



FLASHPOINT

July 2009 Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

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cont'd on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the week of May 1, 2009 Matt Wolfanger and his crew from American Income Life Insurance Co. came to the Aroostook County area. They visited hundreds of people during that week. While visiting they collected over 230 lbs. of non-perishable food items. This was later given to me for our local food pantry. I want to thank Matt and his crew, also the public for their generous donations.

This year again we are looking for a firefighter who has done some-

thing special and is deserving of the lifetime achievement award for the year. Applications are on the website msfff.org or e-mail me at nei_fireext@live.com by August 15 2009.

The Federation is having a Super Fundraiser at this time. A total of \$5.000.00 in prizes will be drawn. The tickets are \$5.00 each and are available from the county V.P.'s and Fire departments throughout the state. The drawing will be held on Dec 11, 2009. Please support the fundraiser

project.

The dues have not gone up since 1996. With all the benefits, the Board feel it is time for an increase. At our next Membership drive our dues will be going up from \$6.00 to \$8.00.

Last but not least, I wish all of you a safe summer session.

Hope to see all at the convention Sept. 11-12-13, 2009 in Kennebunk, Maine.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Cyr
President,
Maine State Federation
of Firefighters

ANDOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

After 23 years as Andover's Fire Chief, Chief Kenneth Dixon has stepped down and is now serving as Assistant Chief. Ken's oldest son, Robert Dixon has succeeded his father as Andover's Fire Chief. During the past 23 years, the Andover Fire Department has continually upgraded its fleet, PPE, training and skills.

With the assistance of a number of successful AFG Grants, the Andover Fire Department has acquired new PPE, SCBA gear, radio equipment, and training in High Angle Rescue, Tower Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Ice Water Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Trench Rescue. This past year, with the assistance of a

\$250,000 AFG, the Andover Fire Department has taken delivery of a new 2009 Custom KME Predator/Panther 1250 pump, 1500 gal tank with rescue style body. The Town of Andover supplemented the grant with \$100.000 raised at town meeting. This new engine replaced two older pieces, a 1977 Howe Custom Pumper and a 1982 E-One Custom Pumper.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated membership of the fire department and the support of the townspeople.



REMINDER: DUES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 30th

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2009

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COUNTY NEWS

CUMBERLAND COUNTY EAST-Richard

Sylvain

Freeport Fire & Rescue have received a new 2009 Pierce Quantum Engine, 6 man cab, 1,500 gpm pump, 750 gallon water, 40 gallon foam Husky System.

Orrs-Bailey Island Fire & Rescue - new 2009 F550 all wheel drive, Diesel CET pump 300 gallon Skid tank with Kobota Diesel powered 250 gallon CAPS system.

New Gloucester Fire & Rescue has opened their new station on Rte. 100, closing two smaller stations.

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY-John

Arsenault

Sabattus and Livermore Fire Departments have new chiefs. Donald Therrien has been appointed chief for Sabattus and Mark Chretien has been appointed chief for Livermore.

On July 11, the Moxie Festival will be holding a muster on Upper main Street in Lisbon.

In the fall, the Greater Androscoggin Mutual Aid Association will be putting on a Bureau of Labor training class for new fire fighters.

Auburn Fire Department was recently awarded a Grant by MFTE to help defray cost for their training building and to help improve the training grounds.

KNOX COUNTY-Horace Benner

ROCKLAND FIRE FIGHTER GOES FOR ANOTHER SIX YEARS

Rockland Fire Department fire fighter (Call Division) Shannon Riley's full time job is being a Machinery Technician aboard the U.S Coast Guard cutter THUNDER BAY, based in Rockland. On May 15, 2009, it was time for Shannon to reenlist in the Coast Guard for another six years. Shannon thought what better way to reenlist than to do it at 93 feet above the ground. With permission from Rockland Fire Chief Charles Jordan, Jr. and his Coast Guard commander, Shannon gave his oath from the top of Rockland's Tower #3, 93 feet above the ground.

Shannon has been in the Coast Guard for 10 years. He loves the Coast Guard, but he also loves being a fire fighter. He has been a member of the Call Division almost since he arrived in Rockland. He is very active at the fire station and has taken many fire fighting courses, including becoming an EMT, plus doing his full time job with the Coast Guard.

OXFORD COUNTY-Richard Jones

Heroes: 3 firefighters get national medals of valor

MEXICO – Three Mexico firefighters who

quickly donned breathing gear and ran into a burning apartment building in June 2008 to rescue a Rumford firefighter trapped on the third floor under a collapsed roof were each awarded national medals of valor at Tuesday night's department meeting.

Capt. Ed Carey and Lt. Allan Chartier and Lt. Chris Bryant also received the George Downs Memorial Mexico Firefighter of the Year award from Chief Gary Wentzell.

Explaining the medals of valor prior to handing one to each man along with a citation bar, Wentzell said, "This is awarded to firefighters for performance above and beyond the call of duty at extreme personal risk and being instrumental in rescuing and saving another life."

The medals are believed to be the first ever awarded to area firefighters, Wentzell said. Tuesday also marked the first time in Mexico's 20-year Firefighter-of-the-Year history that three firefighters were bestowed the honor together. Normally, one firefighter is recognized.

Bryant, Carey and Chartier knew they were being named firefighters of the year but they weren't told they'd also be getting national medals of honor, Wentzell said.

"It's an honor, but we were just doing our job," Said Bryant, who is also a deputy chief with the Rumford Fire Department.

"It was exciting," Chartier said about receiving the medal for valor.

"It was a surprise. I didn't know anything about it," said Carey, who is also a Rumford firefighter.

Like Bryant, Chartier downplayed their heroic actions.

"We were just doing what we do," he said.

Carey said that others who helped in the rescue should also be recognized, not just them.

"There were all kinds of other people that helped. If it wasn't for the other guys that got the window open or (firefighter Chris) Moretto doing the 'Mayday!' we wouldn't have known about it and gotten him out," Carey said.

LEGISLATIVE

The first regular session of the 124th Maine Legislature is nearly history. By the time it adjourns it will have dealt with nearly 1,500 bills. Many affected the fire service in some way so our legislative committee was busy. The committee only takes a position on a select few bills though, the ones that we feel will have the greatest impact on our members and on our organization. This session we focused on seven bills.

LD 1466: An Act to Establish the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission Length of Service Award Program. As many of you know, recruitment and retention are the biggest challenges facing fire departments in all parts of the state. Increased training requirements put pressure on modern fire fighters and fire departments that their counterparts did not face only a generation ago. Departments are not only finding it increasingly more difficult to get new fire fighters, they are also finding it difficult to hold on to the good ones they have. Length of Service Awards Programs or LOSAPs are one tool for cities and towns dealing with these issues.

LOSAP programs reward individuals who stay in the fire service with deferred compensation and pension like benefits. The Federation and others in the fire service have been working for nearly two decades to bring a LOSAP program to Maine. We knew at the beginning of this legislative session that we would not be able to pass such a program in this economy. We thought though that the issue was important enough to begin the process now.

Working through the Fire Protection Services Commission, the Federation along with the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, the Maine Chiefs' Association, Maine Fire Training and Education and others hired Ed Holohan of Penflex Inc., a nationally known expert on LOSAP programs to draft a bill that we could introduce in this session. Together, we all worked with Ed and he crafted a "state of the art" LOSAP bill that we submitted as LD 1466.

As we expected, the state's budget problems and the economy doomed the bill this time. That did not surprise or disappoint us. Although we do not have a law yet, we now have a good bill. The fire service came together and worked with Ed Holohan to craft a bill that will someday be a law in Maine. We will not have to go back to the drawing board next time. We now have the template.

The Federation also supported and worked

for passage of five other bills

LD 550: An Act to Protect Maine Families from Home Fires and Carbon Monoxide. The legislature passed the bill. It will require that all single-family dwellings and multi apartment buildings sold in the State and newly constructed single-family dwellings have photoelectric-only-type smoke detectors and at least one carbon monoxide detector in an area within or giving access to a bedroom. The detectors in multifamily dwellings and newly constructed single-family dwellings must be powered by both the electrical service in the building and by battery.

LD 621: An Act Allowing Workers' Compensation Benefits for Firefighters Who Contract Cancer will create a rebuttable presumption under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act that a firefighter who contracts cancer contracted it in the course of employment as a firefighter if s/he meets certain conditions. The intent of this bill is to have the Workers' Compensation Act treat cancer the same way it treats heart disease and respiratory problems under the "heart/lung" law. The bill passed and the Governor signed it on June 16th.

LD 713: An Act Regarding Assault on a Fire Fighter would have made assaulting a fire fighter engaged in his/her official duties at the scene of a fire or emergency a Class C felony. Current law makes assault on a police officer or emergency medical services person a Class C felony. The Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee killed this bill before it ever got to the floor. The bill lost not because the committee members thought that fire fighters are less important than police officers and EMS personnel. It lost because the committee did not have any testimony or other evidence that assaults on fire fighters are a problem in Maine. That is the same issue that doomed this bill in the last legislature.

LD 847: An Act Authorizing Statewide Mutual Aid Among First Responder Agencies. This bill makes the Maine First Responders Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement, drafted by the Maine Emergency Management Agency apply to all political subdivisions in the State. Cities and towns no longer need to adopt local ordinances to participate in the agreement. This bill authorizes first responder agencies to provide emergency services, even if a city or town has not entered into a mutual aid agreement with the city or town sending the requested emergency management, fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, public works or other

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2009

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cont'd on page 5

2009 CONVENTION IN KENNEBUNK

Maine State Federation – 46 Years and Growing

September 11-13, 2009

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. Reservation deadline is August 3, 2009.

Chairman - *District Chief* Dana R. Ingham

Co-chairman - *Lieutenant* Thom Cahoon

Parade Chairman - *Captain* Fred Smith

Awards Chairman - *FF/Driver* George Cressey

Muster Chairman - *District Chief* Bill VanDense

Treasurer - *Ladies Auxillary* Betty Ingham

Committee Staff - Thom Cahoon, Chris Cluff, David Cluff, Skip D'Ascanio, Rachel Gaudreau, Richard Gaudreau, Ray Ingalls, Betty Ingham, Dana Ingham, Fred Smith, Claudette Thyng, John Thyng

Agenda:

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009

7:00pm - Board of Directors Meeting - West Kennebunk Fire Station

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009

8:00am-10:30am	911 Memorial Service - Washington Park
12:00pm-8:00pm	Registration - Dorothy Stevens Center
11:00pm-5:00pm	Antique Judging - West Kennebunk Fire Station
4:00pm-8:00pm	Vendor's Expo - Kennebunk Middle School
6:00pm-8:00pm	Spaghetti Supper - West Kennebunk Fire Station
7:30pm	Annual Meeting - West Kennebunk Fire Station

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009

6:00am-10:00am	Fireman's Pancake Breakfast - West Kennebunk Fire Station
7:00am-9:00am	Antique Judging - West Kennebunk Fire Station
7:00am-4:00pm	Vendor's Expo - Kennebunk Middle School
9:00am-10:00am	Parade Line-up - Off Route 1 by Shoppers Village
10:00am-Finish	Parade - Rt. 1 thru town to the Middle School
1:00pm-Adjournment	Pine Tree SPAAMFAA Meeting - Pick-up at West Kennebunk Fire Station
1:00-Departure	Bus Trip to K-Port - Pick up at West Kennebunk Fire Station
5:30pm-9:00pm	Awards Banquet - Bus Pick-up & Return Provided - American Legion Hall, Kennebunk
9:00pm-12:00am	Dance w/ Taste of Lace - Hall Bus Pick-up & Return Provided

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009

6:00am-10:00am	Fireman's Pancake Breakfast - West Kennebunk Fire Station
8:30am-9:00am	Fireman's Muster Capt. Mtg - Field behind West Kennebunk Fire Station
9:00am-Finish	MSFFF Fireman's Muster - Field behind West Kennebunk Fire Station

Registration Form for 46th MSFFF Convention - Sept. 11-13, 2009

Department: _____ County: _____ North or South

Pre-registration: At a cost of \$4.00 per person (please use additional sheets of paper if necessary)

Federation Member _____ Spouse or Guest _____

Non-Member _____ Spouse or Guest _____

Non-Member _____ Spouse or Guest _____

Banquet: \$20.00 each _____ (number of tickets) Dance: \$8.00 each _____ (number of tickets)

Pre-payment total: \$ _____

Note: Transportation is being provided to and from both the Banquet & Dance. As some will not attend both.

We are requesting that pre-registrations be returned by August 3, 2009. If you have any questions please call Dana Ingham at 207-468-1170. Please send registrations and payments to: Dana Ingham, 3 Stagecoach Lane, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

LEGISLATIVE CONT'D

emergency services. This bill passed overwhelmingly and the governor signed it on May 18. He held a public signing ceremony on June 8 with several members of the Federation attending.

LD 1177: An Act To Establish the Maine Emergency Services Institute was a bill so start the process of developing the state wide training facility. The bill would not have actually created the facility. It would have established the institute. The institute would have then undertaken the task of designing and locating the facility. Funding was a problem for the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Many members were also concerned that the facility had no proposed location and no concrete plans. Although everyone agreed that the state needs a modern training facility, this bill was just too big for this legislature in this economy. The Fire Commission has already committed to go back to the drawing board to come up with a more concrete proposal to present to the 125th legislature.

The Federation also opposed one bill.

COMMERCIAL DRIVERS' LICENSES AND FIRE FIGHTERS

Recently many of you have asked us whether Maine law requires operators of fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to have commercial drivers' licenses, commonly called CDLs. Apparently there is confusion about this issue in some places in the state. The simple answer is no. Both Maine and federal law exempt fire fighters and fire vehicles from the CDL requirements. The specific federal regulation that governs CDLs is 49 CFR §383.3. It says that states may exempt firefighters and emergency response vehicle drivers from the requirements of the CDL laws. Maine has done that in 29-A §1252 C(1) by allowing anyone with a Class C license, Maine's basic license, to operate fire apparatus.

As often happens with many legal questions though, that is not the final answer. Although the laws allow anyone with a Class C license to operate fire appara-

LD 394: *An Act to Protect Nonprofit Organizations from Embezzlement*. This bill would have required two signatures on every check issued by a non profit, public benefit corporation. The bill was well intentioned, designed to protect small non profits. We opposed it though because of the serious logistical challenges it would have created for organizations like the Federation that do not have their offices or their officers under one roof. The Judiciary Committee agreed and killed the bill.

Every legislative session has wins and losses. The big winner this year was Maine's fire service. I have never seen it more unified than it was this year. Different segments of the fire service have different priorities. That is normal and expected. This year though those differences did not get in the way. If we can sustain that unity, everything is possible.

William L. Vickerson

tus, many insurance companies do not. When I called the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' CDL Division I learned that the general liability carriers for many cities and towns make it a condition of coverage that fire apparatus and emergency vehicles will only be operated by individuals with CDLs. The insurers want the operators to have had the additional training required for the CDL. Additionally, a city, town or chief can have a CDL requirement for its apparatus operators simply as a safety policy or a training requirement.

Operating fire apparatus without a CDL in a municipality with an insurance or policy restriction would not get you arrested. It could though get you fired. Therefore if you do not have a current CDL and you are currently operating fire apparatus, you would be wise to check with your chief or other town official about whether your municipality has a policy on CDL requirements and take the appropriate action.

TRENTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Trenton Volunteer Fire Department
2009 Pancake and French Toast Breakfasts

6-10 a.m. Route 230/Oak Point Road — Trenton Fire Station/Town Office

Blueberry or plain pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea and juice

Adults \$6 Children ages 5 and up \$3 Children under 5 FREE

Saturdays – June 20, July 11, August 15, September 26 & Hunter's Breakfast – October 31

Trenton Vol. Fire Department will be hosting Pine Tree SP AMF AA (Antique Fire Apparatus) on Saturday,

September 26, 2009. To start the day, TVFD will be having their famous Blueberry Pancake & French Toast Breakfast. The breakfast will be at the TVFD Station on Route 230/Oak Point Road from 6-10 a.m.

Following the breakfast, there will be a showing of the antique fire apparatus and possibly other events during the day.

For more information on the day, visit www.trentonme.com.

Trenton Vol. Fire Dept. is proud to announce their new truck arrived in December from Metal Fab. It is an International with 1250 gpm pump and 1,000 gallon tank along with Class A and B.

3RD ANNUAL WESTERN MAINE FIRE ATTACK SCHOOL

For the third year in a row firefighters from Maine converged in Bethel for a weekend of fire training. The third annual Western Maine Fire Attack School was attended by more than 125 students, vendors and instructors, and once again posted a 20% growth over the previous year. Scott Dennett, Dixfield Fire Chief, and logistics manager for the School noted, "We thought the recession might affect things but we had an attractive course schedule and some great instructors. It all came together quite well. While the majority of our students are from Western Maine fire departments, we also had firefighters from as far north as Fort Kent, as far east as Northport, and neighboring New Hampshire".

The weather also cooperated and was a compliment to several courses that held outdoor practical sessions. "We had car fires at the airport work area, and a low angle rescue class happening off the bridge near the Androscoggin. For safety concerns a sunny day without wind is always appreciated when it comes to training outdoors", says Richard Jones, Deputy Chief from Mexico Fire, and Safety Officer for the School. "It allows for better instruction and learning if weather isn't a factor", This year's course selections included the National Fire Academy program for Incident Safety Officer, taught by Tim Hardy, State Fire Instructor, from the Farmington Fire Department; and Urban Interface Wildland Firefighting taught by forest rangers from The White Mountain National Forest. The Bethel Fire Department hosted a Saturday night BBQ for the School and regional firefighters who stopped by to visit the vendor displays. "The smaller thermal imaging cameras and new technologies in self-contained breathing apparatus seemed to command the most attention," noted vendors from New England Fire Tech and

Safety and Northeast Emergency Apparatus, just two of the seven vendors attending the School this year.

Evaluation forms returned from vendors, students, and instructors have already helped design the School for 2010, according to Dennett. "We'll return to the Bethel area; the students enjoy the setting and accommodations. Probably the best compliment is the number of students and instructors we have planning to return each year". Dennett also adds "The Town of Bethel, Bethel Fire Chief Mike Jodrey and his whole Department, along with local businesses all chip in to help ensure our School's success. We couldn't do it without the support of the region. We hope they know how much we appreciate their efforts".

The 2010 Western Maine Fire Attack School will be held May 15th and 16th. Courses planned for 2010 include; Rural Water Supply, Street-Smart Ladder Operations, Advanced Extrication, and First Due Engine Company Operations. "We're also planning some mapping, GPS, and compass classes for those interested in Wildland firefighting," notes Schmidt who keeps track of training requests. "It's all about the firefighters and making their training successful for their Departments. If firefighters and Chiefs give us ideas, we'll do our best to make it happen".

The Western Maine Fire Attack School is sponsored by the FRANDFORD Mutual Aid Fire Training Association, and hosted by the Bethel Fire Department. The Association's training is open to all firefighters and operates year-round, serving mostly Oxford County. Anyone interested in learning more can log onto the home page of the Frandford Mutual Aid Fire Training Association at www.frandford.org, or call 207-562-4245.