



# FLASHPOINT

January 2009

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

### PRESIDENT

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### EXECUTIVE VP

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Presque Isle  
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### SECRETARY

Stanley Saucier  
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### TREASURER

Jeff Maker  
Calais  
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### ANDROSCOGGIN

John Arsenaault  
Turner  
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### AROOSTOOK NO.

Doug Morneault  
Madawaska  
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### AROOSTOOK SO.

Dale Morrison  
Presque Isle  
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### CUMBERLAND EAST

Richard Sylvain  
Freeport  
207-865-1950

### CUMBERLAND WEST

Art Quint  
Westbrook  
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## 2009 CONVENTION IN KENNEBUNK

### Maine State Federation – 46 Years and Growing

The 2009 MSFFF Convention kicks off on Friday, September 11 in Kennebunk, Maine. Registration starts at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The Annual Meeting of the MSFFF membership starts at 7:30 p.m.

The parade will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 12. The Banquet and Awards Dance will be held Saturday night. Reservations required.

## FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL

On September 11th, the Fire Fighters of Maine will gather in Kennebunk to honor our own.

### WE WANT YOU THERE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO THE MSFFF WEBSITE:

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

## VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER SUPPORT FUND REPORT

### National Volunteer Fire Council

*By Donna Clark, Admin. Asst. – Executive Committee Meeting – Sept. 2008*

At the 2008 Executive Committee meeting, it was reported that the total income of the Volunteer Fire Fighter Support Fund was \$470,568.56. From this, \$444,206.02 has been disbursed. As of July 31, 2008 the balance is \$26,136.52. We have dispersed numerous checks in the past few months for \$250.00 each, to volunteer fire fighters who have lost their homes and/or property due to the tornadoes that struck Iowa.

Also at the Spring Meeting, a motion was carried that would make funds available to any active volunteer fire fighter, rescue worker, or EMS provider who is from an NVFC member state as an individual or their department is a member of the state association, has incurred an uninsurable loss in excess of \$5,000 and who lives or has housing in a state or federally declared disaster area.

It was decided that eligibility for payment would be made pending an approval of a declaration of a disaster by a Governor or President. All payments are to be based on funds available up to a max of \$250 and claims must be authenticated by the chief of department and the NVFC board member from the application site.

### As of July 31, 2008:

**Revenue:** \$470,568.56  
**Bank Fees:** \$226.02

**Expenses:** \$444,206.02  
**Balance:** \$26,136.52

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

### FRANKLIN

Jeff Brackett  
New Sharon  
207-778-3652

### HANCOCK

Bim Snow  
Penobscot  
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### KENNEBEC

Edward Fortin  
Gardiner  
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### KNOX

Horace Benner  
Rockland  
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### LINCOLN

Jeff Stone  
Jefferson  
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### OXFORD

Richard Jones  
Mexico  
207-364-8426

### PENOBSCOT NO.

Kevin McAdam  
East Millinocket  
207-746-9390

### PENOBSCOT SO.

Robert Dibona  
Hermon  
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### PISCATAQUIS

Joseph Guyotte  
Dover-Foxcroft  
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### SAGADAHOC

Ken Desmond  
Bath  
207-443-6889

### SOMERSET

Ann Marie Leona  
Madison  
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# COUNTY NEWS

## LINCOLN COUNTY:

RLS Training Consultants and Fire Management Resources Institute have teamed up to offer a variety of courses, including Firefighter 1&2, Fire Officer 1&2, AHA First aid/CPR/AED, etc. We currently have 16 students enrolled in the Lincoln Area FF 1&2 program. This class is made up of students from Passadumkeag, Howland, Lincoln, Mattawamkeag, Springfield and Medway. The students are learning all of the basic skills required to be interior qualified firefighters along with firefighter survival, ladders, extrication, wildland fires, class B burns, etc. This program started on September 25 and the practical end test was on December 13.

## YORK COUNTY:

The New England F.O.O.L.S, in conjunction with the Central Mass. and Southern New England F.O.O.L.S, will be hosting the 2009 F.O.O.L.S International convention in York Beach June 24 through June 28, 2009. There will be numerous activities, including hands-on training, nationally known speakers and several bagpipe bands. There will be activities for the whole family as well. We have scheduled trips to LL Bean for the significant others on training day. There will also be go-cart racing, an Isles of Shoals trip, tours of the Globe factory, the Portland Fire Museum and Sterling Rope. To end the convention, we will be visiting the York Beach Fire Department's annual fireman's parade and muster on Sunday. We are still putting all of the details in place, but this is a "not to miss" event for all F.O.O.L.S members. For more info about us or the convention, visit our web site at [nefools.org](http://nefools.org) or the International site at [foolsinternational.com](http://foolsinternational.com).

## ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY

On October 11, some of Androscoggin County's towns participated in a mock disaster with Oxford County in Canton to see how prepared we are if one occurred.

The Greater Androscoggin Valley Mutual Aid Association sponsored a plane crash training in Turner on October 18 which was well attended. Another training class was scheduled for November, sponsored by Canton Fire, held in Turner.

## AROOSTOOK COUNTY

### Aroostook 1

Aroostook North Vice President Doug Morneault was elected in September 2008 to represent the Fire Departments from

Allagash to Fort Fairfield, including Caribou Fire and Ambulance. He has been in the Fire Service for five plus years and has committed to serving all his members the best he can. He is a Firefighter 1&2 State Certified and also has an EMT-Basic license in the State of Maine. He has been an EMT for 13 years and is a member of the Regional Response Team 1. This is a Haz-Mat Technicians' Team for the State of Maine.

### Aroostook 2

Madawaska Fire Department purchased a 2000 KMF 100' ladder truck. The money had been put aside for the past eight years by the Department, which consisted of \$50,000 per year. This truck, brand new, would have cost \$1,200,000; but Madawaska purchased this one used for an amazing \$380,000 from Springfield, Connecticut.

### Aroostook 3

The Grand Isle Fire Department purchased a 2006 Sterling Tanker/Pumper that has a CAF system and 3,000 gallons of water on board. This truck was purchased with a FEMA grant of \$23,000 to complete the sale. This replaced the 1968 International Engine 3 that had only 750 gallons of water.

### Aroostook 4

Fort Kent Fire Department purchased a 2005 Western Star wheeler with a C.A.F. system and 2,000 gallons on board Tanker/Pumper with a FEMA grant of \$250,000. This is an additional unit. The fleet did not replace anything.

## OXFORD COUNTY

Changing communities, lifestyles and regulations threaten Maine's volunteer fire departments.

Today, Lisbon Fire Chief Sean Galipeau and other chiefs in Maine often worry when a tone comes over the radio: Will enough firefighters arrive in time to save lives and property?

The firefighters that Galipeau and other local volunteer departments have are often well-trained and dedicated, many having served several decades. But their numbers are waning.

The problem of too few volunteers is constantly being compounded by changes in the economy and the culture, say chiefs in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties.

After the September 11 terror attacks, a steady flow of federal funds funneled into

# COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

the state and local departments for new equipment, trucks and training. But to have the manpower they need, towns still depend on the aid of their neighbors and "mutual-aid agreements."

We can't do it by ourselves, says Farmington Fire Chief Terry Bell.

Now chiefs call for mutual aid after they realize what they are facing and what they may need.

Rumford and Mexico share Chief Gary Wentzell, a 40-year veteran firefighter. Wentzell says even with a paid staff in Rumford, both towns also depend on volunteers. He sees the day the departments could merge more solidly into one, but also a day when the departments in Peru and Dixfield merge, creating an opportunity for a regional department.

Dixfield Fire Chief Scott Dennett, a firefighter himself for 21 years, says his company has shrunk by nearly 50 percent in the last two decades. Fifteen years ago his department had 40 volunteers, and 12 were qualified to fight fires from inside a burning building. Today he has a volunteer force of 22 and only six are trained for in-building.

In Oxford, Chief Scott Hunter says retaining firefighters after they are trained and keeping them up to speed can also be challenging. And while some firefighters will stay involved for decades, others come and go, Hunter says.

Improve pay and benefits.

While most volunteer fire departments are no longer strictly volunteer, most offer some kind of financial incentive, no matter how humble. Some chiefs say increasing benefits would be helpful in enticing and keeping volunteers.

Almost all Maine volunteer departments offer firefighters some kind of reimbursement, either an annual per diem amount or an hourly rate for the time they spend on a fire. Lisbon call force firefighters are paid \$1,700 a year if they attend at least 30 percent of the fire department's activities, be it actual fires or meetings and training, Galipeau says. Other towns offer a per-call payment.

But pay doesn't guarantee volunteers. Dixfield, which pays its call force members \$7.75 an hour – only 50 cents more than minimum wage – is one of many paying towns that still struggle to fill the ranks.

In Peru, volunteers are still purely volun-

teers. The force there has always voted to not spend money on wages, but instead on equipment, Peru Fire Chief Bill Hussey says. This January the town will consider moving to a payment system for volunteers.

## CUMBERLAND WEST

My Name is Art Quint and I have been affiliated with the Fire Department since 1962. I started full-time as a swing man, or as they called it then, kelly man, working on the pickup pumping and maintaining hydrants and filling in on vacations. On one particular day, I was filling in on Engine 1 while Merton Van Vliet was running an errand. We got a mutual aid call to Portland. I pulled the engine out on the ramp to wait for the crew. Just as we were ready to leave, "Van" came running and said that he would take it. Ten minutes later we got a call that there had been an accident. A car had run a red light and put the engine into a tree. There were no serious injuries but the truck was totaled.

We had several loaners, and one day Chief Rosenblad asked me to pack a bag, as we were going to New York to get a new Engine 1. (This later became Engine 3 and was totaled when it slid off the road in an ice storm.)

During the tour of the factory, a worker gave me a nameplate from an old engine, and that started me on my collection.

A fireman didn't make much money back then (\$72 a week), and as I was trying to raise a family, I left full-time and went to the Post Office, but stayed on as a call-man in Ladder 1 for 14 years. I might have stayed longer, but a good friend and co-worker and his wife perished in a fire on Rochester Street. I retired from the fire department in 1976. Since then I have been President of Cumberland County Firemen's Association for two years and since 1984, I have been Vice President of Maine State Federation of Firefighters representing Cumberland County.

I travel all over the country going to fire shows and musters. It is a great place to meet other firefighters and do a lot of swapping.

I had all of my collection in two rooms of the house until two years ago when I had a two-story, two-car garage built. The entire second floor is my "museum." I have a lot of old pictures, several hundred toy fire engines of various sizes, mugs from meets that I have attended, convention ribbons, postage stamps, first-day covers and insur-

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

### WALDO

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### WASHINGTON

Clyde Bernhardt  
Machias  
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### YORK NO.

James T. Howard  
Biddeford  
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### YORK SO.

Mark Gay  
York Beach  
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### LEGAL REP.

Bill Vickerson  
Portland  
207-775-5200

### YEARBOOK

Mark Pierce  
Hampden  
207-862-4426

### ACCOUNTANT

Fred Brewer, CPA  
Bath  
207-443-9759

# THE FIRE FIGHTER'S PRAYER

*When I am called to duty, God  
Wherever flames may rage.  
Give me strength to save a life  
Whatever be its age.*

*Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert  
To hear the weakest shout.*

*And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.*

*Help me to fill my calling and  
To give the best in me.  
To guard my every neighbor  
And protect his property.*

*And if, when I have done my best,  
And am call to Thee,  
Please bless with Your protecting hand  
My friends and my family.*

ance marks.

Being in a residential zone, I can't advertise; but I can use word of mouth, so anyone is welcome. Just call to let me know and I will be sure to be here.

I am also Secretary of the Box 61, Portland Fire Museum; and I have had a cookout and meeting here. It was fun to be downstairs and hear what they had to say as they went up to see everything.

It has been a very interesting hobby, and I am very proud of it. Any time I am in a different town, I always head for the toy store to see if perhaps they have something that I don't.