume Fire Department
Hurley Fire Protection District
Jameson Fire Protection District
Jerico Springs Fire Protection District
Joplin Fire Department
K.A.W. Fire Protection District
King City Fire Protection District
Koshkonong Volunteer Fire Department
Lake City Fire And Emergency Services

Lake Creek Fire Department
Lemons Rural Volunteer Fire Dept
Liberty Township Fire Protection District
Locksprings Fire Dept
Lockwood Fire Protection District
Louisburg Comm Fire Prot Assoc. Inc.
Louisiana Volunteer Fire Department
Mansfield Fire Department
Mc Fall Fire Department
Medicine Creek Fire Protection District
Mercer Fire Protection District
Metro North Fire Protection District
Middletown Community Fire Protection Dist
Milan Fire Department
Miller Rural Fire Protection District
Millersburg Fire Protection District
Miner Fire Department
Montrose Fire Dept
Mt Pleasant Fire Protection District
Myrtle Volunteer Fire Department
Naylor City Fire Department
New Cambria Volunteer Fire Department
New Hampton Fire District
Northeast Ambulance & Fire Protection Dist
Northern Reynolds County FPD
Northwest Holt County Fire Protection District
Novelty - Plevna Fire Department
Otterville Fire Protection District
Park Hills Fire Department
Parnell Fire Protection District
Pattonsburg Rescue And Fire Protection Dist
Pineville Rural Fire Department
Pleasant Valley Fire Department
Point Lookout Fire Department
Protem Fire Protection District
Quad County Fire Protection District
Regional West Fire Protection District
Richwoods Fire Protection District
Robertson Fire Protection District
Rock Community Fire Protection District
Roscoe Township Volunteer Fire Department
Rover Volunteer Fire Department
R-V Fire Protection District
Saline County Rural Fire Protection District
Schell City Rural Volunteer Fire Department
Senath Fire Department
Seymour Fire Department
Shoal Creek Fire Protection District
Southwest City Volunteer Fire Department Spickard
Fire Protection District
Stet Rural Fire Protection District
Stewartsville Fire Protection District
Stotts City Fire Department
Taberville Volunteer Fire Department
Tarkio Fire Department
Tarkio Rural Fire Protection District
Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Department
Timber Knob Volunteer Fire Department
Tri-C Volunteer Fire Department
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By Captain Cindy Gladden, Public Information Officer

It was not your typical rodeo. No riding or roping took place on Tuesday, August 8. Instead, nearly 50 teachers and staff members learned the “Stayin’ Alive” beat for CPR, practiced applying tourniquets to learn how to “Stop the Bleed,” and discussed medical emergencies that often occur in classrooms or on the playground.

The Marthasville Fire Protection District (MFPD) dedicates itself to providing the best service possible to the 168 square miles it serves. Made up of all volunteers, the MFPD not only spends a great deal of time training its members, but it also provides training at no cost to the school staff in its district.

Four schools are located inside the district, Marthasville Elementary School, All Encompassing Education, St. Ignatius of Loyola School, St. Vincent’s de Paul School, and Whitegate Montessori Land School.

As MFPD members were preparing free Stop the Bleed kits to hand out to the schools, they brainstormed about also offering training to handle bleeding emergencies. The concept evolved into a full-blown safety training offering CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed, Fire Extinguisher Usage, and Medical Emergencies. MFPD volunteer instructors headed up the training.

Amanda Schwoeppe, a teacher at St. Ignatius School said she was very grateful to the MFPD for hosting the event.

“Unfortunately, in today’s world, we as educators have to be prepared to handle any emergency situation that may arise while we are with our students,” she said. “This event allowed each of us an opportunity to

review what to do in a variety of situations. I pray I never have to use these skills, but it is reassuring to know that if I ever need it, I will know what to do.”

Chief Sean Johnson was pleased with the success of the training and the role the firefighters played in making sure teachers were comfortable offering aid to their students during a medical emergency.

“I’m just very proud of our members who gave up vacation time to give us time in the middle of the week,” said Chief Johnson. “I was impressed by the school staff who participated on their own time.”

The MFPD is comprised of 40 volunteers, including EMTs, paramedics, a flight nurse, mechanics, tow truck drivers, laborers, a dispatcher, and many others who hold full-time employment in several different occupations. Among their roster are five women and an additional six-member auxiliary.

Marthasville is located in rural southern Warren County near the Missouri River. There are three stations in its district. It has a long history of serving and educating its communities. It provides school resource officers to each school in the district. It offers car seat inspections and assistance. It is known for its excellent

barbeque team which helps raise money for its swift water rescue program. The department’s Santa sleigh visits each community and its haunted house is always a hit.

In addition to responding to motor vehicle accidents, and brush and structure fires, it assists the Marthasville Community Ambulance District, responding alongside during many of its calls. Johnson said the department has had a 25 percent increase in calls, nearing 300 per year.

The Safety Rodeo will take place again on August 6, 2024. We are grateful to our sponsors, SERVPRO of St. Charles City who provided lunch, SSM Health, our medical liaison, and our county EMA Director for his additional information.



NEW TRUCKS FOR COLE COUNTY FPD

The Cole County Fire Protection District has received a 2023 rescue truck manufactured by Danko Manufacturing of Snyder, Nebraska.

The truck consists of a Freightliner M2 106 chassis, 360HP Cummins engine, Allison automatic transmission, all-aluminum body, roll-up doors, LED compartment lighting, coffin compartments, SCBA cylinder storage, 4- 6000PSI bottle cascade system, Hurst Combi cutter/spreader rescue tool, on spot automatic tire chains, 2 electric cord reels, 8000-watt hydraulic generator, Command 6000 watt light tower, awning, color back up camera system, refrigerator, oil dry storage bin, air horns, Whelen LED lighting and warning system.

The rescue truck's primary response will be to all structure fires, mutual aid calls, and MVCs. The truck will be stationed at Station 4 on Monticello Road.

The Cole County Fire Protection has also taken delivery of two (2) HME Ahrens-Fox rescue pumpers from Danko Emergency Equipment Company.

The rescue pumpers are equipped with Cummins 450 horsepower engine, Allison transmissions, Waterous 1250 GPM pumps, 1000 gallon water tanks, six-person cabs, roll-up doors, front bumper 100-foot jump line, booster reel, ladders, battery operated hand tools, extrication tools, airbags, struts, coffin compartments, two (2) 200-foot cross lays, 3000 watt Aims power inverter, cab and compartment LED

Around the State



lighting and Whelen Pioneer scene and LED warning light system. The rescue pumpers will be stationed at Station 2 in Brazito and Station 4 on Monticello Road.

NEW STATION - JOHNSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DIST

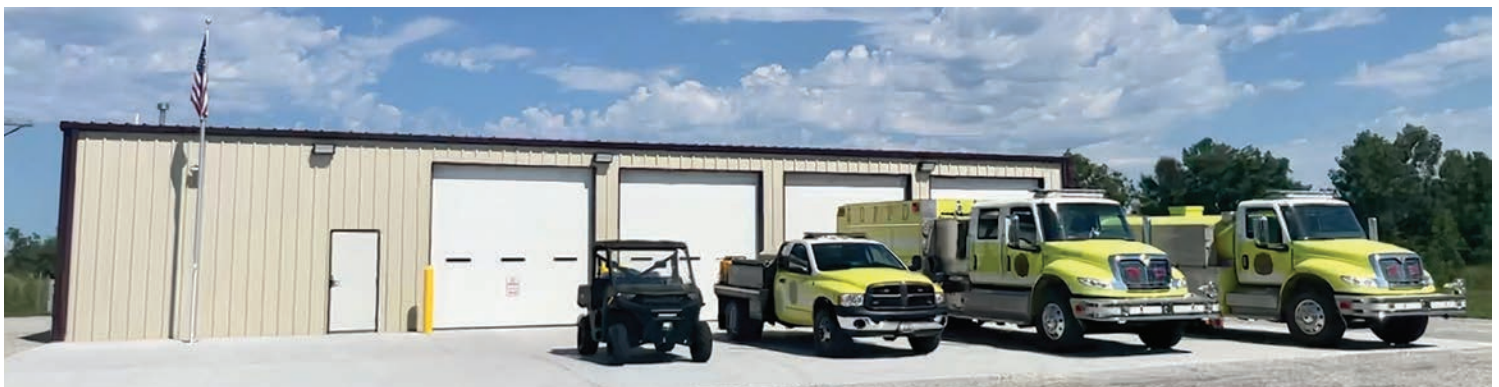
The Johnson County Fire Protection District recently opened and commenced operations from their newly constructed Station 4 building located at 85 NE D Highway near Knob Noster. The new station is 4,000 square feet and consists of four open apparatus bays, an office, a training room, a restroom with a shower, a mezzanine storage area, and firefighting gear cleaning equipment.

The former station, located approximately 2,500 feet to the west, was 1,600 square feet and consisted of three open apparatus bays and a restroom leading to cramped conditions and limitations on apparatus and additional equipment. The District will maintain the old building for equipment storage.

"We were very fortunate to be able to construct a new Station 4," said Fire Chief

Larry Jennings. "The new building allows ample space for apparatus, equipment, training, and decontamination of equipment. Replacing our station for the rural Knob Noster area has been a priority for many years and we are excited to have been able to complete this project."

With the additional space in the new Station 4, the District purchased and placed a new UTV in service in the facility to bolster responses to hard-to-access areas.



By Keith Smith

The annual memorial services on October 7th and 8th are ready to proceed. Reminder the *Candlelight Service* will start at 7:00 pm on October 7th and the Sunday morning *Memorial Service* at 10:30 am on October 8th. The Sunday morning service will be live-streamed. Even if the weather does not work in our favor, we will be holding both services either in the Museum (plan B) or Auxvasse Elementary School 5 miles north (plan C) if the weather looks to be severe.

We are honoring eight Line of Duty names plus 150 others who passed during 2022 and may that we missed from 2021 and 2020. Due to the much larger group of names than usual, the Foundation will be deferring all of the 2023 names to the 2024 services. If you have any questions about the October services, please contact me at keith.smith1974@yahoo.com or 314-709-0760.

We are pleased to announce that a brick engraving recovery technology may now allow for the revitalization of faded bricks to nearly new condition. Several of you have expressed concern regarding the fading look on several engraved bricks. As a Foundation we had arrived at serious discussions for re-engraving of existing brick vs. actual replacement. We will be monitoring how well this recovery process works in the short and long term. Note: we were only able to complete half of the bricks requiring attention this year and focused on what we saw as the most deserving at this time. The balance will be completed in 2024 providing the recovery process sustains the expected improvements.

By the time you are reading this article, the museum building will have all utilities fully functional, and the restrooms fully completed. We are committed to completing the interior in phased construction if necessary, depending on fundraising. We now have a utility functional building that awaits the next steps. Special thank you to WSKF Architects in North Kansas City, Missouri which partnered with the Foundation on this project 2-years ago and most recently PCE (Professional Contractors & Engineers) out of Columbia for managing this important next phase in completing the interior.

The Foundation is pleased to announce Janet Cain and Tracy Gray as new board



Janet Cain

members. Janet Cain also serves as the FFAM Assistant Director for District No. 1 (North-Central MO), a position she has held for the past 15 years. Janet calls Braymer, MO home, has been in the fire service since 1999, and is a member of the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District. Janet just retired from a 30-year nursing career in June and starting a 2nd career as a Para-Professional with the Hamilton, MO School District. Janet has assisted with the annual memorial services for the past 15 years and brings that experience to the board.

Tracy Gray started his fire service career as a volunteer with the Fulton Fire Department in 1990, was hired full time in 1993, and then Columbia in 2002 retiring as a Captain in 2022.



Tracy Gray

Tracy also started working part-time with MU FRTI in 2002 and is now full-time as their Special Programs Coordinator.

Tracy was active with the Columbia Fire Department Honor Guard for 15 years and accepted Honor Guard Commander responsibilities for our annual service for the past 5 years. Tracy brings a unique talent to the Foundation as he serves as the Plans Chief for the annual NFFF services, a position he has held for the past 9 years.

Thank you for your time and the continued support of your memorial and future museum.

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LLOYD M. RUEDIGER

October 26, 1938 — June 26, 2023

Lloyd M. Ruediger, 84, of Berger, MO, passed away Monday, June 26, 2023 at his home.

Lloyd was born in Berger, Missouri on October 26, 1938, the son of the late LeRoy Sr. & Edna Minnie (Willimann) Ruediger.

He was united in marriage to Myra Lea Groner on April 11, 1964, at St. Paul's Church, Berger, Missouri. Myra preceded him in death on December 16, 2020.



Lloyd proudly served his country in the United States Army. He was a member of St. Paul's Church, Berger, and a very dedicated member of the Berger/New Haven Fire Department. He worked as a truck driver for Kellwood Manufacturing most of his career.

Lloyd is survived by two sons, Greg Ruediger & wife Michelle, of Hermann, Missouri; and Rick Ruediger & wife Pam, of New Haven, Missouri; a daughter, Lisa Schaeffer & husband Chris, of Hermann, Missouri; a sister, Doris Vedder & husband Eugene, of New Haven, Missouri; a brother, Rudy Ruediger & wife Ramona, of New Haven, Missouri; a sister-in-law, Lois Jean Kappelmann & husband Arvil, of Washington, Missouri; a brother-in-law, H. Wayne Groner & wife Cindy, of Berger, Missouri; four grandchildren, Brady Ruediger & wife Christin, of Hermann, Missouri; Austin Ruediger & wife Chelsea, of Hermann, Missouri; Kyle Ruediger & wife Amanda, of New Haven, Missouri and Kate Ruediger, of New Haven, Missouri, and by eight great grandchildren, Myra, Kylee, Baylee, Skylar, Reid, Mack, Curtis and Colson. He is preceded in death by his parents, LeRoy & Edna Ruediger, his wife, Myra Lea Ruediger, and a brother, LeRoy Ruediger, Jr.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

SAVE THE DATE

Firefighter Memorial in Kingdom City

October 7 • Candlelight Services at 7:00 p.m.

October 8 • Memorial Services at 10:30 a.m.



Director's Comments



Harry Ward
Director

Summer has come and gone I can't believe how fast it went. Our summer had a little of everything from extreme hot and thunderstorms that dumped rain in several areas in the state. At least I got lots of rain at my house.

I was privileged to provide some training at the Missouri State Fair Volunteer Fire Department (MSFVFD). I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to staff the MSFVFD. These men and women make up a one-of-a-kind fire department to provide fire and EMS service for the fairgoers.

During that time, I had the opportunity to visit on *Legislative Day* and got to meet a few of our state and federal elected officials. Tracy Gray and I also ran into MU President Mun Choi at the fair and had a great conversation about the training we provide. He was pleased when we told him that two lives were saved from a grain bin in Kirksville, MO. Many of those responders had taken rope courses and the *Basic Grain Bin Engulfment* course from MU FRTI. That to me shows that MU FRTI is as relevant to the Missouri Fire Service today as it was 91 years ago.

MU FRTI participated in a preconference *Innovation in Safety Roundtable* at the International Association of Fire Chiefs conference Fire Rescue International (FRI). This event was sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Mike Novak, Fred Caserta our developer, and I talked about our virtual reality system and how it can help fire officers to make better decisions on the fireground. We fielded many comments and inquiries about our system. MU FRTI also had a booth at the FRI expo. We had a lot of interaction with firefighters from across the country, with interest in not only the VR system but also our *Fire Service Leadership Enhancement Program* and our *Fire Officer Certificate Program*. It was a great week.

Mark your calendars for our *Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference* on November 3-5 at Camden on the Lake. We will have a great lineup of classes and train-the-trainers. One of this year's train-the-trainers will be Chris Greene, Captain (RET) teaching *The Lithium-Ion Revolution*; and Woody Sullivan, *VFIS Emergency Responder Safety* and the *VFIS Traffic Incident Management*. Friday's pre-conference will also include *Fire Service Instructor I and II* blended programs. We'll also have an update from the Missouri Division of Fire Safety with an instructor, evaluator and SME Seminar. Our three keynote speakers are Chris Greene, Forest Reader C, and Dr. Denis Onical Deputy, retired US Fire Administrator. There's a lot of good information at this conference, so make sure you get enrolled early!

Pipeline Association of Missouri Partner Classes

Pipeline Awareness & Education Program: HSEEP Program

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
10/16	Hermann	10/26	Hannibal	11/09	Sunrise Beach
10/17	Washington	10/30	Canton	11/13	Harrisonville
10/18	Cuba	11/01	Macon	11/14	Kansas City
10/19	St. Robert	11/02	Trenton	11/15	St. Joseph
10/23	Jefferson City	11/06	Cameron	11/16	Maryville
10/24	Boonville	11/07	Carrollton		
10/25	Mexico	11/08	Warrensburg		

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DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE
10/18	Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders	Kansas City	Ralph Nell	(816) 741-2900
10/21	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Bloomfield	Daniel Dew	(573) 568-3576
10/20	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Edina	Brian Banks	(660) 216-3672
10/21	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Eagleville	Phillip Hanks	(660) 867-3340
10/28	Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders	Eagleville	Phillip Hanks	(660) 867-3340
12/16	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Eureka	Greg Brown	(636) 938-5505

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