



FLASHPOINT

Fall/Winter 2017-2018 Maine State Federation of Firefighters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KEN DESMOND

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters just finished a GREAT Convention in Boothbay Maine. The Firefighters did an outstanding job putting this Convention on. Our Hats go off to them, with much thanks. A great time with many firefighters from across Maine came together and did a lot of networking. I want to thank our Officers for a great year in helping make the Federation look good to all. Our thanks go out to the Judges who volunteer every year to help us with antique apparatus, parade and firefighters muster. This year we honored a life time achievement award to Edson Small of the Winslow Fire Department with 50 years of service. In 1967 he joined the department

and became a great friend and firefighter. We also honored Rich Pembroke of Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department for 50 years of service.

I'm glad to announce that we have over 5,400 members signed up and counting. As we continue forward we are making a difference in life safety to our members. Making sure we wear our PPE. Let's have a great Holidays ahead and be SAFE.

Thanks to all of the Firefighters of Maine.

Ken Desmond, President

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MEMBERSHIP

2018-2019 Membership Renewals will be handed to the County VPs at the February 10th meeting. Your current membership will expire on June 30, 2018 so be sure to send in your renewal to avoid a lapse in membership!

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

Join NVFC! Click the following link for more information!

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

MSFFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Next meeting will be held on December 2, 2017 at MMA.

ADVERTISING WITH THE MSFFF:

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters is pleased to offer exclusive annual advertising opportunities to select businesses. If you work with a vendor who would benefit from advertising with us, send them here for all the information they need: http://www.msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2014.pdf

COUNTY NEWS

Aroostook North



The Maine Fire Chiefs Association would like to congratulate Chief Scott Susi of the Caribou Fire Department for receiving the Fire Chief of the Year award! Congratulations Chief Scott Susi.



Members of Presque Isle fire department A shift got the pleasure of helping and set up a hot air balloon.

Aroostook South



Members of the Presque Isle fire department took part in live car fire training the other night, with the propane simulator from Maine fire training.

COUNTY NEWS

Kennebec

Augusta



Originally built in 1920, the station will double in size, adding equipment space and a much-needed truck base.

Residents approved of the \$6 million dollar project last year.

A section of Gage Street is now closed as construction crews secure the site and remove trees.

The renovation and expansion of the fire station has been on the minds of city officials and firefighters since the 1990's.

Augusta's Fire Chief Roger Audette tells us it's a necessary modernization of a historic downtown building.

"There were horses running out of the station when they first built it so it's tight, it's overcrowded, the floor is not structurally strong enough to hold what we need. And this is the oldest part of the city. There 1000 apartment buildings in Augusta, this is where the bulk of the population lives. It's very important that we're here and able to deliver the services and get there in a hurry," said Audette.

The project is expected to be completed in about a year and a half.



Augusta Fire Department Training Photo

Litchfield



November 5th - Litchfield Fire / Rescue hosted a retirement party for Deputy Chief Darryl Ellis to celebrate his more than 50 years of service to the Town of Litchfield and the Fire Department. After sentiment

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and presentations to D/C Ellis the department surprised both he and Chief Labbe by dedicating a hose company in their honor. Chief Labbe & D/C Ellis have been together in the department for over 50 years, over 30 as Chief and Deputy Chief.

Monmouth



The Monmouth Fire Department's Fall Harvest sold pumpkins to benefit the Richard P. Milligan Scholarship fund. The department raised over \$1000 to support deserving Monmouth Academy students in their future ventures.

Winslow



Edson Small of Winslow Fire Department received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the MSFFF Convention for 50 years of service.

Waterville



Lt. Scott Holst of Waterville Fire - Rescue was nominated and selected by fellow City employees as the 2017 Employee of the Year. Lt. Holst was noted as displaying "unwavering commitment to the City, his fellow employees and the residents of Waterville whether he is covering a shift for a coworker, responding to calls both on and off duty, or researching and making the history of the Fire Department available to others. Through his detailed research and vigilance, the Fire Department's history has been realized in writing, as well as with a fallen firefighters' memorial, and in memorabilia displays. Lt. Holst is an asset to the City and his dedication is exemplary."

Piscataquis

Dover-Foxcroft

Firefighting service is a Robinson family tradition
– By Mike Lange

When members of the Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department approached, A.E. Robinson about a donation for their annual ice fishing derby earlier this year, owner Jim Robinson said he would decline this time.

This caught the department by surprise since the Robinson family had served the department continuously since the 1950s.

But Jim Robinson had a better idea.

He asked the officers if they had any special projects in mind. They all agreed that their greatest need was a new thermal imaging camera, an unbudgeted item that would cost \$9,000.

So Robinson said, "That's what we're going to do."

Last week, eight members of the Robinson family were on hand as the thermal imaging unit was officially presented to the department. In a thank-you letter to the family, Fire Chief Joe Guyotte wrote that the Robinsons

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have been dedicated to the town of Dover-Foxcroft "more than any other family in town. They include Bill Sr. as captain, Peter as a firefighter, Alex as a firefighter and James Jr. as Assistant Chief of the Guilford Fire Department."

The family said that the dedication was in honor of the late Chief Al Robinson, who passed away in 2014. He served on the Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department for 35 years and as a part-time police officer for eight years.

The three oldest members of the Robinson family – Al, Bill and Jim – all joined the department in the late 1950s when apparatus and turnout gear was quite primitive compared to today's equipment. "We used to jump on the truck and put on our old worn out raincoats and helmets while we were going down the road," said Jim Robinson.

"When the water hit you in cold weather, it could break the sleeves off."

Robinson said he recalled one fire when Chief Red Whitman directed him to drive the LaFrance truck to the scene. "It was around 10 below zero. It had no doors, no windows – nothing," Jim said. "Then he told me to get the hose started. I said 'Red, I can't even walk, much less hang on to a hose.' But we got through it."

There were several major fires during the early days of service for the Robinson family such as the Western Auto Store, which was next to the fire station; Taylor's Texaco, the Hurd Farm and a large chicken farm on Autumn Street. "We had chickens running everywhere," Guyotte said. "We pumped (water) for 48 hours straight."

Jim Robinson joked that with Red Whitman in charge, "You knew you were going to pump forever. We'd pump the river dry if we had to."

Ironically, Whitman was the only Dover-Foxcroft firefighter to pass away in the line of duty. Robinson said he was "right next to me when he collapsed" while fighting a fire.

Many others said they wanted to follow a family tradition. "We have three generations represented right here," said Billy Robinson.

Today, however, it's a lot tougher to become a firefighter. "It takes 80 hours of training just to become qualified as an interior firefighter," said Deputy Chief Rick Pembroke. "Just think of the hours you have to spend away from your family, going to school, taking training as well as fighting fires."

Toxic materials are also a huge concern for today's firefighters, Guyotte said. "The first thing you do when you come out of a building is rinse off," he said. "You leave all the bad stuff at the scene."

The thermal imaging camera is not only a valuable tool for firefighting, but can be used to locate a lost person, Guyotte said. "If an elderly person is lost, for example, this camera is able to pick up any heat source," he explained. "If God forbid, someone is trapped in a building, this unit will find them."

The local firefighters also emphasized that while the camera is the property of the Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department, it's available for other departments to use as well. "Al (Robinson) was a strong believer in mutual aid," Jim Robinson said. "That's another reason why we're dedicating this donation to him."



Deputy Chief Rich Pembroke of Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the MSFFF Convention for 50 years of service.

Waldo



The Maine State Federation of Firefighters would like to recognize Richard Libby for 21 dedicated years as Vice President of Waldo County and service on the memorial committee. Congratulations Richard! Thank you for your service.

MSFFF FUNDRAISING

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



CLASSIFIEDS:

WANTED

Looking for some old 2 1/2 hose with pin couplings for a hose load for and Antique Fire Truck. Have truck will travel. Contact: Chief Joe Guyotte at 343-2267.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

To: SHAREHOLDERS in the MAINE FIRE SERVICE

From: MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

Date: October 2, 2017

Subject: Comprehensive Recruitment Contact Information and "Branding"

For several months, the members of the Fire Commission's Recruitment and Retention Committee have been working on two related items: A "Brand" for the Maine Fire Service that can be used in any and all recruitment efforts and a conduit to the appropriate fire chief for any requests for information regarding employment (including volunteering) in the Fire/EMS services. Thanks to the cooperation of Maine 2-1-1 and the State Fire Marshals Office, we can now offer a system for your use.

Regardless of a potential recruit's communications preference, telephone, email, or text, when they reach out to seek more information regarding opportuni-

EDUCATION & TRAINING

ties in the Fire/EMS service, we now will capture their contact information and forward it to the Fire Marshals Office, who will in turn notify the local Department.

Any calls that might help departments recruit members will now be relayed to the Fire Marshal Office. Besides authorizing the use of 2-1-1 as the telephone contact number, Maine 2-1-1 gave us another number that interested people can use to text his organization. Either way, they will forward the interested party's contact information to the FMO office, who will forward it to the appropriate fire chief.

Key words are now in the Maine 2-1-1 database so that their staff can recognize that those callers should be directed to the Fire contact. Examples are: Firefighter, Volunteer, EMT, etc. One key word that we all can use is "Join". We ask you to consider a "branding" of JoinME. If you include that phrase in any recruitment efforts, it will reinforce the concept that we all benefit when speaking with one voice. Hopefully, anyone who hears this phrase over and over will remember it when they think about becoming a firefighter or EMT.

SUMMARY: We can now provide three options for potential recruits to connect with the appropriate fire chief:

Call Maine 2-1-1, or

Text "JoinME" to 898211, or

Email JoinME@Webmaster_FMO@Maine.gov

Please feel free to include this information in any recruitment media.

Questions? Contact any Fire Commission Recruitment and Retention Committee Member: Bill Gillespie, Joe Guyotte, Vicki Schmidt, Buddy Renauld, or Larry Willis (Chair).