

Volume 66 Issue 6

November - December 2023

# FFAM





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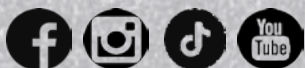
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## Fire Fighters Association of Missouri



### ABOUT THE COVER

Fire engine inside the FFAM museum in Kingdom City, Missouri.  
Image by Gail Hagans

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# President's Remarks

Year Coming to a Close



Larry Jennings

**G**reetings to each of you! What a year this has been. The weather in some parts of the state has been overly hot and dry and other areas have seen rain and milder overall temperatures.

Who says Missouri doesn't offer a little bit of everything? Hopefully, you have had success throughout the year and are making plans to spend extra time with friends and family to close out the year.

As we close out the year take an opportunity to reflect on what has taken place around your agency or perhaps in your region. Each year the FFAM makes various award presentations to recognize deserving members of our Missouri fire service family who have "shined" at some point during the year. All you have to do is jump on the FFAM website at [ffam.org/committees/awards/](http://ffam.org/committees/awards/) and you will find the description of each available recognition and a nomination form. These are all due by February 28th, so don't put it off any longer. Let's make sure those deserving of recognition are highlighted at our next convention and annual meeting.

While we are talking about deadlines, I should mention the fact that there are scholarship funds available. Take the same path to the website at [ffam.org/committees/scholarship/](http://ffam.org/committees/scholarship/) and all the information you need will be there. Remember those applications are due by February 28th also.

The Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri did another outstanding job on October 7 and 8 recognizing Missouri fire service members who have passed away. Eight line-of-duty-deaths were recognized along with non-line-of-duty-deaths from 2022, 2021 and 2020. This was a large group of personnel to be honored and remembered and the event was well attended by family, friends, and supporters. This annual event is now planned for the first weekend in October moving forward. If you have never attended, put this on your 2024 calendar and plan to join us for a moving weekend in Kingdom City.

Thanks to the foundation for all the hard work to put this event together year after year.

MU FRTI Winter Fire School will be here before you can believe it, so start watching for class and enrollment information to come shortly. The MU FRTI staff works tirelessly to put together a quality fire service training opportunity and has done so longer than a good deal of us have been on this earth. They continue to try to add new classes to keep the experience fresh while still remembering the "basics" are still the foundation of what we do. If you have never been, watch for the announcements and make the time to attend in early February. If you are a seasoned attendee, make plans to return and gain more knowledge and visit with your peers from across the state.

Don't forget it is also about time to make sure your agency (big or small, career or volunteer) is registered with the Division of Fire Safety. This is a statutory requirement under RSMo 320.271 and applies to every fire agency in the state. The number of registered agencies grows some each year, but there is no reason we can't reach 100% on this simple task. Go to <https://apps1.mo.gov/fsreg/fdRegistration.aspx> and start

your registration. The process is not difficult and registration is often a requirement for certain areas of funding opportunities through the state.

So get this done for 2024 and don't miss out on potential opportunities coupled with this registration.

Each year I also caution each of us to pay attention to those around us as we enter what is often referred to as the "holiday" season. The "holidays" are not always kind to everyone and this time of year often sees a spike in depression and isolation for many in the emergency services professions. Although we should keep an eye on each other all year, the coming months are sometimes more challenging and require an extra level of vigilance. There are many resources available on the local, state, and national level so if you or someone you know needs some extra assistance dealing with life's various challenges please reach out and secure what is needed.

Let's all work together to make sure we each make it into the next year and the years beyond. If the Board or I can be of service please contact us as we continue to serve you, our members all across this state. Be Safe!

2023 Memorial Services in Kingdom City, Missouri.



# Fire Marshal's Update

I've never done this in the six and half years as your state fire marshal. I want to talk about my parents. On September 15th my sweet Mother turned 89, and Wednesday, October 25th my Daddy turned 90. Together, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on October 24th. From their union, they brought five children, three boys and two girls. I want to share my mom and dad's love story, hope you enjoy it.

Juanita and Joe had fallen in love a few months prior from this day (October 24) 70 years ago. Juanita had been living and working in Bakersfield, Missouri at the time. She attended Bakersfield First Assembly of God which was in an extended revival with Evg. Darrell Friend. Joe happened to give his heart to the Lord at the end of the revival. He had his eye on Juanita, but she would not respond to him because he was not a Christian (yet), after he surrendered his heart to the Lord, the love sparks started flying.

Joe was stationed in Fort Leonard Wood (FLW) and would return home as much as he could. After their brief acquaintance, they decided to get married. Juanita had no reservations because the Lord had spoken to her that Joe was the "one". They

decided October 24, 1953, would be their wedding date. Just a reminder that these were pre-cellphone days! The day arrived and Juanita was busy about the day getting things ready for the wedding. Joe on the other hand was still waiting on clearance to get the weekend home. He finally got clearance. He started hitchhiking home (that's another story in itself). The wedding was scheduled for 7 p.m. He arrived around 6 p.m., in uniform. Juanita was relieved upon his arrival.

They had a beautiful wedding that Friday evening. The church was packed. Joe had to return to FLW on Sunday, promising to be back to get his bride after he secured an apartment. They lived near the base for about a month until Joe got his orders for deployment to Germany to leave on January 1. He was in Germany from January 1954 until May 1956. Joe and Juanita remained faithful to each other and God all that time! Upon Joe's arrival home, Memorial weekend 1956, Juanita had purchased and furnished a house as their first house together. Since then, God has blessed them with five children and spouses, twelve grandchildren and spouses, twenty-five great-grandchildren, and several grands and great-grands already waiting on the other side.

My Dad was a volunteer firefighter while I was growing up. I watched him over my young life respond at all times of the day and night. It was always awesome as a family when we were going somewhere, and a call would come in and we got to respond to the call. I observed all of the actions and how everyone pulled together to mitigate the emergency. I had the opportunity and privilege to serve for a time with Dad on West Plains Fire and Howell County Rural Fire Protection District. Dad retired after serving over 25 years in the Missouri Fire Service. He followed that up with getting elected onto the Howell County Rural Fire Board and still serves as board chair to this day.

Dad and Mom thank you for setting the bar high for us kids to love and care for each other and mankind! Setting a consistent example, but most importantly living a Godly Christian life, serving your country, our family, and the community! My wish, when I grow up, is to be just like you!



Tim Bean



We are coming to the close of Fire Prevention Month. "Thank you" to every department that has participated. As a former mayor of mine would always say "A good day is when you never leave the station" This year's theme draws attention to kitchen fire safety. We are moving into the holiday cooking season. Kitchen fires are one of the leading causes of residential fires. Help educate your community, use social media, local radio, and TV to help carry our message "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention.™"

I want to express how appreciative and proud I am of our Missouri Memorial Foundation Board for putting together a professional 2023 annual Saturday Candlelight Service, and following it up with a well-attended Sunday Memorial Service recognizing our eight line-of-duty-deaths, along with our non-line-of-duty-deaths. We are fortunate to have an incredible site to honor those who served our Missouri Fire Service. Thank you to everyone who made this weekend a success.

Finally, I say farewell to a fire service legend, commandant, friend, and an all-around good man. Thank you Fire Chief Albert William "Bill" Westhoff, Jr. for your many years dedicated to learning, then taking that knowledge and sharing it all across our state, and nation. I want to thank your wife Elaine and your six children for sharing you with us over four decades. I will miss seeing you and reading your articles in this magazine. Who will fill your shoes?

We will be filling our fire mutual aid coordinator position soon, Matt Luetkemeyer is filling the role until we get a replacement. Please call or email ([tim.bean@dfs.dps.mo.gov](mailto:tim.bean@dfs.dps.mo.gov)) if you have any issues (573-751-1742).

Happy holidays, thanks for serving our Missouri Fire Service! Stay safe!



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, October 1, 2023, at the Missouri State Fair 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 (V), Southern FPD of Holt County.

### DIRECTORS

District 2, Vernon Cash (V), Shelbina FPD; District 3, Rob Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; District 6, Gary Berendzen, Cole County FPD; District 9, Kurt Wilbanks (V), West Plains FD; District 10, Greg Brown (V), Eureka FPD; District 11, Billy Smith, North Central Carroll Co FPD; District 12, Rob Francis (V), Fruitland FPD.

### ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

District 1, Janet Cain, Shoal Creek FPD; District 3, Josh Loyd, Martinsburg Area FPD; District 3, Dale Ransdell, Madison West Monroe FPD; District 4, Jonathan Evans (V), Lincoln FD; District 7, Andrew Caldwell (V), Boles FPD; District 10, Harriett Vaucher (V), Eureka FPD; District 11, Kris White, Mayview FPD.

### GUESTS

Gail Hagans, Harry Ward, David Hedrick (V), University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI); Ed Daugherty, Chillicothe FD; Roger Meyers, Concordia FPD; Larry Jones, Madison West Monroe FPD; James Jones, Calhoun Vol FD; Kevin Oliver, Civil Air Patrol.

\*(V) denotes Virtual Attendance

### AGENDA

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

### MINUTES

President Jennings asked for additions or corrections to the August 6, 2023, meeting minutes. Billy Smith moved to accept the minutes as presented. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

President Jennings asked for a review of the July-August 2023 financial report. Gary Berendzen moved to accept the financial report presented. Grant Oetting seconded the motion and all approved.

### REPORT OF OFFICERS AND SPECIAL GUEST(S)

Harry Ward with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute reported that they were awarded the contract through the Division of Fire Safety for continuing education classes. The *Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference* is November 3-5. There is a new class on lithium batteries. Dr. Dennis O'Neal will be there for a presentation.

They are working on the next cycle through the legislation for a funding source with the goal of hiring more employees.

The United Arab Emirates has reached out to request assistance with training. They are working with them on the process.

The \$50k MFA grant application period begins October 1. Applications are being accepted through October.

Larry Jennings reported on behalf of the Division of Fire Safety that the Women in the Fire Service annual symposium will be held on October 26 in Jefferson City.

He also reported that Eric Hartman has left the Mutual Aid Coordinator position with DFS to return to the private sector.

### CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Jennings reported that Emily Sweet has resigned as the District 14 Assistant Director.

Rick Dozier is recommending that Kyler Oliver be appointed to fill the open position. Billy Smith moved to appoint Kyler Oliver to District 14 Assistant Director. Charlie Peel seconded the motion and all approved.

President Jennings reported on the MACAP arson reward fund. From January 2006 through August 2023 funding has come from PFFIA, Fairplain Insurance Group, International Association of Arson Investigators, FFAM, and the KC Arson Task Force. The fund is now getting low, and they are requesting funding again from FFAM. Discussion followed. Jaime Miller moved to donate \$500 to the MACAP arson reward fund. Kurt Wilbanks seconded the motion and all approved.

Lieutenant Kevin Oliver with the Civil Air Patrol advised that they used the Missouri State Fair Fire Department for a training exercise September 8-10. He presented the FFAM with a certificate of appreciation for the use of our facility. He then provided a brief history of the Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force Auxiliary. They provide inland search and rescue assistance.

During the training weekend in September, they did air and ground training, a missing person search, and bridge inspection training. They have 1,000 members state-wide in 24 squadrons. If interested, more information can be found at cap.gov.

Discussion was held on the February meeting as it conflicts with MU FRTI's *Winter Fire School*.

Charlie Peel moved to move the meeting to February 11. Gary Berendzen seconded the motion and all approved.

Discussion was held on what 2024 meeting will be held in Kingdom City. The discussion was tabled until the December meeting.

President Jennings advised that beginning in February 2024, a report will be given either by the Director or Assistant Director from each district. The priority is membership, but we would like to hear updates on contacts made and events in each district.



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### AWARDS COMMITTEE

No report was given.

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Charlie Peel advised several committees did not get their 2024 budget requests in by September 5. Final requests will be accepted no later than October 6.

### BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report was given.

### CHAPLAIN COMMITTEE

David Hedrick reported that the MFCC held its annual meeting and training session in September in Springfield. Six new Chaplains completed the basic Chaplains program. Officers that were re-elected were: Vice-President Farrel, Southwest Rep. Anderson, and North Rep. Fairlie. The MFCC will be conducting a Winter Training Session on Theodicy and Trauma, January 31 – February 1, 2024, at Campus Lutheran Church in Columbia, MO. Annual dues will be payable by the end of the year. The next Chaplains' newsletter should be out shortly.

### CONTEST COMMITTEE

No report was given.

### CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Josh Loyd reported that Lake Ozark FPD is working with Camden on the Lake with a possible date in May. He has received a verbal commitment from the Southern Stone Chiefs Association for 2025.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Gail Hagans reported that the LP conference was pushed back to March or April 2024. More information will be out soon. MOPERC is funding the training.

### FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Andrew Caldwell reported that Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14. The theme is *Cooking Safety Starts with You*. Pay attention to fire prevention. This will also be the theme for the poster contest.

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Greg Brown reported that the new legislative session will begin in January. The Missouri Fire Service Alliance has an October 30 deadline for their agenda of things they are working on for the next session.

Some issues include the personal property tax and senior citizen property tax freeze. He encouraged everyone to get to know their local legislators.

He reminded departments to request training so the money allocated for the fire service training is used and will continue to be allocated each year.

The Firefighter Critical Illness Pool just held their first meeting. There are 83 agencies in the pool and 2,000+ firefighters covered. 15 claims have already been submitted.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grant Oetting reported the following membership counts: 500 Directors/ Councilman; 437 Retired; 22 Associate; 12 Sustaining; 22 Corporate, 352 Fire Departments; 6601 Active; 1 Educational Entity; 5 Educational Active; 129 Juniors; 4 EMS Department, 160 EMS individuals; 0 911 Entity; 0 911 individuals.

Oetting also reported he will be attending the MO Chiefs Conference in Branson, MO, in February. If anyone has a conference they would like FFAM to attend, contact him.

### NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Ken Hoover reported that Director positions up for election in 2024 will be in Districts 4, 5, 9, and 10. If you are interested in running for a position, contact him.

### NVFC COMMITTEE

Rob Erdel reported that he and Keith Smith attended the fall meeting in New York. NVFC has met its milestone of 30k members. They are also looking for success stories for anyone who received a SAFER or AFG grant so they can continue to make the push for the need for this grant funding. A full report will be in the next magazine.

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Ed Daugherty reported that the scholarship deadline is February 28. Please follow the directions and include required paperwork.

### STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

Larry Jennings reported on behalf of the State Fair Committee. The fair went well. There were two insurance claims filed for damaged equipment. 60 departments were represented, and 44 new members attended.

*Continued on page 54.*

# HANDTUBS AND HAND PUMPED FIRE ENGINES

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

Between the time of the bucket brigades in early colonial America and the coming of the “Era of Steam” fire engines along with the beginnings of full-time fire departments, the volunteer fire service originated and flourished. These were colorful times of brawn and bravery of the American fire service and brought about the traditions of community service and service to others before self. During the fledgling days of the volunteers and before the coming of the steamer (steam fire engine), an important historical question arises. What did these early volunteer firemen use to successfully fight fire?

The development and use of the hand-powered (manual) fire engine, or “Enjine” would institute the rise of the volunteer firemen. This new engine would provide for a more aggressive approach to fires and require the first establishment of trained fire companies. According to History Professor Lampe, this period “was the romantic age of the volunteer fireman and his elaborate hand ‘masheens.’”<sup>1</sup> These new “enjines” or “masheens” and the newly formed volunteer fire companies to staff them would create a burgeoning political force in the early days of the newborn republic that would become the United States.

In previous articles in this series, both “The Fire Bucket” and “The Age of Steam Fire Engines” have been covered. In the discussion of steamers, the author examined the political and manpower issues, along with the societal fire challenges that promoted the development of the steam fire engine, along with the beginnings of the career fire service. However, the predecessor the hand-engine, and the early days of the volunteers, played an important role. In reality, the time of the hand-pump engine would last from bucket brigades to well into the age of the steam fire engines.

This article will delve into the early days of the volunteer fireman and the new fire fighting “Enjine” which will be the prominent method of fire suppression for over 150 years, an important part of the development of the American Fire Service.

## ENGINE OR ENJINE DEFINED

In the 1980 NFPA book *Fire Terms*, the word “engine” is defined as “a fire department pumper or pumping mechanical

appliance.”<sup>2</sup> The rest of the definition is more pertinent to a modern fire apparatus. A “pump” is defined as “a machine that changes the energy level of a liquid and forces it into, through, or out of something, as by suction or pressure.”<sup>3</sup> Though the definition of the term pump might be a closer fit for a hand pump fire engine, the firemen of Colonial times would adamantly call the apparatus an engine or “enjine.”

The Encyclopedia Britannica provides a brief historical perspective in their overall article on the term “fire engine.” They relate that:

Early fire engines were hand pumps equipped with reservoirs and were moved to the scene of a fire by human or animal power. For large fires, the reservoir was kept filled by a bucket brigade, but that method was inefficient, and the short range of the stream of water necessitated positioning the apparatus dangerously close to the fire.<sup>4</sup>

Early pumps for firefighting were similar to “force pumps” used by the Romans.<sup>5</sup> Force Pumps are positive displacement pumps that can pump or force both air and water with each stroke of the pump cylinder. This would be important to the fire service as these pumps are self-priming.

The following is a general description of the way the early force pump worked. The pump is composed of two cylinders working in tandem with internal pistons that alternate direction (up and down) when the pump levers or arms attached to the pistons are actuated. The raised piston draws in water through a system of one-way valves that direct water flow (pressure) in one direction, while the alternate piston moves down and forces out water into a discharge pipe connecting the cylinders. With each stroke, one cylinder is forcing out water creating a constant jettison of fluid. Newsham added to his engine an air vessel “of copper of a spheroidal form” on the discharge that helped equalize the water flow making a continuous stream.<sup>6</sup>

The *Fire Terms* book does include as part of the fire service lexicon the term “hand tub” (but dropped it from later editions). It is defined as “a hand-operated pumping engine used by firefighters before the advent of steam and gasoline-driven pumping engines.”<sup>7</sup> The term “hand tub” actually



Painting of firemen responding with a hand engine. Artist James F. Queen, ca. 1857. Courtesy Library of Congress. Assumed to be in the public domain.

better describes the early days of the development of hand pump fire engines, where the cistern or tub was filled by using buckets before the use of the draft or “draught” hose. Today, a variety of terms are used to describe the type of apparatus used to extinguish fires in Colonial times and the early days of the United States. From hand tubs to hand pumpers, hand-powered engines, or “enjines”, they all describe the apparatus used from the late 1600s to the days of steam-powered fire engines in the mid-1800s. A time period coinciding with the rise of the volunteer fire company.

## INTERPRETING AMERICAN COLONIAL TERMS AND SPELLING

A word about the Colonial period regarding spelling and pronunciation. In some of the information presented in this article, the reader will find a varied spelling of some common words in Colonial writings. As an example, the word engine is sometimes spelled “Engine” or “Enjine” in Colonial text. Also, some liked to refer to their fire engine machine as their “masheen” or “musheen” depending on the dialect. According to historian Ellen Holmes Pearson, “Although colonial Americans did not spell consistently, we should not assume that they were careless writers.”<sup>8</sup> She related that due to the mixture of languages and cultures in Colonial America, spelling rules were inconsistent. Even Noah Webster the developer of the famed *American Dictionary of the English Language*, at one point suggested machine be spelled the way it sounds as in “masheen.”<sup>9</sup>



Along this line is the term “fireman.” Fireman was first used around the fourteenth century to describe “a tender of fire”, while in the 1650’s the term described a “furnace-tender’ of a early steam engine.”<sup>10</sup> A steam engine fireman was also called a “stoker.” In 1714 the term “fireman” took on yet another meaning to describe a “person hired to put out (rather than tend) fires.”<sup>11</sup> When quoting or referring to the old original text in this historical series, the original term “fireman” is used in a historical context instead of the current accepted generic term of “firefighter.”

It should be explained that early colonial American towns/cities did not have a community-wide fire department. Fire protection was provided by individual groups organized into firefighting units. First formed as a Fire Society and later to be called a Fire Company, such as an Engine Company or Hose Company. Though they would come together to fight a fire, they were managed as separate organizations, sometimes loosely structured under a community fire warden or the city officials. To confuse things the manufacturer of hand engines might be doing business as a commercial “company.”

For those who seek to do further research on the early American Fire Service, one will find several varied spellings and interesting

terminology. While other original terms are now obsolete or “obsoletum terminum” today. Either way, this old terminology and pronunciation were characteristic of this unique cultural period and the fire equipment they used.

### THE TRANSITION FROM BUCKET BRIGADE TO ENGINE COMPANY

Initially, the only available firefighting method to the early American Colonists was the fire bucket being used as part of a bucket brigade that consisted of two lines of people stretching from the town well or water source to the fire. They passed buckets of water to the fire, where the water was thrown from the bucket onto the flames. The empty buckets were passed back by an adjacent line of people to the well to be refilled. This means of fighting fire was rudimentary at best. Historian Young, in his 1866 book *Fires, Fire Engines, and Fire Brigades*, describes this method as “the barbarous and rude plan of throwing the water in bulk from a bucket.”<sup>12</sup>

Though the bucket brigade method of fighting fire was not very efficient, it was the only means of active firefighting available to the early American colonists. However, old inventions were being revisited in Europe and England that would dramatically change firefighting. This new device would be the handtub or hand engine. Curtis Peters,

Unique style of Hand Engine made by Fire Extinguisher CO. of St. Louis. Courtesy Jefferson City (MO) Fire Museum. Photo by Steve Holtmeier.



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Board Chair of the Vintage Fire Museum, related that “the hand engine had amazing power and reach compared to throwing water with a bucket. Historically the development of the hand engine was a huge leap forward in firefighting technology.”<sup>13</sup> Finally people felt there was a way to control fire through aggressive extinguishment thus protecting lives and property.<sup>14</sup>

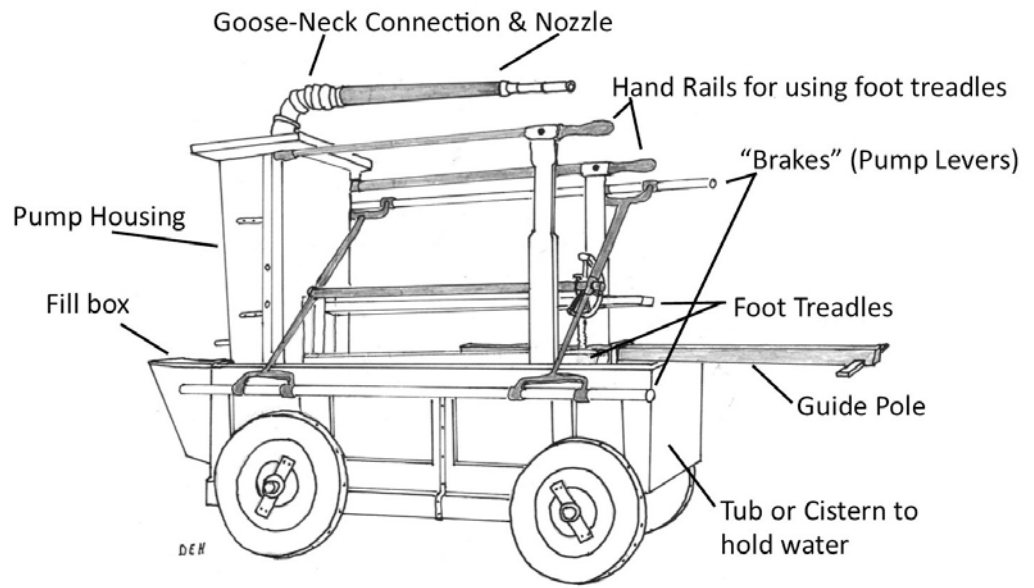
The Newsham hand engine from London, England would be the first engine to arrive in the Colonies around 1678. By the late 1700’s the American Colonies would see the beginning upstart of the American hand engine manufacturing business, and the spread of hand engines throughout the colonies. This would spawn the rise of Volunteer Engine Companies.

### EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE HAND FIRE ENGINE

Some early references indicate Heron, an ancient Greek mathematician, and inventor, was responsible for inventing a fire pumping engine.<sup>15</sup> Heron, also called Hero or Heron of Alexandria, ostensibly taught at the Museum of Alexandria. Working around 62 AD, he may have built upon the works of earlier inventor’s notes that he came across.<sup>16</sup>

After these early developments in the ancient world, it appears that these inventions were almost forgotten. According to Ewbank, in his book *A Descriptive and Historical Account of Hydraulic and Other Machines for Raising Water*, “Fire-engines were nearly or altogether forgotten in the middle ages: portable syringes seem to have been the only contrivances, except for buckets for throwing water on fires.”<sup>17</sup> In Europe in the 1500s hand pumped fire engines began to make a resurgence possibly first being used in Germany.<sup>18</sup>

The next improvement in hand-pump fire engines came about around 1670 in Amsterdam by Jan van der Heyden and his family. Jan Jansz van der Heyden (1637-1712) was a gifted artist and painter from Amsterdam. As a famous artist he also became an inventor-engineer, developing a new type of fire engine consisting of a “portable water pump with flexible hose.”<sup>19</sup> These inventions were patented by the States of Holland in 1671.<sup>20</sup> The reader may remember Van Der Hayden from a previous article in this series “The Development of Fire Hose, A Part of Fire Service History”<sup>21</sup> where he was mentioned for his groundbreaking book on fire tactics called *Brandspuitenboek* (or Fire Engine Book) with



**Newsham Early Hand-Engine**

the full translated title being: *A Description of Fire Engines with Water Hoses and the Method of Fighting Fires now used in Amsterdam.*<sup>22</sup>

Unfortunately, due to the Anglo-Dutch war, Heyden’s engine and new tactics were not well received in England.<sup>23</sup> This was probably why the development of the hand pump engine in England and the American Colonies would not come about until the 1700s through the efforts of Richard Newsham an Englishman.

### THE NEWSHAM FIRE ENGINE

On December 26, 1721, London inventor Richard Newsham patented his Newsham-type hand-powered fire engine that would establish the base prototype for hand engines in England and the American colonies for many years.<sup>24</sup> Richard Newsham was originally a pearl button maker in London, before patenting his new fire engine in 1721. He died in 1743 and his son Lawrence took over the business. Lawrence unfortunately died a year later (1744), and his wife and cousin George Ragg continued the business as Newsham & Ragg Engine Makers.<sup>25</sup> The Newsham Engine developed a worldwide market and provided engines for 100 years.<sup>26</sup>

Newsham’s new type of “Engine” was a direct force pump type machine that was housed in a tub-like wooden box, approximately three feet by eighteen inches.<sup>27</sup> The water “tub” could be lined with copper sheathing.<sup>28</sup> It could be equipped with wooden wheels or carrying handles for maneuverability. The pump action was provided by two hand levers, one on each side of the engine, and the pump consisted

of “a pair of single-acting pump cylinders which were 4 ½ inches diameter and 8 ½ inches stroke.”<sup>29</sup> With a “stroke rate of 60 times a minute” on the hand-powered levers (brakes) “the pump output was 30 gallons” per minute.<sup>30</sup> Though not comparable to fire flows today, this was an impressive flow rate for its time. The pump levers or brakes could be worked by two to ten men at a time.<sup>31</sup> Though five men to a side would have been crowded on the pump levers of this early small fire engine.

The Newsham Engines were equipped with wheels, most commonly solid wood wheels, 17 inches in diameter, 2 ¾ inches thick, and bound with heavy iron hoops for tires. The axles for the wheels were made of iron and permanently attached to the bottom. In other words, the front axle did not swivel. Therefore to turn a corner it was necessary to stop, lift the front of the machine, walk the machine around on the rear wheels, and then set it back down pointed in the new direction.<sup>32</sup> Future engines would have modified axles and crane-neck frames and an added “fifth-wheel” to allow large wheels and front axels that could turn or pivot. During its time, the Newsham Company would manufacture six sizes of engines.<sup>33</sup>

Early engines did not utilize a draft or hard suction hose for intake, and water to the engine was provided by a bucket brigade that kept the “tub” filled with water. The pump action drew water into the pump from the tub and was discharged through a top-mounted “goose-neck” discharge with a nozzle. An advantage of the Newsham engine, besides its maneuverability, was that it could pump



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“continuous streams with great force.”<sup>34</sup> Various pumps used in England up until that time “were able to send water out only in spurts.”<sup>35</sup> To keep the pump from being damaged by debris in dirty water scooped up by the fire buckets, the water went through a strainer of perforated copper sheet before entering the pump intake.<sup>36</sup>

With this new type of engine that could be maneuvered through doorways, the engine was placed and worked as close to the fire as possible to have the greatest effect. Perhaps the rudimentary concept of interior attack before the use of fire hose. It should be remembered that linen and later leather fire hose was not being used in England or the Colonies in the 1700’s. The use of hard suction hose for direct draft water supply would not be used in the American Colonies until the late 1700s. The use of linen or leather fire hoses for supply and attack lines was not significantly utilized because of durability and pressure issues. In 1807, James Sellars and Abraham Pennock, of the Philadelphia Hose Co. No. 1, developed a method of fastening the seams of leather fire hoses with metal rivets instead of sewing the leather together.<sup>37</sup> This produced a durable fire hose that could withstand pump pressures, and soon was adopted throughout America. This dramatically changed American fire tactics. For more information on the development of fire hoses, see the *FFAM Magazine* article in this series, *The Development of Fire Hose* by author David E. Hedrick.

As will be seen in the next section, Newsham Engines would be the first successful hand-pump fire engines to be imported to the American Colonies in Boston in 1678. They would set the standard and be much copied by American inventors.

### **EARLY COLONIAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRE ENGINE**

According to Paul Lyons, in his book *Fire in America*, one of the first records related to an American Colony’s built water pump engine was in a town record of Boston in 1653-54 stating “the select have power and liberty to agree with Joseph Jynks for Injins to convey water in case of fire.”<sup>38</sup> Lyons relates that there is conjecture that the “Injins” were never made. Paul Hashagen, in his article *Firefighting In Colonial America*, related that Jynks, a Boston ironmaker, did produce a firefighting device, but it was “probably a syringe type pump.”<sup>39</sup> It reportedly had little effect when used during the Boston conflagration of 1676.

Boston facing a sudden increase in incendiary fires and major conflagrations, began to look at ways to improve its firefighting capabilities. In 1676, Boston ordered a “Newsham” hand-pumped fire engine from England. There is some historical conflict as to when the engine arrived or was installed, but generally, a date of 1678 is accepted.<sup>40</sup> With this arrival of the first true pump-engine in America is considered by many historians as the founding of the American Fire Service, with the first firehouse to store the engine, and the appointment of the first (supposedly) paid firemen.<sup>41</sup>

Today, it is amazing to think that the Boston Colonists had to wait over two years to have their fire engine built in England and shipped to America. This along with the entrepreneurial spirit of the American Colonists would soon create a prolific hand pump fire engine industry.

As time progressed, Boston was divided into fire wards overseen by a warden, and additional fire engines were acquired. The first volunteer fire society in Boston was established on September 30, 1718. This initiated the “colorful age of volunteer firemen, who were destined to play an increasingly important role in American history.”<sup>42</sup>

Boston’s proactive steps at firefighting would make a great impression on a young future “Founding Father”, Benjamin Franklin, who was born in Boston in 1706. He would witness this development in Boston as a youth and emulate it in Philadelphia in 1736 by forming the Union Fire Company.<sup>43</sup> Franklin’s notoriety and the success of the Union Fire Company would inspire the founding of numerous fire companies within Philadelphia along with encouraging others throughout the colonies.<sup>44</sup>

In 1731, New York followed Boston’s lead and took delivery of two Newsham “enjines from London.”<sup>45</sup> With the acquisition of these two engines, New York formed the first engine companies, Engine Company No. 1 under Peter Ruger, a brewer, and Engine Company No. 2 under brothers John and Nicholas Roosevelt, local merchants.<sup>46</sup>

By 1743, New York had grown to the point it needed more fire engines to protect the city. This time they turned to a local cooper and boat builder, Thomas Lote, who had built “an American engine that could compete with the British-made Newshams.”<sup>47</sup> A difference in Lote’s engine was the position

of the pump levers which were located at the front and back.<sup>48</sup> The engine had polished copper fittings that instituted the name “Old Brass Backs.”<sup>49</sup> “Old Brass Backs” would be the first true American-made hand pump fire engine in the Colonies.

### **THE AMERICAN HAND ENGINE MANUFACTURERS**

Once the Newsham Engine demonstrated its improvement over buckets in firefighting in the American Colonies, “Fire Engines” (hand-pumpers) were the must-have piece of firefighting equipment for cities and towns. With the delay and cost of shipping a Newsham Engine from England, local citizen groups and governments encouraged artisans to build a local version of the new hand-pump fire engine to protect their community. This quickly developed into an opportunity for local craftsmen and entrepreneurs to enter into the fledgling fire apparatus business. Though the building of a hand-pump fire engine did require some hydraulic and engineering knowledge, the manufacturing of these engines did not require the level of technical expertise that would be required for the later-developed steam-operated fire engines. A general iron and wood craftsman with the example of a previous engine to go by, could have made a duplicate engine. However, not all were successful in producing an effective fire engine that would readily sell outside their local area.

The actual number of hand-pump fire engine manufacturers of that period is somewhat lost to history. Some builders may have simply advertised as being in business or made a few engines, while a few on the upper end of the spectrum made over 500.<sup>50</sup> A number of these manufacturers changed names through various buyouts, mergers, and acquisitions. Some businesses would survive and transition into the age of steam fire engines and later chemical and motorized engines.

David Falconi in his book *The Encyclopedia of American Hand Fire Engines*, has compiled a listing of over 2012 hand engines that were produced by various manufacturers.<sup>51</sup> Based on other resources during the research of this article, four American manufacturers reportedly were leading builders of hand pump fire engines.

*Continued on page 36.*



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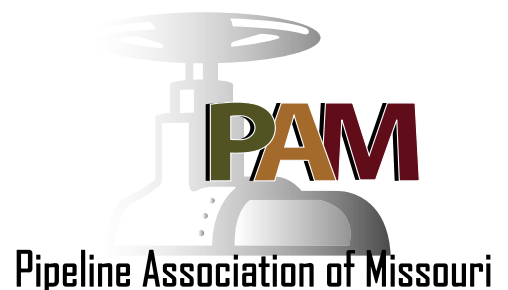
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# HONORING FORMER FIRE CHIEF JERRY THOMAS

56 Years!

By La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

Jerry Thomas has been a member of the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department for 56 years. On October 10th members of the fire service throughout Northeast Missouri and beyond paid tribute to Jerry at a surprise event at the Rieger Armory in Kirksville, Missouri.

Fire Chief Jeremy Davis from Adair County Fire Department acted as the master of ceremonies and gave a fitting tribute to the service Jerry has given to his community and the fire service. Thomas was presented with a fire bell and a special quilt in honor of his selfless service to others. The inscription reads "Jerry Thomas in Recognition of 56 years of Service Leader & Mentor."

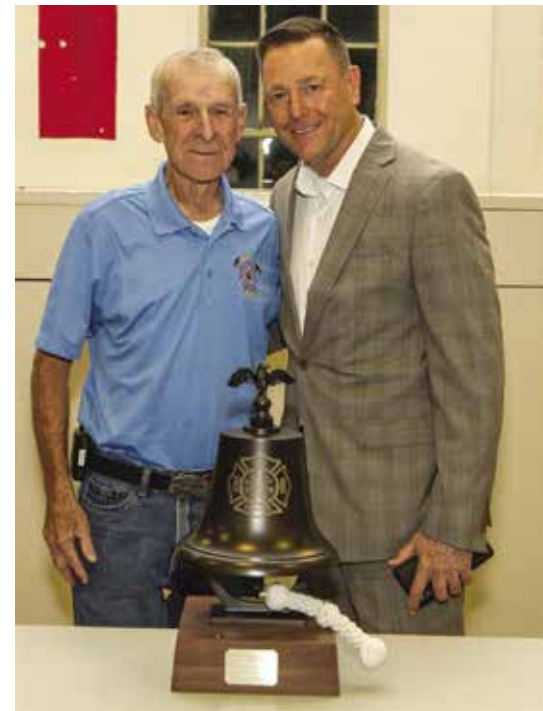
Multiple people spoke about Thomas' kindness, service, mentoring, instruction, and positive attitude throughout the years. Many of those stories brought smiles and tears to those in attendance.

Fire Marshal Tim Bean added a few words and was impressed at all those who came to honor Thomas.

Not only has Jerry been in the fire service but he also served in the US Army and participated as a member of the Patriot Guard. Members of the Patriot Guard gave Jerry a certificate of appreciation for his time as a member.

First responders, family members, and community members shared stories about how much of an impact Jerry has had on so many people. There were laughs and tears as we night went on.

Jerry's daughter Lori had this to say about the night "Thank you for being there last night. You have no idea what that meant & how long he will hold that memory and talk about it until his last breath."





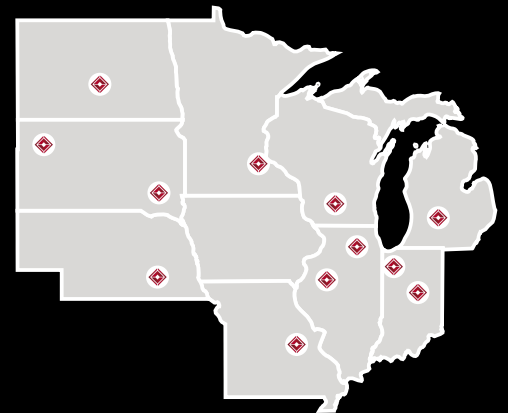
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By Missouri Women of Fire

In late October, Jefferson City played host to the second gathering of women firefighters as the newly formed Missouri Women of Fire (MO WoF) partnered with the Division of Fire Safety to host the first annual Missouri Women of Fire Leadership Conference. This conference marked the official launch of the organization by offering classes designed to meet the needs of women firefighters. The goal was to not only offer another networking opportunity for firefighters across the state but also to provide insight and training from firefighters of various ranks. Classes ranged from personal development with presentations about the impact of decision-making and managing triggers and conflict to an inside look into the volunteer fire service and the unique struggles associated with juggling work, family, and volunteering. The health impact of firefighting was also discussed as women face challenges associated with cancer, reproductive health, and psychological safety. The day was capped off with a history of women firefighters in the State of Missouri, before finishing with valuable time to network and discuss hot topics.

Over 60 participants attended the conference representing 35 career, volunteer, and combination departments across the state. Many attendees were returning from last year's symposium while others were joining for the first time and experience ranged from new probationary firefighters to almost 40 years of service. State Fire Marshal Tim Bean has thrown the support of the Division of Fire Safety behind the organization and expressed his excitement about the growth of the group over the last year.

The original impetus for the conference was the May 2022 gathering of women firefighters organized by the Division of Fire Safety. This gathering was an attempt to understand and address the needs of women



firefighters in Missouri. Since then, with the active support of Chief Bean, a small group of women has been laying the foundation of a new organization, Missouri Women of Fire. The conference officially announced the creation of the professional organization. The grassroots nature places a premium on the commitment to providing a professional networking system that focuses on education, mentorship, and mastery of the fire service. In addition to meeting regularly, the organization plans to offer formalized mentoring opportunities, training partnerships with departments, promotional development support, and continued leadership conferences.

Currently, the Board of Directors represents career, volunteer, and combination departments from the east and west sides of the state with ranks ranging from firefighter to Captain to Fire Chief. While the current Board is comprised of all fire service members, the goal of both the Board and the organization is to expand into the profession



of emergency medical services (EMS). Missouri is comprised of 72% non-fire-based EMS organizations, and women in these organizations face many of the same stressors, professional challenges, and support deficits as the fire service. Encompassing both fire and EMS will allow MO WoF to meet and support the needs of women first responders in Missouri positively impacting their career and ability to serve their communities.

All firefighters and EMS providers in the state of Missouri are encouraged to join MO WoF, regardless of gender, rank, or employment status. While the central goal of the organization is to provide support and resources for women, men provide essential allyship, support, resources, and experience. Additionally, retirees are especially welcomed as current first responders can benefit from valuable lived experiences. If you're interested in joining, please find us on Facebook (Missouri Women of Fire) or email us at [missouriwomenoffire@gmail.com](mailto:missouriwomenoffire@gmail.com).







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By Dr. Barry Young

In your community when someone can't breathe, they call an ambulance and EMS service. In my neighborhood when someone is breaking into a home and threatening to injure or kill innocent life, we call the police.

Countless calls today will go to fire departments to put out house fires. Literally thousands of men and women put their lives on the line daily working as dispatchers, corrections, EMS, fire, police, and so many other areas.

There is no doubt when civilians need help they call a first responder. However, the difficult question is who does the first responder call when they need help?!

Peer Support is the first responder to the first responder. While counselors are a tremendous blessing often first responders will only go to them when they are ordered by command staff to meet with them. We have seen time and time again that a first responder who is hurting emotionally, spiritually, or relationally will most often turn to a peer.

If you don't know, what Peer Support is you are in the majority. Peer Support is a very popular trend in all our first responder services.

Peer Support is where an actual first responder will get foundational training on these subjects:

- Suicide Prevention
- Stress control
- Grief sharing
- Burnout
- Tactical Breathing
- Emotional support
- Crisis management
- Accumulative stress disorder
- Listening judo
- Compassion fatigue
- Secondary trauma
- and so much more

Sadly, every day according to the Veterans Administration 22 military veterans die by suicide. USA Today states that the greatest killer of fire/EMS personnel and police is death by suicide. While many agencies are rushing to get more counselors the first responder personnel are not turning to them unless they are forced to. I believe we need trained counselors. I also believe that



peers who serve as police, fire, and EMS can get foundational training and help many of their co-workers through the rigors of public service. Often peers get immediate acceptance from the people they work with because in many cases they have gone through similar situations that the hurting first responder is facing.

Trained peer support can help many first responders through stress, trauma, and crisis. What I love about peer support is when a peer support team member comes across someone who needs professional help, they are more likely to get them connected to a professional counselor. When the peer support team member recommends turning to a counselor they will often go not because they trust the counselor but because they trust the peer. This is called a transfer of trust. How many of you ate at a diner because a friend recommended it?

Or have you gone shopping at an establishment because a trusted friend said they had good deals? All of us have given into

a transfer of trust. When a peer support team member starts to connect with a first responder if they see the need for professional help often first responders are exponentially more likely to get that help. Why? Because a peer that has worn the uniform and had similar experiences connected with them and recommended, they meet with a professional.

There is no silver bullet or one-size-fits-all treatment to helping and serving our first responders.

However, having first responders who have been trained in foundational peer support has paid huge dividends. AMAZING stories of successful assistance and treatment are coming in from all over America. I believe hurting people hurt people, but I also believe healing people heal people.

If you would like to know more about Serving Heroes and the Peer Support/Chaplain training they provide please go to [www.servingheroes.net](http://www.servingheroes.net)



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# A Message From The 2nd VP



Grant Oetting

It is that time of year again when membership packets are coming in the mail or coming to your department by email. Jaime has mailed these out so be looking at your mailboxes and make sure that your department gets them back, so you receive the benefits you deserve as a member of the FFAM.

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- Be eligible to receive assistance with the repair or loss of broken eyeglasses up to \$200
- Have access to college scholarships for yourself, dependents, or family members
- Department members are eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in equipment grants
- Fire loss assistance program. Members receive \$500 if they suffer a fire loss in their primary residence
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- Receive discounts from Missouri Storm Shelters
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Each F.F.A.M. member receives a bimonthly magazine delivered to your home. The newsletter details a large variety of fire service issues on a regional, state, and national level, including a training schedule of regional and state fire schools, featured articles, equipment classifieds, political issues, and more.

Each member will receive a membership card and an FFAM window decal.

Each department will receive a membership plaque to track each year of membership.

Also available to the departments are blue light permit cards at no cost.

You and your department have a unique training and public service opportunity with the Missouri State Fair Fire Department (fire, EMS, first aid, fire prevention, and crash rescue) operated by the F.F.A.M. during the annual Missouri State Fair.

You are encouraged to attend the annual convention hosted by an F.F.A.M. member department. This includes competitive contests of skill, an awards banquet, a dance, and a Sunday morning business meeting. Convention registration is conveniently provided in the FFAM newsletter or on the website.

F.F.A.M. serves as an organized liaison for bridging and monitoring various agencies and organizations that benefit its membership. This includes the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute, the Division of Fire Safety on the political front, and other state agencies.

You have access to a district board member living in your region to assist you and your department on issues of local and regional importance. This relationship provides a better understanding of your local problems and challenges.

An auxiliary organization with its board of directors for the spouses of F.F.A.M. members which function concurrently with most meetings and related activities.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to our members.

If the FFAM can be of any assistance or you would like us to attend your event, please reach out to me at 660-229-4525 or send me an email at grant\_oetting@yahoo.com. Be safe my brothers and sisters.





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## **FFAM SCHOLARSHIPS 2024**

**By Larry Eggen, Committee Chair**

**P**lease visit with your family to see if they are eligible to apply for a scholarship from FFAM. We have up to four graduating senior high school scholarships as a benefit for members and relatives of members. We also have up to two continuing education scholarships for members in the emergency services field. The applications are available on our website at [ffam.org/committees/scholarship/](http://ffam.org/committees/scholarship/). Follow the instructions there to download the application.

Applications and required documents will be accepted until midnight, February 28th of each year, and should be submitted to:

Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 1153  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Or email to: [ffamscholarships@gmail.com](mailto:ffamscholarships@gmail.com)

The scholarship funds will be applied directly toward the recipient's account at the designated college/university after verification of enrollment is received by the FFAM

Secretary. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, books, supplies, and equipment required for courses at the educational institution. The FFAM reserves the right to verify proof of acceptable expenditures of the scholarship funds (i.e. receipts, etc.).

The recipient has six months from the award date to present the required enrollment information to receive the scholarship funds. In the event the recipient fails to enroll at their designated college/university within six months of the award date of the scholarship, the scholarship will be forfeited and awarded to a runner-up recipient. Should a recipient change their designated college/university after receipt of the scholarship award, the scholarship may be rescinded by the Scholarship Committee if, in its sole discretion, it determines that the change would have had a material effect on its decision to award the scholarship in the first place.

Any interpretations, determinations, and/or disputes not referenced herein will be addressed and resolved by the Scholarship Committee which will have sole discretion concerning the scholarship program for the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri.

Scholarship recipients will be notified following the application deadline and are invited to attend the annual FFAM convention for presentation, if available.



# NEW STATION FOR KENNETT FD

By Rob Francis, District 12 Director

Kennett Fire Department dedicated their New Station 2 on September 11. Check out Kennett Fire Department on Facebook they have posted many of the things they have done during fire prevention week as well as a message from Chief Lance Davis after the ribbon cutting. Members of the Kennett Fire Department also held an open house on October 14 for fire prevention week. Thank you to Fire Marshal Dennis Hamlett for the dedication pictures and the tour of the facility.

North Cape County Fire Protection District did a walk to honor those from 9-11. Firefighters and the community participated in the walk.

This is the second year for the walk through the Oak Ridge area to remember our fallen brothers and sisters.

Looking around the department's Facebook pages there were several fire prevention week posts in District 12.

So many that it would take a book to put them all out in print. It's great to see the safety message relayed and how far it is reaching. Using social media is a great tool to use, keep up the great work keeping your communities safe.

Congratulations to Chief Jason Mouser of Jackson Fire Department on being named the Region E Mutual Aid Coordinator. Meetings will be rotating around the region starting in Jackson on November 9 and then every other month. In his email, Chief Mouser is looking for a venue for the January meeting.



In the coming months I am going to be traveling around District 12, which is comprised of all of Region E. There are over 80 fire organizations in Region E so if you can make the Mutual Aid meetings, I can get information from FFAM to your organization quicker. If you have a county association meeting let me know and I will be more than happy to come to your county meetings to say hello and get information to

your organizations. If you have events going on in your organizations drop me an email at [pyroman@att.net](mailto:pyroman@att.net) and I will do my best to stop in and say hello.

As always thank you for what you do for your communities and stay safe out there.





# KENNETT FIRE STATION #2

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# HISTORY'S CORNER

By Bill Westhoff

Any readers of the FFAM newsletter who have followed any of the articles I have published over the last several years know that I am a native of Missouri and grew up in O'Fallon, near St. Louis, in St. Charles County. When I was growing up there, it was a community of around eight hundred people and lots of dogs and cats. Everyone knew everyone, even down to the kids, dogs, and cats.

The railroad was the real catalyst for the formation of the town. The North Missouri Railroad Company was incorporated in March of 1851 to build a railroad from St. Charles to the Iowa line. The North Missouri subsequently passed into the hands of the Wabash Railroad Company. In 1853, John O'Fallon was the president of the board of directors of the railroad. Anyone care to guess where the town got its name?

A German immigrant, Nicholas Krekel, was O'Fallon's first resident and first retailer in 1856 and in 1857, the first postmaster and railroad agent, as well. He operated his general merchandise store out of his house, which also housed the post office. He settled there because his older brother, Judge Arnold Krekel (who also owned a newspaper) purchased land, plotted a town and donated some of the property for the new railroad. Nicholas Krekel was my great-grandfather. The Krekel home still stands in O'Fallon at the intersection of Main Street and Civic Park Drive. It ended up being the home of my grandfather and grandmother Westhoff, where my Dad was raised.

O'Fallon is now a city of nearly 100,000 population and thirty square miles.

My other great-grandfather Frederick Westhoff, an emigrant tailor from Neuenkirchen, Germany, came to O'Fallon in 1862 and set up shop on Main Street. In May of 1897 his firm was incorporated as the Westhoff Grain and Mercantile Company.

## THE FIRST GENERATION

My grandfather William F. Westhoff was born October 7, 1869 on a farm in a log house outside O'Fallon. The farm was located in the general area that is now Forest Park subdivision. He and my grandmother Mary Krekel, were married at Assumption Church on October 25, 1892. He was a



civic leader and noted businessman. At the death of his Father in 1898, he took over the leadership of the family business. These are some of his accomplishments.

- Of course first on my list is that he was the first Fire Chief of the O'Fallon Volunteer Fire Company.
- General manager and co-owner of the Westhoff Grain and Mercantile Company
- And of the adjoining Grain Elevator
- And the Westhoff Light and Power Company
- Mayor of O'Fallon

He held the general managers position of the companies for thirty-five years until his death. He died November 17, 1942, just one day before my third birthday. He also published and printed "The Leader," a monthly ad sheet and newspaper.

The Westhoff Store building was just south of the railroad tracks on Main Street. It was built around 1860 with two expansions, first in the 1890's and again in 1905. It now houses the McGurk's Public House restaurant. The grain elevator was located along the railroad tracks behind the store and was torn down years ago. The Power and Light building was constructed between the railroad tracks and the store and is now an office facility of Edward Jones.

## THE SECOND GENERATION

My Dad, Albert William (Bill) Westhoff and his twin brother Norbert were born August

### EDITOR'S NOTE

When someone passes away, we have a story to tell. The story of a birth, the story of a life. In A. William Westhoff, Jr.'s case, the story could be a masterpiece novel. Bill lived such a wonderfully adventurous life, and he certainly never met a stranger. In this issue we mourn his passing, but celebrate his life. What better way for the story to be told, than for him to tell it himself. In these pages you will find one of his first articles for the FFAM magazine feature we called "History's Corner." Here you will read Bill's story and the rest of his five generation fire service family.

From my perspective I would hear about him almost daily as he served as Director of the Fire and Rescue Training Institute from 1973 until 1984. The one regret I have is that I did not get to actually work for Bill, as I didn't appear on the scene until 1989. From the stories of his tenure, it certainly sounded like a great time developing what FRTI has become today. Bill was the driving force of the reorganization of Firemanship Training to the Fire and Rescue Training Institute within Extension. While other Directors have had their mottos around here, Bill's was simply put: "Take the Training to the People!" And that's exactly what we did.

Personally, Bill was my friend. From weekly phone calls, to stop by visits, working with him on History's Corner for FFAM, sitting down for breakfast at conventions, and finally encouraging him to put the history of the fire service into a book, we finally did work side by side. I'm proud to have known the man and I will miss him every day.

To the Westhoff family, thank you for sharing Bill with the rest of the world all these years. I know he was very proud of you all. You are in our thoughts, and know that if you ever need anything, we've all got you, just let us know.

God speed my friend. Rest easy.

Gail J. Hagans  
MU FRTI



28, 1910 in the big white house across the railroad tracks from the store and described previously in this article as the “Krekel House”. There are hundreds of stories of these twin boys growing up in this little town but not room to tell them here.

My folks, Bill and Catherine, were married June 5, 1935 and they moved into living quarters on the second floor of the store and later to a small house on Elm Street a block off Main Street where I was born on November 18, 1939. The house was almost directly across the street from what was the headquarters for the O’Fallon Fire Protection District until a year or so ago.

My Dad picked up some of his Fathers interests. He operated his own printing business both in O’Fallon and St. Charles for many years.

The family passion for the fire service was also carried on to this generation. He was a member of the local fire department for most of a half century. He was a charter member of the St. Charles County Fire Protection Association and a life long member of the FFAM, attending most conventions.

- Served as Fire Chief of the O’Fallon Volunteer Fire Department 1945-1951.
- Worked as a firefighter at the Weldon Springs TNT plant during WW II.
- Was the Fire and Safety Supervisor at the St. Louis State Mental Hospital for over twenty years and retired in 1975.

### THE THIRD GENERATION

The third generation would be me, Albert William (Bill) Westhoff, Jr.

Born in a house, not a hospital, on the 18th of November, 1939. The house was a block off Main Street and in the winter of 1942 the local drug store on Main Street was involved in a major fire. The fire made history in the town for two reasons. The first was the fact that it was the first fire of any size when the new 1941 GMC/Central Pumper was used.

The second and most important reason was that my Mother carried me up to observe the firefighting operation. Both my parents were sure that incident “sparked” my interest in the fire service!



In order to keep this article to a size that will be logical, I will just list the departments I have been involved in since I was old enough to go to fires and keep it simple. I will follow that thought process for the remaining generations.

- First fire department, St. Charles Township Volunteer Fire Department.
- O'Fallon Volunteer Fire Department
- Stillwater Oklahoma Fire Department
- Degree in Fire Protection from Oklahoma State University along with Bachelors and Masters Degree in Industrial Education.
- First Fire Chief, Boone County FPD
- Director, Missouri Fire and Rescue Institute
- Fire Chief, Columbia Fire Department
- Southern Stone County Fire District
- First manager of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress at Oklahoma State University.
- Owner and President of two companies; Fire Wagons, Inc. and Marina Fire and Safety, LLC.

If I attempted to fill in the blanks between all of these activities over the last half-century, it would be a book. Which I may still write at some point.

#### THE FOURTH GENERATION

Elaine and I collectively have six children, thirteen grandchildren and two very new great-grandkids. It goes without saying that



we are proud of them all and they have made us proud. Only two of these guys decided to follow the “red brick road” and do fire stuff.

Donna, holds two degrees from two of my favorite places. In her early days she finished a degree from the University of Missouri in “Parks and Recreation” but Amy Pohler she was not. After a brief career at Disney World the fairy dust was gone and so was her excitement for that line of work.

She then acquired a Fire Protection and Safety Degree from Oklahoma State University and has a very successful fire and safety consulting business of her own in Dallas.

Doug, at a very young age, started responding with me on calls in the Boone County Fire District and has not left since. It is safe to say that he has made a career and his life in the Columbia since he recently received his forty-five year service award from BCFPD.

- Columbia/Boone County Joint Communication – Dispatcher
- Director of Boone Hospital EMS operation
- Station officer thru Assistant Chief ranks, BCFPD
- First Director of the FEMA / Missouri Task Force I Rescue Task Force housed at the BCFPD.

#### THE FIFTH GENERATION

Our grandson, Dylan Westhoff is one of the two family members who make up the fifth generation. He is currently serving as a firefighter for the United States Air Force at Travis AFB California. He is also working



toward a fire protection degree while serving his country.

Trevor Kukuk is our grandson-in-law from Stillwater, Oklahoma and is the second member of the fifth generation. He will finish his degree in Fire Protection and Safety at OSU next year. He also serves as a volunteer firefighter for the Ripley, Oklahoma Fire Department.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE SIXTH?

Within the last six months, we have been blessed with two of the most awesome great-grandchildren in the world. They are both pictured here, both wearing their respective “fire suits”. Maybe someone will carry them up to a corner and let them watch a fire fighting operation when they are two or three years old and they will get the “spark” too.

This edition of *History's Corner* was originally published in *FFAM* on June 2016.



# ALBERT WILLIAM “BILL” WESTHOFF JR.

November 18, 1939 — October 17, 2023

Albert William “Bill” Westhoff, Jr., who spent his life dedicated to the fire service and family, passed away on Tuesday, October 17, in Branson, Mo. He was 83. His enthusiasm and exuberance for family and the fire service were evident to all who knew him.

Bill was born on Nov. 18, 1939, in O’Fallon, Mo. to Albert William Westhoff Sr. and Catherine Elizabeth Griesenauer Westhoff. They preceded him in death. He was raised in O’Fallon, where his father served as fire chief and his grandfather had been the first chief of the O’Fallon Volunteer Fire Company; Bill’s dedication to the fire service was seemingly a birthright. After graduating in 1957 from Duchesne High School in St. Charles, Mo., Bill left O’Fallon to pursue a degree in fire protection and safety from Oklahoma State University. He earned an Associate’s degree in Fire Protection and Safety, then a bachelor’s degree, and in 1963, a master’s degree in Trade and Industrial Education.

Bill held many key positions during his career and had an unwavering passion for his profession. He spent more than four decades as a firefighter, fire chief, instructor, training director, and administrator in Missouri and Oklahoma before retiring.

Following his graduation from OSU, he moved to Columbia, Mo. to begin his career with the Offices of Firemanship Education and Civil Defense Training (later Fire Service Training). He was an early member of the Central Missouri Radio Squad Volunteer Fire Department which later became the Boone County Fire Protection District. There he served as the fire chief from 1968 to 1970, before becoming the first fire chief of the Boone County Fire Protection District from 1970 until 1977. He also served as the chief of the City of Columbia Fire Department from December 1983 to May 1987.

He made an immeasurable contribution to advancing professional fire service standards in Missouri as the Director of the University of Missouri Fire Training Institute. For two decades he traveled to communities across the state to enthusiastically train and teach his fellow firefighters. In addition, he served as the Fire Chief during the Missouri State Fair with an all-volunteer department consisting of members from departments across the state.

He is an honorary lifetime member of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri and was honored in 2014 with the Phil Sayer Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also presented with the International Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

Bill moved back to Stillwater, Okla. in 1987 where he worked for Fire Protection Publications/International Fire Service Training Association (FPP/IFSTA) and OSU Fire Service training. From 1990 to 1996 he helped establish and was the first Director of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), a peer-driven, self-governing system that accredits both fire service certification programs and higher education fire-related degree programs. Colleagues credited his jovial sense of humor and collaborative marketing skills for bringing IFSAC to fruition. He was honored in 2001 in recognition of his dedication and devotion to IFSAC.

In retirement, Bill founded Fire Wagons, Inc. to design and market specialized fire-fighting equipment. He later established Marina Fire and Safety, designing and marketing small fire wagons for marina use. He often said he never worked a day in his life because his personal and professional interests were the same.

Bill took great pride in seeing the tradition of fire service continue within the family. In 2015, he joined his son, Doug, who serves as Deputy Chief, Boone County FPD, as they watched Dylan Westhoff take the firefighter’s oath for USAF in San Angelo, Texas. Dylan represents the fifth-generation Westhoff in the fire service.



That dedication and devotion extended to his family as well. Bill is survived by his wife of 34 years, Elaine of Branson, Mo.; his sister, Barb Dallen of St. Peters, Mo.; children Donna Westhoff of Columbia, Mo., Doug Westhoff (Tracy) of Columbia, Mo., Holly Cox (Patrick) of Branson, Mo., Sidney Caldwell (Jerra) of Rose Hill, Kan., Christine Wilson (Mike) of Stillwater, Okla., and Nikki Troia (Vince) of Nashville, Tenn. Bill adored and doted over his 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He also had numerous nieces, cousins, and godchildren that were important in his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Firefighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri. To donate visit [www.ffam.org/memorial](http://www.ffam.org/memorial) and go to the Donate Now section of the page. A public fire service memorial for Bill is being planned, details to be announced. Updates will be posted to Bill’s memorial webpage: <https://everloved.com/life-of/bill-westhoff/>







# HONORING THE FALLEN

By Keith Smith

The Annual Memorial Services on October 7th and 8th were the largest attended since the memorial was dedicated on May 18, 2002. We honored eight line-of-duty-deaths and 138 non-line-of-duty-deaths. 89 of those passed in 2022 and 49 previously missed from 2021 and 2022. Currently, for 2023, we are on track for 85 to 90 non-line-of-duty-deaths, plus we are now aware of some additional names previously missed from 2022. The Candlelight Service was on the 19th and the Sunday Morning Service was on the 21st.

The Foundation continues to review how we can improve the delivery of honors to line of duty and service recognition to non-line of duty families. This year the printed Saturday evening candlelight program provided pictures of each name and a brief biography of their service. We also added luminary bags around the service walls, candles in the windows of the museum, and red filters on the ground lighting, which changed the overall look and feel of things. Perhaps one of the most impactful changes was when all the candles in their red cup holders were illuminated with the other lighting changes.

That picture was shared on social media many times with very positive reviews.

The Sunday Morning Service was live-streamed on Facebook and can be seen on our memorial Facebook page, *Fire Fighter Memorial Foundation of Missouri*. The page currently has 514 followers and is growing each week. If you are on Facebook, please check us out and like the page.

## SAVE THE DATES

The 2024 Memorial Services will be on Saturday, October 5th, for the Candlelight Service and the Sunday Morning Service is on October 6th. Going forward, our annual services will occur on the first Sunday in October with the Candlelight Service occurring the evening before. If you have any questions about the October services, please contact me at keith.smith1974@yahoo.com or 314-709-0760.

There will be a formal announcement regarding the cut-off date for names to be honored and engraved in the next issue. We will include all 2023 names and any we missed from 2021 and 2022 but no decision at this time regarding including 2024. The engraving cut-off this year was June 30th, and likely to be the same in 2024.

We are pleased to report that our testing of a brick engraving recovery technology for fading lettering was successful and those bricks that received this make-over were revitalization to nearly new condition. We completed nearly half of those identified as needing attention this year and will plan on doing the remainder next year. We do not know how long the recovery process will last, but hopefully for many years into the future. At least for now, this saves a large expense of brick replacement. We will be monitoring how well this recovery process works in the short and long term.

At the time of this writing, supply chain issues have prevented the exchange of the temporary electric panel in the museum building which is the last remaining element of the utility and restrooms project. All the utilities are fully functional, and the restrooms were used during the October services. Special thanks again to WSKF Architects in North Kansas City and their design team for their work. Two thumbs up to Professional Contractors and Engineers out of Columbia for managing all the construction. We are blessed to have these two great partners.

In my last article, we welcomed and provided a profile of two new Foundation Board members, Janet Cain and Tracy Gray. With this article, I must sadly announce that Doc Kritzer has retired from the Board and is leaving a large set of shoes to fill with his many,



many responsibilities. Key among them was managing all of our engravings. Doc has served on the Board of Directors for more than 10 years and took over engraving shortly after arriving. Well, dumped into his lap when Ron Paubel retired and moved out of State. Doc made several improvements resulting in greater accuracy, a grouping of names where possible (not always possible), the online brick search, a master mapping of all bricks/engraving, and the application process. Thank you, Doc, for your focus on detail and leaving things better than when you first arrived.

Finally, to circle back on brick and engraving applications. We have all new forms! Please delete any electronic copies you have before October 2023. There is a new mailing and email address. We also have a revised processing procedure for the application(s) and payment. You can go to the website at [ffam.org/memorial/](http://ffam.org/memorial/) for all forms and updated information or contact me. Once on the website look for the memorial forms (*Distinguished Service Wall*) and donation forms (*Brick Sponsor*). You will also find the link for the memorial flags.

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



## 2023 MEMORIAL SERVICES INDUCTEES

### LINE OF DUTY

Rickey Lee Hobbs  
James Dale Jenkins  
Gregory James Thompson  
Benjamin James Polson  
Kevin Lawrence Cremer  
Donald Mark Kisner  
Dustin Wayne Brandhorst  
Robert Lee Moore

### NON-LINE OF DUTY

Peter Fredric Ahl  
Howard "Mitch" Alspaw  
Ronald Wayne Anselmo  
David Michael Argent  
Bryan K. Arnold  
Jeff Charles Avery  
Robert G. Backhus  
Anthony "Tony" Bailey  
Russell Ballard  
John Albert Battistoni  
Donald Francis Becker  
John Harold Becker  
Ronald Ray Beckett  
Willard Eugene Blakeley  
Robert "Bob" Bohmie  
Joseph A. Bommarito  
Larry David Boyle  
Bobby Glenn Brunner  
Butch Callahan  
Michael Cashion  
Donald A. Chambers  
Keith Michael Colwell  
Michael D. Cooper  
Donald Lee Cox  
Frank J. Desmond  
Matthew James Dickison  
Dennis Leo Dinneen

Denis Drozkowski  
Larry King Donavant  
Harold E. Eddins  
James "Jim" Edwards  
Michael William Fischer Sr.  
William "Bill" Fox  
Ricky Gene Gardner  
William H. Giesike Iii  
Lewis L. Griffin  
Jeremy L. Grither  
Lloyd Harfst  
Michael Henry Hejnal  
Jeremy Adam Helling  
Nathan Michael Hood  
Melvin O. Huff  
Kenneth Dale Ingebritson  
Donald Kent Jordan  
Francis "Frank" Kardasz  
Delmar J. Klataske  
Leeroy Krenning  
John Carl Kriska  
Brian Edward Lamkemeyer  
Verlin Ray Latham  
Kent Leon Leeper  
Edward G. Litteken  
Claude R. Livingston Iii  
Earl Turner Logan  
Jesse Barrett Long  
Bruce Alan Longan  
Jon Jay Henry Luetkemeyer  
Robert L. Marsh  
Brenndan Michael-Dennis Mastin  
David Hillard McClarty  
Robert Leon Miller  
Michael R. Moore  
Richard R. "Dick" Moore  
Gordon Leon Morgan  
Stanley Murphy

Harold Russell Neill, Jr.  
Eric A. Newman  
Mark Lewis Petersen  
Charles Dwaine Platter  
Joseph B. Pottebaum  
Michael Dana Roberds  
James Franklin Roberts Jr.  
Murice Wayne Rothermich  
Anthony "Tony" Santi  
Kenneth F. Schmitt  
Virgil Anthony Schmitt  
Robert David Shockley  
Kenneth R. Steffen  
Jerry L. Tebeau  
Eric Matthew Thomason  
Colt Randall Tripp  
Lorenzo Gene Tutt, Sr.  
Lawrence A. Vorholt  
Michael Andrew Walker  
Jesse Isreal Watts  
Dennis George Weider  
Christopher A. West  
Adam C. Williams  
Scott Wood  
Charlies E. Allison  
Richard Wade Blythe  
Leroy "Butch" Braswell  
Carl Robert Buckner  
Jeremy Wesley Clark  
Johnny Dale Coday  
Jeffrey Curnell  
Larry K. Ervie  
Logan Austin Grote  
Valmon Jennings Holloway  
Jimmie L. Matthew  
William James Mccabe  
Kelly Mccrea Morse  
Timothy Rauls

David Wayne Reynolds  
Jack Franklin Reynolds  
Steven Eugene Russell  
Kenneth Claude Vaught  
David L. Viehland  
Raymond Wynn  
Ella Jane Allen  
Pace D. Baker, Jr.  
Christopher Norris Bell  
Kenneth Charles Berkel  
James J.D. Butner  
Thomas Frakes Downing  
William Otto Eckelkamp  
Billy Ray Ellison  
Charles Frankenberg  
Billy Wakefield Freeman  
Edward Kirk Hagelstein, Sr.  
Lester Eldon Hilton  
Jack W. Hirst  
Harold E. Hurtgen  
Harold Dee Ikerd  
Herbert E. Jacobs  
Lee Edward Keith  
Julius O. Kinder  
Robert Melvin Kurtz Jr.  
Raymond Louis Love  
Jeffrey Lee Nelson  
Richard Henry Oehl  
Gary Leonard Peterlein  
Robert Arthur Reeves  
Arthur Drew Streigle  
Leland Allen Wagner  
Claude F. White, Sr.  
Charles Ellis Wickes, Sr.  
Donald R. Zielinski

# FIRE ENGINE RALLY GETS A WARM RECEPTION

By Jefferson County Firefighters Association

The 29th Annual Jeffco Fire Engine Rally was held on Saturday, September 30 at Herculaneum City Park. The annual event is sponsored by the Jefferson County Firefighters Association. The fall weather was unusually warm for September with temperatures in the 90s as the opening ceremony began. The annual event attracted firefighters, their families, children, and festivalgoers from across the state and western Illinois.

The rally began with a parade of 40-plus fire apparatus and other emergency equipment traveling from Crystal City to the city park in Herculaneum, where most of the apparatus remained on static display throughout the day. Air-rescue helicopters from LifeNet (Air Methods) were on static display during the event.

Following the parade, an opening ceremony was held that included a memorial service for the men and women associated with the Jefferson County Fire Service who had passed away since the last rally was held in September 2022. The memorial included the reading of the individual's name, and their date of death followed by a single ring of the memorial bell. Individuals remembered this year included: Heath M. Besand – Dunklin Fire Protection District, Bob Bohmie – High Ridge Fire Protection District, Donald F. Brown – Hillsboro Fire Protection District, Richard Hiel – Rock Township Ambulance District, Ted W. Howell – DeSoto Fire Department & DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District, Al LaPointe – Rock Community Fire Protection District, Dennis Sanchez – Festus Fire Department, Crystal City Fire Department & Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District, Danny J. Scharf – DeSoto Fire Department, Robert W. “Bob” Schlingmann – Hillsboro Fire Protection District & Goldman Fire Protection District, Tommy Seegers – DeSoto Rural Fire Protection District & Valle Ambulance District, Cindy Vaughn – Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District and Barbara A. Williams – Valle Ambulance District.

A moment of silence in remembrance of the 22nd anniversary of September 11, 2001, was also included in the memorial. Members of the Jefferson County Color Guard presented the flags before the beginning of the opening ceremony. Bagpiper Ian Ebrecht led the color guard to the rally stage.



Karter Luke-Lee McGee of St. Louis County receives the Junior Grand Marshal plaque from Rob Schrage.

The opening ceremony included the introduction of the rally Grand Marshal and Junior Grand Marshal. Retired Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Grimshaw of the Rock Community Fire Protection District was honored as Rally Grand Marshal. Karter Luke-Lee McGee of St. Louis County represented the Midwest Children's Burn Camp and Burns Recovered Support Group of St. Louis, MO as the Junior Grand Marshal. The O'Fallon Fire Protection District and the Goose Creek Lake Fire Department transported the grand marshals to the parade and the stage area.

The rally features fire-rescue demonstrations each year, and the 29th rally was no different. The Crystal City Fire Department assisted the St. Louis Chapter of the National Sprinkler Alliance with a side-by-side demonstration comparing fire suppression with and without a sprinkler system in a residential fire. The Festus Fire Department presented a vehicle stabilization demonstration.

For the fifth year in a row, a Dalmatian show was held with medals being presented to the first and second-place winners in six categories: Largest Dalmatian, Smallest Dalmatian, Most Spots, Fewest Spots, Best Trick, and Best Dressed. The first and second-place winners of each category are: First Place

– Ember owned by Avalon Boehme of Pevely, MO. Second Place – Cinder owned by Sparrow Boehme of Pevely, MO.

## FEWEST SPOTS

First Place – Pierce owned by James Fields of Bonne Terre, MO. Second Place – Ember owned by James Fields of Bonne Terre, MO.

## LARGEST DALMATIAN

First Place – Pierce owned by James Fields of Bonne Terre, MO. Second Place – Cinder owned by Sparrow Boehme of Pevely, MO.

## SMALLEST DALMATIAN

First Place – Ember owned by James Fields of Bonne Terre, MO. Second Place – Demi owned by Ashley Gravett of Bismarck, MO.

The Herculaneum Fire Department rescue







Crystal City Fire Department firefighters extinguish a fire in the side-by-side sprinkler demonstration with the St. Louis Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Alliance.

**BEST DRESSED DALMATIAN**

First Place - Pongo owned by Kayla Bert of Chester, IL. Second Place – Ela owned by Kara Ann Sinclair of St. Charles, MO.

**BEST DALMATIAN PET TRICK**

First Place – Demi owned by Ashley Gravett of Bismarck, MO. Second Place - Ela owned by Kara Ann Sinclair of St. Charles, MO.

Each year the rally features numerous activities for the children in attendance including a scavenger hunt, a balloon artist, two magic shows, face paintings, a bounce house and other inflatables, a children’s firefighter challenge, a photo booth, and a fire safety house. The fire safety house is provided by the Rock Community Fire Protection District. The Shekinah Masonic Lodge 256,

truck and boat received the *Judges’ Award*.



the Joachim Masonic Lodge 164, and the DeSoto Masonic Lodge 119 held their MO Chip child identification program for the children in attendance.

Apparatus awards were presented to the various fire departments and emergency services in the following categories:

**FARTHEST TRAVELED**

Washington Fire Department

**BEST LETTERING/DETAILING**

Wolf Creek Fire Protection District

**NEWEST APPARATUS IN SERVICE**

Festus Fire Department

**BEST OVERALL ANTIQUE**

Goose Creek Lake Fire Department

**BEST OVERALL RESCUE APPARATUS**

St. Clair Fire Protection District

**BEST OVERALL CURRENT APPARATUS**

Festus Fire Department

**BEST OVERALL GROUND COVER APPARATUS**

Ste. Genevieve Fire Department

**BEST OVERALL EMS APPARATUS**

Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District

**BEST AERIAL APPARATUS**

Crystal City Fire Department

**BEST PUMPER APPARATUS**

Wolf Creek Fire Protection District

**BEST TANKER APPARATUS**

Hematite Fire Protection District

**OLDEST APPARATUS IN SERVICE**

Bloomsdale Fire Protection District

**HERITAGE APPARATUS AWARD**

O’Fallon Fire Protection District

**JUDGES’ AWARD**

Herculaneum Fire Department

As with any festival, the rally features numerous vendor spaces for new and used fire equipment vendors, fire memorabilia collectors, informational booths, and general merchandise vendors. As with any festival, vendors provided food and drink, sno-cones, and kettle corn.

The Jefferson County Firefighters Association thanks all the vendors, equipment sales, and food vendors for participating in this year’s rally. A big thank you goes out to the sponsors of the event and to those who attended.

Mark your calendars now! The Thirtieth Jeffco Fire Engine Rally will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024, in Herculaneum.

Zach Smallegan of the Jefferson R-7 Fire Protection District received the *Firefighter of the Year Award* from Rob Schrage.



# MARCELINE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF HOLT RETIRES



Left to right: Fire Chief Brian Chrisman, Retiring Fire Chief Jeri Holt, Assistant Fire Chief Don Henke



Retiring Fire Chief Jeri Holt

Fire Chief Jeri Holt Retired October 1st with 47 years of service to the Marceline Fire Department. The department held a retirement party in his honor.



# GRATEFUL FOR NARCAN DONATION



The City of Warrensburg has partnered with the Warrensburg R-6 School District to provide Narcan within the school district. Funding received by the City from a nationwide settlement has provided the opportunity to combat opioid injuries and death. "While the opioid crisis has not overwhelmed the Warrensburg community like it has for so many others, the risk is still present and by placing this

medication in schools, we are providing immediate access to a tool that may save lives," stated Warrensburg Fire Chief Kenneth Jennings. "We are grateful for all of the great community partnerships that we have, and providing this for the school district is a great use of the resources provided to us." Additional opportunities to implement similar resources throughout the community are in progress.



## WARRENSBURG PROMOTES FRERKING



In October of 2023, Firefighter/EMT Kylie Frerking was promoted to the rank of Firefighter Specialist. Specialist Frerking started with the Warrensburg Fire Department in 2020.

Frerking completed her Bachelor's Degree in Crisis and Disaster Management from the University of Central Missouri. She has also earned her Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I certifications. She is an apparatus operator on all department apparatus and is qualified to work as an Acting Captain.



## Around the State

She began her fire service career with the Concordia Fire Protection District. She also works part-time for the Johnson County Fire Protection District as well as serving as a member of the Missouri State Fair Fire Department for the past three years. Congratulations Firefighter Specialist Frerking! We look forward to your continued service and personal growth in your fire service career.

## WEST PLAINS FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDS FOUR VEHICLES

The West Plains (Mo.) Fire Department has added four new vehicles to its fleet, highlighted by a dual-purpose 2023 Ferrara Fire Apparatus Custom Pumper purchased from Fire Master Fire Apparatus of Springfield, Mo.

The Ferrara Pumper is equipped with a 450 HP Cummins L9 engine with an Allison 5-speed transmission, a Hale Q-Max 1750 GPM pump with a 1000-gallon booster tank, and a 6 kW PTO-driven generator.



The vehicle will also carry a set of Genesis battery-powered rescue tools and any equipment necessary to fight fires and perform rescues.

"It is a true rescue pumper that has already proven to be a valuable addition to our fleet," said West Plains Fire Chief Kurt Wilbanks, who added that the Ferrara Pumper is the first new fire truck added to the fleet since 2015. A celebratory "push in" event with West Plains fire department staff members, West Plains city council members, and West Plains citizens was held on September 30, 2023.

The new Ferrara was purchased with City of West Plains capital improvement tax funds, along with a \$120,000 grant from Volkswagen.

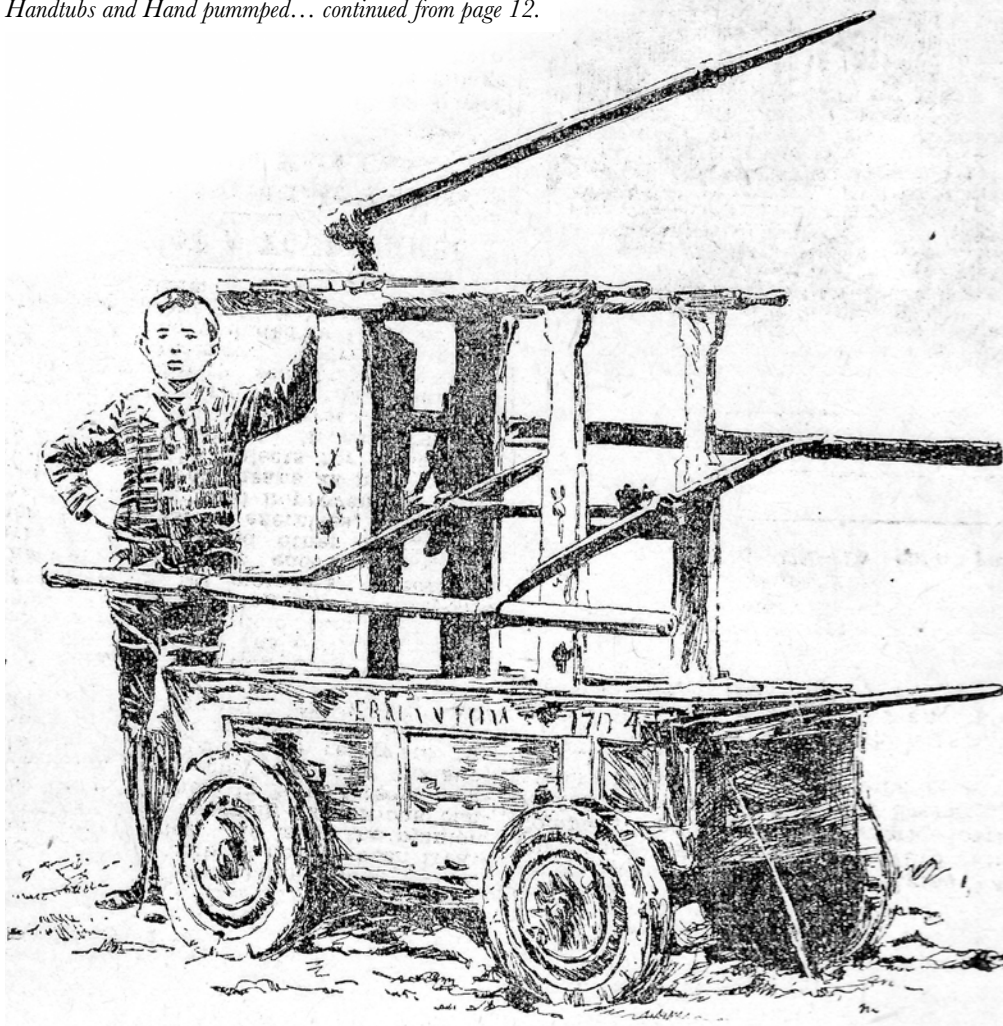
The other three vehicles added to the fleet were a 2023 Ford F-450 4x4 Crew Cab,

and a pair of 2023 Ford F-150s. The F-450 features a custom-built aluminum bed with a 7.3L V8 gas engine with a 10-speed automatic transmission. The skid unit is a Darley Fast Attack with a 300-gallon tank and 375 GPM pump. It replaces a 1986 Chevrolet 4500 obtained from military surplus. The new F-150s will be used for administrative duties.

Fire Chief Wilbanks wanted to give special thanks to the West Plains citizens, whose passage of the capital improvement tax has enabled the fire department to have the equipment necessary to perform their duties. "We receive a tremendous amount of support from the West Plains city council and from the West Plains community, and we are honored to protect the lives and property of our citizens."

You can learn more about the West Plains Fire Department by visiting [westplains.gov](http://westplains.gov).





THE "SHAG-RAG," BROUGHT TO THIS CITY FROM ENGLAND IN 1764, FOR THE MIDDLE WARD FIRE COMPANY, OF GERMANTOWN.

Newspaper illustration "Germantown's Old Fire Engine", The Philadelphia Press, Philadelphia, PA, Monday, January 10, 1898, p. 14. Assumed to be in the public domain.

## MAJOR MANUFACTURERS

**Button Fire Engine Company** – What would become the largest manufacturer of hand fire engines in the United States, had a varied beginning. John Rogers started business in Waterford, New York in



'Central #1' in service 1836-1860, at the St. Louis Fire Department. Photo courtesy State Historical Society of Missouri, Digital Collection.

1832 when he constructed his first" hand pumper." In 1834 Rogers sold his patents to William Platt and Nicholas Doe.<sup>52</sup> Lysander Button joined Rogers' business in 1834, making improvements in the engine that would lead to the "Button Engine." In 1841 he bought out Rogers to form Button & Company, transitioning to Button and Blake in 1857, and L. Button & Son in 1875.<sup>53</sup>

The company was bought by George Holroyd in 1882, and then several companies merged to form the American Fire Engine Company, which would continue to build "Buttons." In 1900 American merged with several fire apparatus manufacturers in Seneca Falls, New York, to form the International Fire Engine Company.<sup>54</sup> They continued to make "Button" hand engines, along with new steam and chemical engines. In 1903 the company folded and reformed as American LaFrance. The Button hand engine continued to be made in the early 1900s.<sup>55</sup> American LaFrance would be one

of those unique fire apparatus manufacturers that would span the age from hand engines to steam fire engines to motorized apparatus. Certainly creating a long-lasting dynasty in the fire apparatus industry.

The Button Engine was made in many sizes, capacities, and styles such as "Crane-Neck" and "Piano-Box." The larger capacity engines capable of producing streams reaching 220 Feet, required up to 60 men to operate the "brakes." Button also offered a variety of accessories including polished nickel or brass fittings, and gold stripping and ornamentation.<sup>56</sup>

**Hunneman & Company (1792-1883)** – According to Mason, in his book *Hand Pump Fire Engine Guide*, Hunneman & Company was "the second-largest maker of hand-pumped fire engines in the United States."<sup>57</sup> William Hunneman's first manufactured engine was made in 1794 under a patent of Jacob Perkins, an inventor from Newburyport, MA.<sup>58</sup> Hunneman bought out Perkins' patents and started producing engines. Over time his company increased the size of his engines, including larger pumps and wheels. His early engines "did not use a crane neck hook up to the front wheels."<sup>59</sup> A pivoting front axle was attached to a board extended out from the front of the machine allowing it to turn. Hunneman's early engines were all considered to be "bucket tub" types being supplied with water via a bucket brigade. Later engines would be equipped with drafting hose later to be called a "Squirrel tail."<sup>60</sup>

After Hunneman's death, his business was continued by the family. Along the way, the company outlasted competitors and bought out another. One of his workers, George Perry, was sent to Canada and built Hunneman Engines in Canada for the Canadian market.<sup>61</sup>

**James Smith (1810-1864)** – Smith started building hand engines in 1810 for New York City to replace their aging Newsham pumps. As New York was going through a large growth period Smith built engines for the new volunteer fire companies. His company built approximately "500 engines" over time, and also manufactured "hose carriages and ladder trucks."<sup>62</sup> Smith sold engines throughout the northeast and Canada.

One of Smith's unique style larger engines was the "Shanghai," so-called perhaps because of its "Pagoda shaped decking."<sup>63</sup>

The “Shanghai” was a powerful engine that was “a first-class, double-deck end-stroke engine with 9 ½” cylinders, 4” stroke and patent capstan and its brakes were arranged for alternating action.”<sup>64</sup> Being a double-decker, Firemen stood both on platforms on top of the engine and the ground to man the alternating set of brakes to pump this large engine. Because of its ability to provide large flows, in situations where water had to be pumped between engines to reach from a water source to the fire, this engine was placed first in line at the water source to provide water to all the others.

W.B. Douglas Company – Don Mason, in his book *Hand Pump Fire Engine Guide*, names the W.B. Douglas Company of Middletown, Connecticut, as “the fourth largest producer of hand fire pumpers in the United States.”<sup>65</sup> This may be debatable, but Douglas was certainly a major manufacturer of hydraulic pumps in his day making pumps for not only the fire service but industry and agriculture. The business made a variety of hand fire engines including small, “Garden or Estate Engines” for rural fire protection by property owners.<sup>66</sup>

According to Mason, several fire departments “bought their pumps from Douglas and assembled their own fire engines.”<sup>67</sup> Perhaps this is the historical beginnings of the home-built fire apparatus industry that would come about in the 1950-60s with motorized apparatus and the burgeoning volunteer fire departments across rural America.

From this plethora of companies, there are still a variety of different manufacturers and styles of hand-pumpers that have survived to the present day. These well-preserved apparatus are proudly shown at numerous fire musters especially in the New England area today.

### THE HAND ENGINE AND THE RISE OF THE VOLUNTEERS

As has been seen in preceding articles in this series, fire was a major safety concern to the early American settlements. In the small settlements, a breakout of fire was an all-hands call to every citizen to assist in saving the community, usually through forming bucket brigades. Later major recognized figures like inventor, writer, and patriot Benjamin Franklin would call for better fire protection, with Franklin going a step further by helping form the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia, in 1736.

<sup>68</sup> As communities grew along with local



Union No. 1, handtub made by Hunneman Co. 1867. Restored and owned by David Falconi, Handtub Junction, USA. Used by permission of David Falconi.

businesses, the burgeoning business class had a vested interest in the protection of their property regarding fire protection. They also had more flexibility in their work to be able to volunteer for community projects, such as fire protection.

The American colonist were proud of their freedoms and took civic duties as part of their service to support the community. The duty of the volunteer fireman was one of these well-respected civic duties that a citizen could perform. The fireman was well respected for their service and formed a strong political group. Fire Historian Kenneth Dunshee, writing about New York Volunteer Firemen of the day, related that:

The members of the fire companies came from all walks of life. The firemen themselves were a power in the city and wielded considerable political influence by their numbers and strong organization.<sup>69</sup>

For some communities, one of the few perks besides the prestige of being a volunteer fireman was that they “received exemption from jury and military duty after ten years’ service.”<sup>70</sup> This is where the term “exempt firemen” comes from.

After the Revolutionary War, veterans returning to their community were looking for ways to continue their camaraderie and public service. For them “the fire companies of the post-Revolution filled the same place that veterans’ organizations fill today.”<sup>71</sup> The firehouse became their meeting place, and

their auxiliary duties of training, preparation, and equipment maintenance “were as much a call to duty as were the alarms of fire.”<sup>72</sup> Along with this came the introduction of standardized uniforms and fancy regalia that identified them as members of their fire company. This carried over to the brightly painted and polished hand engines, sometimes referring to the engine as the “Old Gal.”<sup>73</sup> With the “color and glamour of a volunteer firefighter’s life,” it was no wonder that most fire companies had a waiting list of hopeful candidates wanting to be members. This desire to be a member also helped keep up esprit de core, work assignments, and the discipline of the company. Unfortunately, this would change over time.<sup>74</sup>

As mentioned in previous articles in this series, three cities that began to quickly grow because they had the best harbors that enabled trade with Europe, were Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. With this growth came better fire protection and a prominence in their firefighting capability. According to fire historian Paul Hashagen, “These three cities, and the firefighters who eventually stepped forward to protect them, set the course early on as to the direction and shape the American Fire Service would take.”<sup>75</sup>

Several civic-minded “founding fathers” of what would become the United States served as volunteer firemen and assisted in making improvements in fire protection. George Washington (1732-1799), who would serve as commander in chief of the colonial armies in the American Revolution and later as the



Small Krest hand engine “Kearsarge” ca. 1756. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.



Close-up of handtub pump engine box, twin cylinders, and air chamber on discharge in the middle. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.

first President of the United States, served as a volunteer fireman in Alexandria, VA as a youth. In 1775 he purchased a hand pump fire engine from Gibbs of Philadelphia which he donated to the Friendship Volunteer Fire Company of Alexandria, VA, where he was an honorary member.<sup>76</sup>

As the hand engines became larger to pump more water and increase effectiveness, the number of firemen required to work the “Brakes” increased substantially. Several manufactured “enjines” took 60 to 100 personnel to pump the engine at full capacity. This necessitated the growth of the fire company to have the personnel able to manually haul and then pump the apparatus. This need for large numbers of volunteers may have been one of the factors that would lead to the downfall of the traditional volunteer engine company when the larger groups became more unruly and unmanageable by their officers and city fathers.

### MISSOURI HAND ENGINES

Missouri as the gateway to the west saw the influx of people and new businesses in the 1800’s. These growing cities and rural communities all faced the hazards of fire from congested populations, open flame for heating and cooking, and the predominance of wood as a building material. As the New England states had done to solve their fire protection needs, communities in Missouri would look to the hand engine as a means of protecting their citizens from fire. Though by no means a comprehensive list, brief initial research identified some information on the use of hand engines in the state.

St. Louis facing all the above problems formed their first volunteer fire companies around 1821 with the North Fire

Company and the South Fire Company.<sup>77</sup> The Phoenix Company formed in 1825 was given charge of a hand engine called “None-Such.”<sup>78</sup> The Central Fire Company of St. Louis received a new hand engine from Philadelphia in 1832.<sup>79</sup> However, an archive photograph description references the engine in service from 1836 to 1860 but does not identify the manufacturer.

Other hand engines listed in reference materials include: an 1851 engine built by William Jeffers Co., Pawtucket, Rhode Island<sup>80</sup>; and, an 1852, no manufacturer identified, a double-deck engine named Washington No. 3.<sup>81</sup>

The Fire Extinguisher Company of St. Louis, MO in the 1870s built a unique hand engine.<sup>82</sup> The pump, transported on a two-wheel carriage, was slid onto the ground at the scene and supplied with a fire hose for water, it had no tub or wood basin. There is an example of this hand engine on display at the Jefferson City Fire Museum.<sup>83</sup>

The Union Fire Protection District in Union, MO, was fortunate to recover and restore the original hand engine that served the Union Fire Department from 1890 to 1905. The engine was restored in 2007 and has a “piano-box” style tub and “squirrel-tail” draft hose. It was made by the R.L. Rumsey Manufacturing Co. out of St. Louis, MO in 1890.<sup>84</sup> In this instance the fire company’s founding date and the acquisition date of the hand engine were the same year.

The Hermann (MO) Fire Company is fortunate to have retained a number of their original historic apparatus and have them on display in their museum. They have a hometown-built “Consequence No. 1” hand

engine made by Ludwig Zieland, a local blacksmith in 1856.<sup>85</sup> Another hand engine is the “Washington” made by Jeffers that the Fire Co. bought from St. Louis.<sup>86</sup>

Other cities in Missouri identified with hand engines were: Lexington, MO, with a Hunneman in 1847,<sup>87</sup> and Canton, MO, with a Hunneman in 1857.<sup>88</sup>

### THE COLOR OF THE HAND ENGINE

What color was the finish and aesthetic appearance of the hand engines? It would appear that just like today where the firefighter and fire department have a staunch opinion regarding the color and appearance of their apparatus, so too did the early Colonial firemen and Fire Company. Research found little information on the finish applied in the manufacture of the early hand engines. Since photography had not yet been invented, it appears that the first “enjines” probably had wood finishes sealed with protective coatings such as wood oils (linseed or tung oil), wax, or lacquer. These would be fairly cheap and available with wood artisans. The brake arms or handles were made of oak “and were waxed and rubbed to a satin-smooth finish.”<sup>89</sup> Initial engines coming from the manufacturer had little in the way of ornamentation. However, this would soon change.

Just as today, the early American Firemen took great pride in their “enjines.” After arrival at the fire company, the new hand engine could be painted or decorated in several different ways. Because the town government only wanted to pay for essentials for a new engine, the local fire company would use their funds and donations to decorate the engines. It was common for the engine to arrive from the manufacturer “with but a protective coat of flat, neutral gray.”<sup>90</sup> The fire company would assign a committee to come up with a color and trim design for the engine to “dress her up.”<sup>91</sup> In addition to deciding on a paint color and any striping (pen-stripe), a “portrait or landscape” scene might be chosen to decorate the engine box panels.<sup>92</sup> Some of the popular colors found on New York “enjines” of the period were red, green, and black.<sup>93</sup> David Falconi, a hand engine historian, said that green was a popular color of hand engines up until about the 1850s.<sup>94</sup>

Over time some manufacturers did begin to offer factory options to dress up their engines. As mentioned previously, Button Fire Engines offered options such as polished

nickel or brass fittings, and gold stripping and ornamentation.<sup>95</sup> Later accouterments included a “hand carved mahogany frame, and an ornamental signal lantern with gilded eagle” on top of the cabinet box housing the pump.<sup>96</sup> These artistic improvements or embellishments brought elegance to the “old musheens.” The phrase, “all dressed up like a fire engine” was a “familiar American quotation” of the period.<sup>97</sup>

### MOTTOS OF FIRE ENGINE COMPANIES

There is no doubt that the Volunteer Firemen of the early days of the American Fire Service were proud of their position of service to the community, especially the hand engine of their fire company. Besides the elaborate decorations of the engine, a classic Greek or Latin motto that reflected their selfless service and virtue became a prominent feature on the apparatus. According to Tim Winkle, Curator of the National Museum of American History, colonial Americans with only a limited amount of schooling “would have a passing familiarity with the Greek and Roman classics,” while the well-educated citizens and founding fathers were “steeped in Latin and Greek.”<sup>98</sup> Mottos had become prominent in the 1740s with colonial newspapers printing them in their mastheads reflecting the paper’s editorial position.<sup>99</sup> During the Revolutionary War, Latin mottos became even more popular, and also with the various fire companies.

Curator Winkle said that “volunteers selected a motto to summarize their service and the spirit of their particular company.”<sup>100</sup> Some translated early fire company mottos included: Washington Fire Company’s “Non Sibi Sed Omnibus” meaning roughly “Not for self, but for all”, the Resolution Hose Company “To Be Useful is Our Wish”, and the Fairmount Fire Company “Prompt to Action.”<sup>101</sup> The stirring of patriotic sentiment can be seen in some fire company mottos during the Revolutionary War, such as Independence Hose Company’s motto, “Our Country is Our Glory.”<sup>102</sup> There were some mottos found that had a somewhat humorous slant. Winkle related that one of the smallest handtub engines in the Smithsonian’s collection had a motto of simply “We’ll Try.”<sup>103</sup>

Curtis Peters, Board Chair of the Vintage Fire Museum, said the mottos of the Engine Companies conveyed their attitude and commitment to their community. This is evidenced by the Museum’s 1855 Button



Jeffers Co. double-decker “Mohawk” hand engine being pumped. Courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.

hand engine that has the motto: “Our Duty is Our Delight.”<sup>104</sup>

### WORKING A HAND ENGINE

#### EARLY ENGINES

Early hand engines in the American Colonies did not have a draft intake. They were filled with water through a bucket brigade. Even later Newsham engines that were imported that had a draft intake did not use the feature because the principle was not adequately understood.<sup>105</sup>

Depending on the period and community, when a fire was discovered the alarm would be sounded by a fire watch, in some locations called prowlers or rattle watch, later church or community building bells would also be used to alert citizens and the fire company of a fire. For more information on early methods of fire alarms see a previous article in this series on “Early American Fire Alarm Systems.”<sup>106</sup> From the fire notification, the members of the fire company would respond to the firehouse or storage location of the hand engine.

The firemen would organize into a team to manually haul the “Engine” using the drive pole (wagon tongue) and /or hand ropes that unwound from reels to allow numerous members to grab hold and haul the engine, at the run. As mentioned previously early engines had solid-mounted wheels, and to turn corners it was necessary to stop and manually lift the front end to walk it around to turn the corner. Some engines had a “Drag Rope”, also staffed by members, to

be used to stop the engine or to slow it down going down a hill. A young boy might carry a lighted torch or lantern to lead and clear the way to the fire.

Once on-scene, the engine would be positioned as close to the fire as possible to directly attack the fire. On an incipient fire, the engine might be positioned inside or at the door for direct pumping on the fire from the “Goose-neck” discharge nozzle mounted on top of the engine. A bucket brigade would be established to bring water from the nearest water source (well, cistern, or creek) to the fire engine. Water from the buckets would be dumped into the intake box on the back of the engine where it went through a brass sheet strainer into the base of the pump. Engine Company members would man the “Brakes” (pump levers) and begin a pumping action working the brakes up and down to a full stroke of the pump action to push air out of the cylinders and draw water into them. Some engines like the Newsham also might have foot treadles attached to the brake levers and additional firemen could stand straddling the treadles on the center of the engine (between the brake levers) and use their leg muscles to help cycle the pump.<sup>107</sup> With no valve on the discharge as soon as the pump self-primed, water begins squirting out the nozzle. Several members of the company would man the nozzle standing on top of the back of the engine straddling the intake box to direct the nozzle stream onto the fire. This must have been an amazing and confusing sight with all these people crowding around the engine near the fire. A Foreman (Officer) of the engine company

would stand near the engine directing the firemen in their duties and adding encouragement to keep up the quick strokes of the brakes to maintain constant application of water on the fire.

If their efforts were not sufficient and the fire advanced they might have to re-position the apparatus further back from the fire to protect the members and save the engine. Several historical incidents were recorded where a hand engine was lost by a fast-moving fire. With a stroke rate of 60 per minute, the members on the brakes could only last a couple of minutes before they tired to the point they had to be replaced on the brakes. Other members would rotate to take their place or sometimes citizens of the community filled in if the fire wore on. In the switch out of members on the brakes, there was a potential of broken fingers or arms from the quick action of trying to release or grab the brake handle while in motion. While all this is going on, if the community had a fire society (salvage and protection) company, those members would be busy hauling out the property of the dwelling to save and protect it.

Let us assume in the above scenario the fire is successfully extinguished. In many instances, the grateful citizens or the Fire Company Treasurer would supply a cask of rum (alcoholic beverage) to revitalize the strength of the weary members of the company. Some fire companies soon considered refreshments, including alcoholic beverages, as a necessity at every fire. By the 1800s many fire companies employed a steward who showed up at each fire with a keg containing “gin, brandy, or whisky.”<sup>108</sup>

Then it was time to return to quarters. The equipment of the fire company or companies would be sorted and recovered. If fire buckets of citizens were used, the buckets would be collected and placed at a local church for retrieval by the owners the next day. The fire company would haul their engine and any other equipment back to the firehouse. At the firehouse, the next phase of work began. The servicing of the pump (see pump maintenance section) drying of wood box or tub and cleaning/preservative care of other items. All put in readiness for the next fire call. At that point, the Firemen could return home pleased with their contribution to protecting the community and a job well done.

Sometimes tiredness or over-celebrating led to poor attention to the equipment, and



Jeffers Co. double-decker “Mohawk” hand engine restored.  
Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.

on occasion, the city commissioners or fire wardens would inspect the equipment and find it dirty and un-serviced. In this case, a fine or suspension of the whole company would be instituted and the company required to “Turn Tongue In.”<sup>109</sup> The guide pole (wagon tongue) was turned with the tongue back under the apparatus (fixed axles had the tongue removed), disgracing the Fire Company for their dereliction of duty.

### **DRAFTING, HOSE, AND RELAY PUMPING**

As time passed bigger engines, new technology, and techniques came into play, and better firehouses were established by the fire companies. All this changed the response and operation of the later days of the hand engine era.

Now, to be the first fire company member to the firehouse, many firemen started sleeping or “bunking” at the firehouse, at least several nights a week.<sup>110</sup> Some firemen slept beside the engine while other firehouses were built with a second floor for a meeting or social room. This provided a place for bunk space and the beginning of station manning. A fire call at night would start as described in the previous scenario. Firemen bunking out would open the doors of the firehouse, light torches, and lanterns, and begin to haul the apparatus. As other members arrived they would take their places on the reel ropes, manually hauling the engine at the run. Newer apparatus had “crane-neck” or extended front axles that pivoted so the

apparatus could be turned easily. With the larger heavier engines in the later days of the hand engine era, horses could be used to haul the apparatus. This would set the stage for the later horse-drawn steam fire engines. However, many firemen thought the use of horses to haul their honored engine was an affront to the bravery and stamina of the firemen.

Later hand engines were equipped with a draft intake at the pump. A draft (hard-suction) hose would be carried with the engine to obtain water supply through drafting. On many apparatus, it was usual for the draft hose to be left attached to the pump and the hose folded back up over the top of the engine and held in place by a bracket or tube. This type of arrangement was called a “Squirrel Tail” because of its appearance. This draft hose allowed for drafting water directly by the engine from a local water source without the need for a bucket brigade to supply water. Curt Peters related that this was another major step forward in fire-fighting technology, “eliminating the need for a bucket brigade to supply water.”<sup>111</sup>

The new development of leather hoses and their use in some communities also changed fire ground operations. The hose on a reel on the fire engine or two-wheeled hose carts might be attached to a “Tail Hook” on the back of the engine.<sup>112</sup> In some communities, there was a separate Hose Company. These would all answer the fire alarm as described previously.





Close-up of polished wood "tub" and intricately detailed brass work of Jeffers Co. "Mohawk" hand engine. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.

The engine now did not have to set up as close to the fire as before with the use of a fire hose to take the nozzle off the "Goose-neck" connection on top of the engine and use the hose from the engine to the nozzle advancing it toward the fire. If a water supply was near the fire, the engine could set up at the water supply and use the draft hose to obtain water for the pump. In some cases there would be formal agreements between engine and hose companies that the hose company would partner with a specific engine, either supplying water or advancing hose to the fire.

For this scenario, the engine has a local cistern or well near the fire that they can draft from and set up at the water supply while advancing the hose, they brought to the fire for a direct attack. The engine still required a multitude of strong men working the "brakes" at a minimum of 60 strokes per minute to keep the nozzle with a hose supplied with water. As before firemen could last only a few minutes before being exhausted and replaced on the Brakes. The bigger engines had brake handles that were stored folded during transport along narrow streets and had to be unfolded once on scene. However, these longer brake handles or the new double-deck engines provided more room for firemen to take their place on the brakes. Some of these big engines (with larger capacity pump cylinders) required up to 60 firemen to adequately work the full capabilities of the pump.

### MAJOR FIRE/RELAY PUMPING

In a different scenario, the water supply, a stream, is a long way away from the fire. To use this water supply effectively, several engine companies will need to work together to pump water to the scene. This will be the first development of relay pumping in the fire service. In an ideal situation, the largest capacity engine would set up at the water supply, and stretch their hose toward the fire. As the next engine arrives the first engine foreman would shout "Will you take our water?"<sup>113</sup> This engine would agree and either hook the hose of the first engine into its intake connection or simply place the hose end into the water intake box. The second engine would then stretch its hose further toward the fire. This process continues until the last engine is positioned at the fire scene, then gets in line and stretches the hose for a fire attack. This provided a sustained water supply to fight fire, as long as the firemen pumping the brakes along the line held out. With a fire hose used to advance the nozzle, the early beginnings of the principles of interior attack were being formed and instituted. The Fire Service was beginning to make headway on fighting the nemesis of fire. Sounds fairly straightforward, but in reality, it did not always go that way.

The desire to fight fire focused on the actual fire scene, and sometimes the first engine would go directly to the fire to take charge of the scene and hope the next engines would establish a water supply for

them. However, rival companies might try and bypass a company in line. Also, rival companies working in a relay might try and out pump the company downstream of them by increasing their pump strokes and flowing more water than the engine in front of them could pass along, thus overflowing their water box (tub). This was called "washing" an engine and "was the greatest humiliation a company could suffer."<sup>114</sup> This type of competition wore the firemen on the brakes out at a quicker rate and directed focus away from the actual mission of putting the fire out. In some cases with intense rivalry between companies, the members of the company about to be washed might open a drain on the tub and dump water on the ground instead of letting the box be overflowed, thus wasting water. In other instances, the firemen might start a fight between companies and the firemen abandoning the brakes to join the brawl.<sup>115</sup> Episodes of fighting between companies were another reason for a "severe censure by the city authorities," and the companies involved were ordered to "turn tongue in."<sup>116</sup> It was certainly a disgraceful incident and not a proud moment in the history of the fire service for this to occur. Unfortunately, there are several documented incidents of brawls between rival companies during the later days of hand engines. This malicious and despicable behavior may have also been driven by the cultural change in the community and the fire service that was taking place.

With the construction of water supply systems in many communities in the early 1800s wooden water pipes just below the streets would provide fairly convenient access to water close to the fire scene in many communities.<sup>117</sup> The invention and installation of fire plugs and then fire hydrants in 1836, would increase quick access to water near the fire scene.<sup>118</sup> However, in some instances with poor water pressure relaying pumping might be necessary. In other instances with high-pressure water mains, Hose Companies could fight fire without the need of an engine. Creating a potential for more rivalry on-scene. For more information on the history of water systems and hydrants see the *FFAM Magazine* article, "The Saga of the Fire Hydrant, A Part of Fire Service History."<sup>119</sup>

The invention of a durable leather fire hose and its use added additional duties to fire response in the later days of the hand engine era. Either the engine company or a separate hose company would be required

to manually haul the hose to the scene, and then deploy it for either supply or attack hose working in conjunction with the needs of the engine companies. After the fire, the hose would need to be picked up and transported back to the station for maintenance, oiling, and drying before being reloaded on wagons or reels. For more information on the history of Fire Hose see the *FFAM Magazine* article, “The Development of Fire Hose, A Part of Fire Service History.”<sup>120</sup>

### MAINTENANCE OF THE HAND ENGINE

After use, the hand engine, the tub, intake, and pump cylinders would be flushed with fresh water to remove any contaminants. Metal mechanical moving parts would be lightly oiled.<sup>121</sup>

After flushing the water box or tub would be drained and dried to prevent wood rot and rusting of metal components that form the tub. Also, water left in the tub could freeze in cold weather due to the firehouse usually being unheated in the apparatus bay.<sup>122</sup>

To create a seal between the piston and pump cylinder, the metal piston is covered “with stout cupped leathers... so that the edges of the leather only are in contact with the interior of the pump barrel.”<sup>123</sup> When the leather becomes worn to the point it is leaky or loose it needs to be replaced. Periodic maintenance of these pump cylinder gaskets would be cleaned and treated with “neats foot oyl” (leather oils) to keep them from drying out.<sup>124</sup> David Falconi, a hand engine historian, said the leather piston pads would be removed, treated with oil, dried, and then reinstalled to keep the neats foot oil from corroding the cylinders.<sup>125</sup> The cylinders themselves would receive a coating of mineral oil to protect the metal from corrosion or rust.

If the tub or cistern is wood-finished, it would be painted inside at least every “two years to preserve it.”<sup>126</sup>

Carriage wheels would be routinely greased, and if the engine had not been used during the month, the pump levers would be pumped “two or three times up and down that the water may keep all its leathern parts in order.”<sup>127</sup>

### HISTORIC HAND ENGINES TODAY

Thanks to numerous fire companies with the desire to maintain their history, along with museums and Veteran Firemen’s Associations, quite a few Hand Fire Engines



Button 1855 hand engine. Note the motto on the tube holder of “squirrel tail,” “piano-box” style wood tub, “hayrack” pump brakes folded-up in the stored position, and rope reels at front for hauling engine. Photo courtesy Curt Peters, Vintage Fire Museum, Jeffersonville, IN.

survive to this day, many in pristine and working condition. Despite the numerous American hand engine manufacturers and that some engines were produced up into the early 1900s, antique hand engines faced challenges to survive. Though the hand engine did not have the amount of metal in them as the steam fire engines, during World War II many hand engines were scrapped for their metal parts just as many steamers were scrapped to support the war efforts.<sup>128</sup> Those hand engines that survive today are an important link to our history and traditions of the Fire Service.

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION & DISPLAYS

Despite reference resources, it can still be difficult to identify the manufacturer and year date of a hand engine. Because many manufacturers were in business for only a short time or were bought out, merged, or changed names, a Fire Organization (Company) might have to seek a different vendor to perform maintenance or rebuild their apparatus. Hand engines usually require “overhaul every 8 to 10 years.”<sup>129</sup> Also, when a fire organization purchases a new bigger engine, they might sell or trade in their old one. The vendor who re-built an engine or re-sold it would put their manufacture plate on it, obscuring the engine’s actual manufacturer. A word on dating hand fire engines. Curt Peters of the Vintage Fire Museum said, “Fire Organizations were

proud of their history and would paint the date their organization was founded on the machine, not the date the engine was manufactured or acquired.”<sup>130</sup>

A historic display of the era of the hand engine is an important part of fire service history that should be highlighted in fire museums. The Vintage Fire Museum of Jeffersonville, IN, has five hand engines in their collection that span the period from an early 1756 handtub to a later large double deck “Jeffers” hand engine.<sup>131</sup> This type of display provides the public with an understanding of the technology that bridged the period between bucket brigades and the “Era of the Steam Fire Engine.” It also was an important time in the development of fire service culture and the beginning era of the Volunteer Fireman. Fire museum historians, curators, and docents should be highly knowledgeable regarding hand engine fire apparatus to relate to visitors the significance of the history and traditions of this period of the fire service.

Some northeastern fire engine companies that have historic roots from the colonial days have diligently maintained their history through the preservation of their original firehouses and hand engines. In some instances, members of the company bought the hand engines and kept them until eventually they were donated back to the



Restored L.M. Rumsey Mfg. Co. 1890 hand engine. Note: “piano-box” style tub, “squirrel-tail” draft hose, and center mount hose-reel. Courtesy Don Wilmesher and Union Fire Protection District, MO. Photo by Gail Hagans.

fire company. These historic engines have been maintained or authentically restored by their original fire company or its descendant organization. They provide a unique centerpiece to initiate a discussion about early fire protection when conducting firehouse tours or public fire safety education. Some also participate in demonstrations and antique fire apparatus competitions.

### HAND ENGINE MUSTERS

As hand engines and their Fire Companies were phased out being replaced by newer types of fire apparatus, numerous veteran volunteer firemen didn't want to give up their engines or the comradery and competition. Groups of firemen came together in the New England area to continue the legacy and comradery of the hand engine fire company by attending Fire Musters and competing with their hand engines. The first hand engine firemen's muster was held in Bath, Maine in 1849. After that several local and state veteran firemen's associations were formed, with a New England States Veteran Firemen's League (NESVFL), being founded in 1890 to promote hand engine competitions and establish consistent rules and judging.<sup>132</sup> The NESVFL and other state leagues continue today to promote veteran firemen's groups, the history of hand engines, and competitions.

### FIRE COLLECTORS AND BUFFS

Today, there are groups of fire buffs or collectors that specialize in collecting fire apparatus. A smaller subset of this group are some lucky individuals who have acquired a hand engine for their collection. Because of their rarity, hand engines are probably considered the penultimate in fire apparatus collecting by many collectors. Besides the Veteran Firemen's Leagues, there are several fire apparatus organizations, and among them is the *Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America* (SPAAMFAA). Though they focus on motorized apparatus, they also represent collectors of hand engines. The parent organization has regional chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada. They provide many publications and resources for the collector or interested fire buff.

One of the Fire Historians and Collectors that the author spoke with was David Falconi, Founder and Owner of Handtub Junction, USA. Mr. Falconi is a former on-call Firefighter in Southborough, Massachusetts. He restored and owns many hand engines, along with assisting in restoring several others. He owns the Union No. 1, a Hunneman Co. hand engine from 1867, which has won numerous competitions. Falconi said that he is proud to help preserve the hand engine and its important place in America's Fire Service History.

He related that besides the comradery and friendships found at antique hand engine musters, the gatherings also provide an opportunity to provide a great hands-on history experience for the public, as well as newer firefighters.<sup>133</sup>

### RESOURCES AND CAUTIONS

Resources: Many fire service buffs and historians have greatly aided in the documenting of many of the fire engine manufacturers in America from the 1740s through the early 1900s. Among these are Don Mason with his *Hand Pump Fire Engine Guide* in 2000, and David K. Falconi's *The Encyclopedia of American Hand Fire Engine*, produced by Handtub Junction, USA, in 2001.

According to these references and others, there appear to have been at least 150 documented manufacturers of hand-pump fire engines in America during the period.<sup>134</sup> There is a remarkable amount of paper advertisements and records that have survived over time in collectors' hands, archives, and museums.

Cautions: Old hand pumping apparatus does not have modern-day guards or safety devices that protect from moving levers and pinch points when operated, and potential serious injury of personnel and citizens could result. One should remember that many Firemen of the period had fingers and arms broken or other injuries while operating a hand engine at a fire. Hand engines should be properly maintained and all working components checked. As with all fire apparatus, it should only be operated by properly trained personnel, and safety parameters established and observed.

Part of the thrill and historical learning experience is to conduct live demonstrations with hand-pumped apparatus for firefighters and the public. To put hands-on and pump a historic piece of fire apparatus is a wonderful experience that should not be missed. However, rudimentary training and safety lectures should be given along with constant supervision when allowing the novice to hand pump antique fire apparatus. Handtub Restorer/Owner David Falconi relates that when conducting a hands-on experience for the public they only pump for a short time (30 seconds), and participants are instructed that if their hands slip off the “brake” (handles) they are to step back and not try and grab the brakes while pumping is underway to prevent injury. Falconi said participants gain a better sense of history

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and the physical challenges the veteran fireman faced in doing their job. The participants will also “feel muscles they didn’t know they had.”<sup>135</sup>

It should be noted that unless retrofitted, there are no shutoff valves on discharges of hand engines. The discharge or connected hose/nozzle of hand pumpers should be manned and the area of the anticipated water flow cleared before any activation of the pump levers (brakes) to prevent accidents.

It should be understood that this article does not provide the necessary knowledge and practical training experience to teach one how to safely operate a hand fire engine, nor should it be substituted for appropriate instruction and apprenticeship under the supervision of a qualified and experienced hand engine operator/historian.

### THE LEGACY OF CHANGE AND TRADITIONS

The hand engine continued to be built and used even after the development of the steam pumper and chemical fire engines. Hand engines were in service and still being made into the 20th Century. Don Mason in his book, *Hand Pump Fire Engine Guide*, related that the last hand engine manufactured was

a “Button made in 1926.”<sup>136</sup> They also saw some limited duty in World War I and II.

The introduction of the hand engine in colonial America was a major leap forward in firefighting technology initiating aggressive fire attack. Finally, people felt there was a way to control the hazard of fire through aggressive extinguishment, protecting lives and property.<sup>137</sup>

According to History Professor Lampe, “volunteer fire departments reflected the spirit of cooperation so prevalent in America during the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century.”<sup>138</sup> These volunteer firefighters along with their novel hand engines of the period would through their exploits establish the history and traditions that have formed the foundation of the American Fire Service.

Perhaps the lyrics from a song from the mid-1800s best described the early American Firefighter who bravely manned the historic hand engine:

“Oh the fireman’s heart is bold and free,  
His motto is to save, He works without  
reward or fee, Hurrah! for the fireman  
brave.”<sup>139</sup>

### AUTHORS COMMENTS

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The author also wishes to recognize all the various Historians and Authors for their extensive and invaluable work in Fire Service History through artifact notes, articles, and books that have been used for research purposes by the author and footnoted in this series. May their work continue to endure the ages and preserve the true history and traditions of the American Fire Service.

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By Keith Smith

Welcome to the National Volunteer Fire Council report. I will lead off with a few bullet points of how NVFC currently stands as an organization. They currently have over 28,000 individual memberships, \$2.6 million in assets with most of that as invested savings. Their 2024 budget is \$4 million with most of that in program expenditures of several grants and support from 32 corporate partners.

NVFC individual membership has grown 24 percent in the past five years, which is remarkable as many organizations saw a downward turn in their membership due to COVID. The NVFC's membership retention rate is 86% which is 11% above the industry average. Membership is diversifying among the states.

NVFC's programs continue to make positive changes in the volunteer fire service as provided by several documented statistics. The NVFC has and remains active legislatively with a current focus on the reauthorization of AFG and SAFER.

Through September, NVFC has hosted 2,325 webinar attendees, 4,338 Virtual Classroom registrations, 575 Roundtable Talk participants, and 150 Training Summit attendees.

Some ongoing geographics... Their Spring Meeting will be held in Alexandria, VA for the foreseeable future. The 2024 Fall Meeting will be held in Kansas City, MO, the 2025 meeting will be in Rapid City, SD, and the 2026 meeting will be in Owensboro, KY.

While NVFC has several legislative priorities, they just added the Hero Act (H.R. 4274/S.1925) to that list. In summary, it will establish a series of programs designed to address public safety behavioral health issues, including creating a grant program for peer-support behavioral health and wellness programs at fire and EMS departments. Directing the U.S. Fire Administration in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services to develop publicly available resources. These will be used by the federal government and other entities to educate mental health professionals about the unique behavioral health issues that firefighters and EMS personnel face. It will establish a system for collecting data on suicide deaths of public safety officers.

The Health, Safety & Training Committee continues to partner with key industry groups in the study, prevention, and support related to Fire Service Cancer. At the fall meeting, NVFC agreed to partner with the University of Miami's Dr. Sylvester in their Comprehensive Cancer Study and application for future federal grant funding. Dr. Sylvester and his team of clinical staff have become a leader in the greater understanding, prevention, and early diagnostic technology for fire service-related cancers. Prevention and early detection are the two key areas that will save the greatest number of firefighters.

There were 40 of 49 States (Hawaii has no Volunteer Fire Departments) that were able to attend the Fall Meeting in Cooperstown, NY. It is always interesting to learn the organizational structure of each state association regarding their membership and their varied support services. It is clear the Firefighters Association for the State of New York (FASNY) is in a totally different category unto itself vs. all other states. They have 44,500 volunteer members and just two counties alone which make up Long Island have 189 Volunteer Fire Departments. FASNY has a two-story office building a few blocks from the state capital with their credit union on the first floor and over a dozen FASNY offices on the second. They also run a retirement home for volunteers requiring 140 employees and the State Museum in Hudson which is rated as one of the best in the country. While it was very eye-opening, I am glad to call Missouri home and a part of the FFAM family.

A reminder that on September 18-20 of 2024, NVFC will be hosting their Fall Meeting in Kansas City. I am working with their Conference Committee on compiling a list of how FFAM might be able to assist their needs other than writing a check. To be clear, NVFC is hosting this meeting by their selection but providing some supporting hospitality to fire service visitors is in order. The Conference Committee continues to finalize the smaller but important details in their overall plan for September 2024.

Thank you for your time and for allowing on your behalf with NVFC.



**N**  
**NATIONAL**  
**FIRE**

By National Volunteer Fire Council



**NVFC**  
**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL**  
**• EMS • RESCUE**

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is pleased to announce it has received a \$1.4 million Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These grants enable the organization to implement critical programs and initiatives that support firefighter health and safety and mitigate risks that can lead to line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

With funding from FP&S grants, the NVFC has been able to support responder well-being through the Share the Load program, Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments initiative, and Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, as well as release critical resources and training relating to cancer prevention, vehicle safety, culture change, injury prevention, and much more.

The new grant will focus on changing attitudes and behaviors to create a fire service culture that embraces health, well-being, and safety. It will build on the successes of prior FP&S grant initiatives in the areas of cancer prevention, behavioral health, department culture, and leadership. The goal of the campaign is to reduce health and safety risks faced by volunteer responders by sharing validated research and knowledge, developing tools and resources, and providing education and training.

Specific deliverables will include an awareness campaign, free in-person and online training including through the Virtual Classroom and signature Training Summit conference, the continuation of key programs and the NVFC First Responder Helpline, the development and distribution of resources, and partner engagement to maximize the impact and reach of these initiatives.

“In the fire service, our people are our greatest asset,” said NVFC chair Steve Hirsch. “The health and well-being of our nation’s volunteer firefighters, EMS providers, and rescue workers are top priorities for the NVFC. We appreciate this support from FEMA so that we can continue our work to protect those who protect our communities. We will continue to provide programs, resources, and training that reduce injuries and deaths among those who serve and build a strong, successful, and sustainable fire service now and for the future.”

“Our firefighters and first responders commit every day to put their lives on the line for the neighborhoods they serve, which is why we need to have their backs,” said Senator Chris Van Hollen

(MD). “This federal investment I fought to secure will equip volunteer firefighters in Maryland and across the country with the training to stay safe in emergencies, as well as the tools to help them safeguard their mental health. These resources are key to maintaining strong volunteer fire services to help protect our communities.”

Learn more about the FP&S grant here. Learn more about the NVFC’s health and safety initiatives at [www.nvfc.org/ServeStrong](http://www.nvfc.org/ServeStrong).

#### **ABOUT THE NVFC**

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides critical resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).



By Josh Loyd, District 3 Assistant Director

I am not sure how we are this far into the year already. Time flies when you are having fun!

Some say the winter is going to be harsh, others not so much. Regardless, people are preparing. We should be no different.

With the change of the seasons comes a different set of challenges for all of us. Are you ready? Is your apparatus ready for a hard winter? Is your department prepared for cold emergencies, hunting accidents, late-season floods, or carbon monoxide incidents?

Temperatures have already taken a dip or will be quite chilly by this article posting. This

a friendly reminder to you to have a blanket, extra gloves, maybe some snacks, water, and a power bank for your phone in your



vehicle in case you are stranded or break down. Every year we hear of multi-vehicle accidents that take several hours to clear up or for emergency help to arrive. This could be enough time for hypothermia to set in, or something worse. Know what the signs and symptoms are for hypothermia, and how you would appropriately treat it. Small preparations make for large success.

In Missouri, we have a large population that enjoys fall and winter hunting. With this comes being underprepared, and we can all probably say we have been on a hunting trip. Share your knowledge with your folks. Some safety thoughts are to make sure someone knows when and where you are going, take a way to communicate, use appropriate safety measures, have food and water, and dress appropriately for the conditions.

Late-season flooding or ice rescue brings bigger concerns for the victim and rescuers. Temperatures are very low in both air and water. Fatigue will set in much quicker,

decreasing victim and rescuer time for an adequate rescue. Is your department equipped for an incident of such? It is never too late to train for one. There is a plethora of knowledge throughout Missouri that would love to help you and your department become better prepared.

How do you keep warm? I usually start with eating too much. Well, that's not just when it is cold. Whether we use wood, gas, or electricity, they all pose a hazard to us. Does your department have proper equipment to mitigate an incident of such? Do you make time to check your equipment for proper working operation? Likely, this is one of those things that we think will never happen to us, until it does.

On a different note, the 2024 Convention is fast coming. We hope to see all of you there. Please watch for the coming announcement with information. Have a safe winter!

## CLASSIFIEDS

## USED EQUIPMENT

### HOLMATRO RESCUE TOOLS

The Cedar Hill Fire Protection District is selling used Holmatro Rescue Tools. There are 4 sets of rescue tools. All tools are in working order and being sold as is.

Set 1 consists of a Spreader, Cutter, 2 telescopic rams, 2 hoses, a duo power unit, and a chain kit for the spreaders.

Set 2 consists of a Spreader, Cutter, telescopic ram, 2 hoses, and a duo power unit.

Set 3 and 4 consist of a Combination tool, hose, and power unit.

Bids for a set(s) can be mailed or dropped off at:

Cedar Hill Fire Protection District  
6766 Cedar Hill Rd.  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016

Sealed bids are due by 4:30 p.m. on December 11th. Outside of the Envelope to be marked Rescue Tool Bid. Any questions can be referred to Assistant Chief David Jones at 636-285-3345





## BLUE LIGHTS AND SAFETY

Always respond safely. Don't put yourself, your crew or the motoring public in danger. Always drive safely, courteously, and use seat belts. Represent your fire department well by driving safely. Others in your community notice how members of your fire department drive and operate. When a member of a fire department has a crash on the way to a scene, it takes resources away from everyone.

Find more safety information at [www.mem-ins.com](http://www.mem-ins.com)

### CREW SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Know your fire dept. policy, and the "blue light" laws in your state.
- Remember that a simple "blue light" thrown onto your roof, or LED lights in your windshield are not visible like lights on pumpers or ambulances. Also, siren equipment mounted in your vehicle may not be as loud as those built into pumpers and ambulances. Simply, other motorists may not hear or see you.
- The vehicle you drive to an emergency scene must be properly licensed, insured, and pass a motor vehicle safety inspection. You must also have a valid driver's license to drive a vehicle on public streets and highways in Missouri.
- Know the Missouri statute: RSMo 307.175 (3) Permits for the operation of such vehicles equipped with sirens or blue lights shall be in writing and shall be issued and may be revoked by the chief of an organized fire department, organized ambulance association, rescue squad, or the state highways and transportation commission and no person shall use or display a siren or blue lights on a motor vehicle, fire, ambulance, or rescue equipment without a valid permit authorizing the use. A permit to use a siren or lights as heretofore set out does not relieve the operator of the vehicle so equipped with complying with all other traffic laws and regulations. Violation of this section constitutes a class A misdemeanor.
- Know the Missouri statute: RSMO 304.022 (6) No person shall purchase an emergency light as described in this section without furnishing the seller of such light an affidavit stating that the light will be used exclusively for emergency vehicle purposes.
- Using a blue light and siren for fire department purposes does not absolve you, and the emergency responder, from driving safely. A crash or injury could result in criminal and civil penalties.
- Since emergency response is dangerous in nature, it is a bad idea to drive "emergency" with your family with you. Avoid taking your family with you to emergency scenes, especially highway, violence, or hazardous materials responses.
- Always drive safely and represent your fire department well. Others in your community see when unsafe driving or unsafe activities are occurring. Work safely, wear your gear, wear your seat belt always.
- Never drive to a scene when impaired by alcohol, medication, or illicit drugs. Do not respond to scenes when impaired. Driving while impaired by medical marijuana, medication, or recreational use marijuana is illegal.



Emergency lights on your personal vehicle are not as visible or as loud as warning equipment professionally mounted on fire trucks or ambulances.



Drive with due regard. Make sure turnout gear is clean and ready. Have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher ready in your personally owned vehicle.



To prevent unnecessary crashes, discuss safe driving with your crews often. Perform emergency response driving training often. Discuss safe driving at each meeting.

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Firefighter Association of Missouri assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional. 10/09/2023 by MW*



# Director's Comments



**Harry Ward**  
Director

Another year has passed and what a year it has been. I am just finishing my first year with MU FRTI. I have learned so much and am excited about what will be coming next. This year has gone faster than any other that I can remember. From my first Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference, Winter Fire School, Summer Fire School and so many other events and outreach around the state. I still haven't met with many of you. If you are holding chiefs' meetings, training officer meetings, or any events and would like me to come, contact your regional coordinator and we will get that meeting on my calendar.

I want to congratulate the Missouri Firefighters Memorial Foundation Board for an amazing event for the families of our fallen firefighters. This was the first time I had attended the memorial. It was a moving tribute to those who lost their lives. We must honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

There were hours and hours of preparation that went into the planning of the memorial. I know that the Foundation Board could always use extra help setting up chairs cleaning the memorial or just pulling weeds.

We are losing one of our long-term employees: Karen Palmer will be retiring in December. We wish her all the best as she moves on to the next chapter of her life. By the time this article comes out, we should have that position filled. Along with Karen leaving, Tim Hartz has moved on to work with his family businesses. I want to wish Tim well in his new endeavors. We are in the process for that position as I write this article.

Classes have been slow out of the gate, and we are working hard to get classes scheduled for this fall and next spring. Right now, the *Basic Grain Bin Engulfment Rescue* has been very popular. Fire Marshal Bean has made *Introduction to the Fire Service* a priority class funded by the Division of Fire Safety. We appreciate Fire Marshal Bean and his staff, putting priority on delivering the best training possible. We are looking forward to February as we work on Winter Fire School. Keep a look out for the brochure will be coming soon. If you are looking for leadership training the Fire Service

Leadership Enhancement Program starts in January. If you haven't already got your registration in, you should hurry. This will fill up fast.

The instructor conference had over 160 registrants who participated in train-the-trainer classes as well as some great speakers throughout the weekend. We want to congratulate George Albert our FY23 *Instructor of the Year!* We want to also congratulate the 1st runner up to Brad Dillow and the 2nd runner up to William Johnson. Our recipients of the H. Marty Schuessler Fireball Award were Aaron Bockhorst and Mike Novak.

Our *Highest Performance Rating Single Occurrence* award winners were George Albert, Aaron Bockhorst, Mike Booth, Timothy Clarkson, Robert Creed, Daniel Franks, Jacob Jones,

Find Out More Online:

## MUFRTI.ORG

## Upcoming MU FRTI Classes • Find the Full Training Schedule at MUFRTI.org

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE
12/01	Water Supply Operations for Suburban and Rural Firefighting	Monett	John Velten	(417) 489-4266
12/02	Vehicle Rescue: Operations	Warrensburg	RJ Corona	(907) 750-5303
12/02	Tactical Decision Making from the Right Seat	Newburg	Brendon Williams	(573) 201-7069
12/06	Tactical Decision Making from the Right Seat	Warrensburg	Matthew Soer	(660) 262-4652
12/08	School Bus Rescue	Trenton	Jeremy Summers	(660) 654-4108
12/11	Virtual Reality Simulation for First Arriving Units and Officers	Riverside	David Snarr	(816) 651-1291
12/12	Street Smart Command	Hillsboro	Robert Tucker	(314) 280-2673
12/13	Virtual Reality Simulation for First Arriving Units and Officers	Blue Springs	Nathan Manley	(816) 598-6769
12/13	No Exceptions Leadership - Leadership for the Real World Fire Officer	Warrensburg	RJ Corona	(907) 750-5303
12/16	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training	Eureka	Greg Brown	(636) 938-5505
12/16	Basic Grain Engulfment Rescue	Buffalo	Dave Moore	(417) 241-4112
12/19	Real World Haz-Mat ID	Barnhart	Kevin Schnable	(314) 420-0314
01/08	Dealing With Generation Differences	Gordonville	Tim Bleichorth	(573) 382-1553
01/10	Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders	Smithville	Jay Taggart	(913) 205-2264
01/12	Lost Person Search and Rescue	Pilot Knob	John Colwell	(573) 315-8718
01/12	Large Area Search Team Training	Kearney	David Pratt	(816) 985-2268
01/13	Street Smart Command	Jefferson City	Kyle Renick	(573) 298-1528
01/13	Handling LP Gas Emergencies	Diggins	Mark Hensley	(417) 207-0830
01/16	Tactical Decision Making from the Right Seat	Cape Girardeau	Matt Mittrucker	(573) 579-2072
01/19	No Exceptions Leadership - Leadership for the Real World Fire Officer	Barnhart	Kevin Schnable	(314) 420-0314
01/20	Firefighter Friendly Thermal Imaging	Warrensburg	RJ Corona	(907) 750-5303
01/25	Virtual Reality Simulation for First Arriving Units and Officers	Hillsboro	Bob Tucker	(314) 280-2673

SCAN CODE



FOR SCHEDULE

Mark Kempker, Josh Koepke, Byron Long, Stephen McLane, Roger Meyers, Sidney Morgan, Monte Olsen, Bruce Parton, Charlie Peel, Rex Reynolds, Jeff Strawn, Paul Verren, Kenneth Vomund.

Our *Highest Performance Rating Multiple Occurrence* award winners. Michael Arnhart, Mark Arnold, Robert Crawford, Richard Kuhn, Brian Main, Stephen Marshall, Roger Myer, Michael Moore, Olan Moreland.

We look forward to seeing more instructors next year at our instructor conference.

In 1933 local area fire departments in mid-Missouri joined with the University of Missouri to address the need for more advanced training. Since then, there have been nine directors of the MU FRTI. We are saddened by the loss of former MU FRTI Director, Chief Bill Westhoff. During his tenure at the university, he was instrumental in moving the program forward and becoming the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute. Chief Westhoff led the Institute from 1973 until 1984 when he accepted a position as the Fire Chief for Columbia Fire Department. We are grateful for Chief Westhoff's leadership not just here at the University of Missouri but across the State of Missouri.

MU FRTI's mission remains focused on providing the very best and safest training for the Missouri fire service and emergency first responders. If we can be of any assistance, please contact us at 800-869-3476 or 573-882-4735 or go to [www.mufrti.org](http://www.mufrti.org).

University of Missouri Extension

Fire and Rescue Training Institute

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FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

# Fire Service Leadership Enhancement Program 2024



**3 SESSIONS** January 23-25 • February 27-29 • March 26-28

# AUXILIARY BYLAWS • UPDATED AND APPROVED

## By Fire Fighters Association of Missouri Auxiliary

### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the *Auxiliary to the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri*, hereinafter referred to as the Auxiliary.

### ARTICLE II OBJECTIVE AND POLICIES

- To promote firefighting safety
- To promote fire prevention education
- To give fire and emergency assistance
- To create and maintain a fellowship among members of the Auxiliary

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall consist of spouse, spouse of retiree, parents of the member, children of members and/or be sponsored by a firefighter from their local department who is in good standing with the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri

Honorary Members: Widows or widowers, who were active members of the Auxiliary at the time of their spouse's death, shall be given life membership with all privileges of members. Children of fire fighters, who have passed away, may remain active members of the Auxiliary, and will continue to pay yearly dues.

Membership Dues: Dues shall be five dollars per year, payable January 1 before the convention. The dues will be remitted to the Second Vice President.

### ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

The Officers of this Auxiliary shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-president, Secretary/Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Public Information Officer. They shall be elected by nomination and majority vote of the authorized delegates at the annual convention on even years. All officers shall be elected for a term of two years at the same time. \*\*In extenuating circumstances (example: pandemic, natural disaster, etc.) election time and location may be adjusted with full intention of minimal changes as possible.

### ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of all current Auxiliary Officers and the Immediate Past President of the FFAM Auxiliary.

\*\*extenuating circumstance clause only changed if necessary

\*\*\*only needs to be changed if and when banking laws change again

### ARTICLE VI VOTING PROCEDURES

Delegate(s)

- Each department shall have 1 voting delegate per regular business meeting, and a majority vote rules.
- Each department may have 2 convention delegates which are active paid members of the FFAM Auxiliary.
- If there is only 1 qualified auxiliary member from your department that person shall serve as a delegate with only one vote.
- Delegates must be present at the convention to vote.

### ARTICLE VII VOTING ELECTION

The nominees shall consent to serve before their names are placed on the ballot, and they shall be in attendance at the convention.

A simple majority of delegates votes is required for election.

Officers shall be elected for a two-year period. No officer may serve more than two, two year terms consecutively in any one office and shall attend all board meetings. \*\*Being in attendance can be in person and via electronic video application/program.

All officers, not including past presidents, are required to attend a minimum of three regular bimonthly business meetings. The Annual FFAM Conventions are required in addition to the three bimonthly meetings. If unable to attend any meeting, notification must be given to a current Auxiliary officer. If the requirements are not met, after your second absence of the bimonthly meetings a letter will be sent requesting your intent. After your third absence, a final letter will be sent and your office position will be filled by another Auxiliary Member appointed by the Executive Board for the completion of your term.

Officers' terms shall begin at the close of the annual convention.

### ARTICLE VIII DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

#### **President:**

- a) Preside at all meetings of the Auxiliary and all meetings of the Executive Board
- b) Appoint all committees and shall be voting, ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- c) Have the power to call special meetings of a committee, and to call special meeting of this organization.

#### **First Vice-President:**

- a) Perform all duties and assume all responsibilities of the President during the absence of the President
- b) Work with the Convention Committee in the host town at the annual convention and be responsible for all convention items
- c) Shall assume the chairperson of the audit committee. This duty will be performed and completed before the Annual Convention.

#### **Second Vice-President:**

- a) Perform all duties and assume all responsibilities of the President during the absence of the First Vice-President and President.
- b) Be the membership chairperson and shall make every effort to increase the membership of the Auxiliary
- c) Keep an up-to-dated roster of the Auxiliary membership and provide all officers and past 3 presidents with this list.

#### **Secretary-Treasurer:**

- a) Keep an accurate record of all of the auxiliary meetings. A copy of all minutes shall be provided to the President and all Board members prior to the submission to the media
- b) Be responsible for maintaining all written meeting minutes from meetings held. (Meeting minutes will be recorded using the electronic video application/program. Account maintained by the Public Information Officer)
- c) Conduct the correspondence of the Auxiliary

d) Maintain all finances of the Auxiliary, including but not limited to: receiving and disbursing of funds, management of funds and accounts, etc. as needed and authorized by the Auxiliary.

e) Audit-must include a detailed list of expenses, deposits, balanced bank statements and the checkbook.

\*\*\*\*the FFAM Auxiliary Checkbook requires there to be two signatures on the signature card for verification of funds deposited/ disbursed.

#### Public Information Officer

a) Shall attend meetings/conventions and maintain the history data of the Auxiliary

b) Keep an updated list of officers past and present, convention sites, and Auxiliary Member of the Year.

c) Maintain all FFAM Auxiliary Social Media Sites

d) Prepare and make certain all virtual meeting options and opportunities are given to membership for all meetings and conventions

e) Send any correspondence to news media outlets when necessary and appropriate (secretary will maintain control of meeting minutes and their publication)

#### *Sergeant at Arms:*

a) Aid the President by preserving order

b) Notify delegates of voting procedure

c) Distribute and count election ballots

d) Certify votes, if necessary

e) Review the bylaws for updating and presenting those changes at the annual convention

f) Shall read Roll Call of Auxiliary Membership Departments during convention

#### ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of **3 Auxiliary members appointed by the president and when possible should include up to 3 past presidents.** ~~of the immediate past three presidents.~~ This committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of officers for the election at the convention.

#### Auditing Committee:

Shall consist of the 1st Vice president and a member appointed by the President. The committee is responsible for the audit of the financial record keeping and reporting this audit at convention. The audit shall take place before convention.

#### Auxiliary Member/Department of the Year Committee:

Shall consist of the past 3 winners. The committee is responsible for presenting the nomination story, obtaining and presenting of the plaque at convention. **\*\*In extenuating circumstances (example: pandemic, natural disaster, etc.) presentation time and location may be adjusted with full intention of minimal changes as possible.**

#### ARTICLE X AMENDMENT

By-laws may be amended at any regular bi-monthly of the auxiliary by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates present. The amendment shall be submitted to the Auxiliary for discussion and reflection one month, submitted to the FFAM Magazine and website for publication, and publicized on the FFAM Auxiliary Member only social media page for viewing, discussed and voted on at the following bi-monthly meeting. An account of changes, additions or corrections of the by-laws shall be given at the annual convention.

#### AUXILIARY TO THE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Standing Rules (use Robert's Rules of Order)

1. Order of Business
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Presentation of Colors
  - c. Pledge of Allegiance
  - d. Notification of Delegate Responsibilities
  - e. Roll Call of Departments
  - f. Reading and Approval of Minutes
  - g. Reading and Approval of Financial Report

- h. Other Officer Reports
- i. Standing Committee Reports
- j. Special Committee Reports
- k. Special Orders (Guests, other special business when appropriate)
- l. Unfinished Business
- m. New Business
- n. Announcements
- o. Retiring of the colors
- p. Adjournment

2. Four members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum to transact business
3. The time of the Auxiliary meetings shall coincide with the meeting of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri.
4. When a motion is presented on the floor, the member should stand and state their full name and department represented.
5. Auxiliary fund-raising activities shall be determined by the auxiliary.
6. The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31, with the audit before the annual convention and presented at the convention.
7. The Executive Board shall have the power to spend funds for special projects not exceeding \$500.00 providing the funds are available.
8. Executive Board meetings are the only meeting where only Executive Board member may vote.
9. Due to new Federal Banking Laws, the decision was made to have two signers on the signature card at the Bank in which the current association's non-profit checking accounts is located. This ensures those monies will be secured back to this association in the event anything happens to the Officer who is currently holding the Secretary/ Treasurer position. Please note that it was also decided that the officer living closest to the current Secretary/ Treasurer, not including Past Presidents, will be responsible for signatures upon the election of new officers. (Revised and put in by-laws May 2020)

# GREETINGS!

By Joni Fields, Sargent at Arms

I hope this message finds everyone well and enjoying the beautiful fall weather we have been having. As we have progressed through the year, we have found a potential future issue with the nominating committee in our By-Laws.

According to our current By-Laws, the amendment process will go as follows:

By-laws may be amended at any regular bi-monthly of the auxiliary by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates present. The amendment shall be submitted to the Auxiliary for discussion and reflection one month, submitted to the FFAM Magazine and website for publication, and publicized on the FFAM Auxiliary Member-only social media page for viewing, discussion, and voting on at the following bi-monthly meeting. An account of changes, additions, or corrections of the by-laws shall be given at the annual convention.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact me or any FFAM Auxiliary Executive Committee Member.

Also, if you would like to serve on the Executive Committee beginning in 2024, please reach out, we would love to share more about this and have you consider being a part of the team.

We look forward to seeing you at our December 2023 Board Meeting.

*Meeting Minutes continued from page 7.*

The building project is waiting on coordination with the Department of Agriculture and state funds. If you have ideas or suggestions, talk to RB Brown.

Kegan Wilson has been appointed as the Fire Chief for 2024.

## WEBSITE COMMITTEE

No report was given.

## MAGAZINE

Jaime Miller reported that the next magazine deadline will be October 23. For those submitting pictures, please try to use only vertical shots with higher-resolution

# AUXILIARY MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Sedalia, Missouri

The meeting was called to order by President, Jessica Weisz at 9:00 a.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Jessica Weisz, Norborne FPD; Sheri Berendzen, Cole County FPD; Joni Fields, Paris RFPD; Carissa Thompson, Holts Summit PFD; Missy Erdel, Little Dixie FPD; Debbie Meyers, Concordia FD;

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Theresa Cox was unable to attend so no report was given.

## MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed and accepted. Sheri Berendzen made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Carissa Thompson, and the motion passed.

## MEMBERSHIP

Sheri Berendzen reported we currently have 109 paid, and 13 honorary, for a total of 122 members, with 28 departments.

## CONTEST

Sheri Berendzen reported that there was nothing new to report.

## FIRE PREVENTION POSTERS CONTEST

Andrew Caldwell, Boles, is the new poster contest chairman. The 2024 theme is *Cooking Safety Begins with You.*

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's Memorial Services will be held in Kingdom City on Saturday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 8, at 10:30 a.m.

## NEW BUSINESS

It was 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 Fields will review the bylaws and present any changes to be considered at the December meeting.

Lake Ozark is the potential host of the 2024 FFAM Convention. More info will be coming.

The February 2024 meeting is being moved from February 4 to February 11 due to Winter Fire School.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 3 at 9:00 a.m. in Sedalia, MO.

Missy Erdel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joni Fields, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheri Berendzen, 2nd Vice President



photos. There is a setting on most cell phones to allow for high resolution.

## HISTORIAN REPORT

No report was given.

## FIRE FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

No report was given.

## EMS FUNERAL TEAM REPORT

No report was given.

## FOUNDATION REPORT

Ken Hoover reported that the memorial services will be on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. and October 8 at 10:30 a.m. Beginning in

2024, the services will be held the first weekend of October each year. They have 300 RSVPs so far this year from families and are expecting a large crowd.

There is an IAP project that has been in the works for several years. A group is shadowing the services this year so the services can continue each year.

The utilities and restrooms inside the museum are completed for use during the services.

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

WE SERVE YOU...SO YOU CAN SERVE OTHERS!

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Sales Professional  
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