



FLASHPOINT

Spring/Summer 2016 Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KEN DESMOND

This is my report for the newsletter. First of all I would like to thank all those who put this newsletter together. This helps us get the message of what is happening around the Fire Service of Maine.

Two things to talk about:

1.) Cancer in the Fire Service – Why are we still killing Firefighters? A growing epidemic. Firefighter cancer is in the forefront of both volunteer and career fire service personnel. Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and wellness of those in the fire service across the country. We are just beginning to understand the horrific cancer issue,

the challenges we face both on the fire ground and through legislation. We need to go online to NVFC and download everything on cancer that has been written. Education, training, operations, medical screening, should be looked at to address the cancer issue in today's fire service.

2.) This year we are hoping to have more Maine Firefighter's join the NVFC membership. For only \$15 dollars more with MSFFF dues will give the firefighter a \$10,000 insurance. Not only that, but a voice in Washington with strengths in numbers across America. Go to the web site and see all that you get for coming a member.

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MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't paid your membership dues for 2015-2016, please know that you are currently NOT COVERED should there be a death.

Don't let this important benefit lapse! Get your dues in today! Don't delay!

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/>

2016 MSFFF CONVENTION:

The 53rd Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention is September 9th, 10th, and 11th 2016 and will be hosted by the York Fire Department: Click Here for more information.

This is the final on our trailer. Looks great and we have room to move in it. Thanks, Joe and Mark for your work on this project.



MSFFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

2016 MEETING DATES:

Next meeting will be held on September 9th in York.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...(CONT'D)

Let's get together on the weekend of September 9, 10, & 11 in York Village. Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention. The York Fire Department has put together a great agenda. Please say thank you when you see any York Fire Department members.

Aroostook South

Presque Isle



Deputy chief Richard Wark on the right retired this past April with 25 years of service to the city of Presque Isle, Also in picture is VP And firefighter Dale Morrison at Richard's retirement party.



Firefighters Tim Browning, Dale Morrison and Grant Spinney at Logan airport for their annual live burn for their certification to cover the airport in Presque Isle.

Cumberland East

Freeport



May 6th, 2016 – Freeport Fire Chief Darrel Fournier Retires

Freeport Fire Chief Darrel Fournier was just 12 when he found himself along for the ride to a large barn fire with his uncle, Bud Fournier, who was Freeport's deputy fire chief at the time.

Watching the operation, Fournier said he knew he wanted to go into the fire service. Upon entering high school, he joined the department's junior firefighter program and now 42 years later, he will retire from the fire service.

At age 18, Fournier became a member of Freeport's call department. In 1983, he became the first full-time firefighter in Freeport and two years later, at age 28, he became the town's first full-time fire chief.

One of the largest fires he responded to was the fire on Sept. 21, 1981, that burned the Holden Block in downtown Freeport. Fournier said someone had broken into a store and set the fire to cover their tracks.

With the help of the department's mutual aid partners, firefighters removed 60 people from the upstairs apartments. A lieutenant at the time, he remembers himself and another firefighter carried two people out of a building.

"Everyone did a great job," he said.

It was also a good example of the importance of training, teamwork and trust among firefighters as he remembers he got turned around and thought the hallway he was headed down was toward the exit. His fellow firefighter called out and got him going in the right direction.

Unlike what Hollywood sometimes depicts, "fire is very

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black and very hot," Fournier said. Fortunately now there are thermal imaging cameras that help firefighters see through the smoke, which is full of cancer causing toxins which is a health challenge firefighters face.

After he was appointed fire chief in 1985, Fournier said much of his work for the next five years involved reviewing the construction that arose in the aftermath of the Holden Block fire. He made sure commercial buildings installed sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

"We haven't had a major fire downtown, so it shows if you invest in fire protection you do get a return," Fournier said.

The town currently has the highest fire safety rating in its history, which can help businesses and residents get better insurance rates.

In 1990, Fournier left Freeport for a position as a fire chief in Waterville. He was looking for a challenge and Waterville had an active career department where Fournier learned a lot. After nine years with Waterville, former Freeport town manager Dale Olmstead offered Fournier the chief position again and Fournier took the opportunity to return home.

Like fire departments across the country, Fournier said Freeport Fire Department struggles to recruit and retain members. There are three career staff firefighter paramedics who work a rotating schedule of 24-hour shifts. In addition to a staff member on duty 24 hours a day, there are three per diem firefighter-paramedics or firefighter-EMTs working at all times.

"It's a big struggle," he said.

He points to regionalization of fire services as one way to help control costs and maintain a high level of fire protection.

Fournier won't forget the time he was part of a Maine team put together by the Maine Emergency Management Agency which responded to Hurricane Sandy. He represented the fire service, working with the New York City Fire Department and conducting search and rescue operations with the New York National Guard in the Rockaways.

Much of the work he's done has been far beyond the front lines of the fires he's fought or emergency calls he's handled. He has served as president of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs and was appointed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs to serve on the committee that worked to get a statewide mutual aid law passed in Maine about five years ago, which essentially gets resources where they're needed quicker, Fournier said. He also served for eight years as the New England representative to the International Code Council.

Being a fire chief isn't easy, but there are many rewards when helping people, Fournier said.

He has been married for 40 years, has two children and five grandchildren. His family would say he has missed a lot of school events and birthday parties. He missed the last two Christmases due to emergency calls. But that is part of the job.

"Firefighters like to fix things, so we get called to all kinds of situations and when you can have a successful outcome, that certainly is very rewarding," he said. "That's what it's all about is helping people and this job certainly creates the opportunity to do that."

After his last day on May 6, Fournier will be fixing up a house with his son to flip, then plans to relax and enjoy the grandchildren and his camp on Lake Moxie.

Freeport



April 26, 2016 – Corsican Restaurant in Freeport, Burns

Fundraisers set-up

FREEPORT, Maine — Firefighters from five communities early Wednesday battled a blaze that destroyed most of the downtown Corsican restaurant.

The Corsican, which sits snug against Brown Goldsmiths on Mechanic Street, reopened for the summer season earlier this month, owner Robin Wade said as she watched firefighters perched on a ladder over the burning roof.

The Corsican has been open for 30 years in the 2½-story building, which according to tax records was built in 1870. Freeport Fire Chief Darrel Fournier said the building was significantly damaged.

The fire was reported at 3:02 a.m. Wednesday and quickly grew to an "all hands" call, Freeport Fire Department chaplain Sandy Williams said. At 5:15 a.m., Fournier said the blaze was nearly extinguished.

"Because it's 'balloon construction,' there were a lot of

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open voids and the fire just raced right up," he said, adding that crews had the fire under control in about 45 minutes.

No injuries were reported. Fournier said the building is insured. He said the state fire marshal will investigate to determine the cause of the fire.

The Maine Department of Labor will hold a Rapid Response session at 1 p.m. Friday at the Greater Freeport Chamber of Commerce on Depot Street to assist about a dozen Corsican employees expected to be out of work due to the fire, spokeswoman Julie Rabinowitz said Wednesday afternoon.

Rabinowitz said the extent of the layoff would be determined after Wade and co-owner Ed Berg obtain an estimate of the damage from the fire and the time to rebuild.

A Corsican Fire Relief Fund was set up Wednesday by the Greater Freeport Chamber of Commerce to help Wade and Berg "as they work on the next steps in dealing with their loss," executive director Stephanie Petkers wrote in an email.

"We have heard from many of the nonprofits in town that Ed and Robin have been very generous in their support of the community so we welcome this opportunity to give back by supporting them," she wrote.

Donations to the fund can be made in person at any Bath Savings Bank branch or by mailing a check to: Corsican Fire Relief Fund, in care of Bath Savings Institution, P.O. Box 160, Freeport, ME 04032.

New Gloucester



December 6th, 2015 – New Gloucester Deadly Fire

A man died in a fire Sunday night at his house in New Gloucester, authorities said. Raymond Howland, 63, was found dead on the front stairway inside the split-level ranch house at 81 Bluff Circle after firefighters brought the fire under control.

The fire was spotted by neighbors and reported to the New Gloucester Fire and Rescue Department shortly after 9 p.m.

The house was already engulfed in flames when fire crews arrived, and was deemed unsafe to enter, said Capt. Scott Doyle.

The State Fire Marshal's Office determined that Howland died of smoke inhalation. The fire started in the living room, but the cause cannot be determined, according to Steve McCausland, spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety. Family members told investigators Howland spent most of his time in the living room.

McCausland said investigators found that the battery-operated smoke detector in the house did not work. If the detector had been working, Howland likely would have survived the fire, he said. It was the 15th fire death of the year in Maine.

Doyle said firefighters were not able to attack the fire immediately because ammunition was going off in the house. Fire crews were held back until the rounds had completed firing, he said.

Doyle said there was a van in the driveway but no one outside the house when firefighters arrived.

Doyle said 15,000 gallons of water were used to fight the fire. Mutual aid was provided by first responders from Gray, Raymond, Poland, Durham and Pownal.

"We have entered home fire season," Doyle said in a statement. "People need to ensure that their smoke and (carbon monoxide) detectors are working and have new batteries. The next level of defense is having your smoke and (carbon monoxide) detectors interconnected, so when one goes off, they all go off. Home fire fatality numbers double during the winter months."

Kennebec

Waterville

April 23rd, 2016 – Waterville Fire's Annual Awards Banquet

WATERVILLE, ME. - On Saturday, April 23rd, Waterville Fire's annual awards banquet was held at the newly renovated Centerpoint Community Church. This public event is sponsored by the Consolidated Firefighters of Waterville and this year marked its 25th anniversary.

The evening kicked off with a social half hour and a grass fire call, which several firefighters left to attend. Consolidated Firefighters' President, Brad Wing, then gave a welcome address and a delicious buffet dinner was served.

Chief LaFountain began the awards portion of the evening with a Unit Citation Ribbon Award for outstanding performance of a unit or group was awarded to Brittany Corey, Mike McKay, Shawn Stetson, Dan Brown and Drew Corey. This award was for their commendable

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efforts and professionalism during the serious hayride accident on Christmas, 2015.

Two Call-Firefighters were promoted to Call Lieutenant on Engine 1 Company. Richard Haviland and Perry Richardson. Each received their red Lieutenants helmets. These two candidates were chosen for their good work ethics, training and an oral board review.

The grand finale of the evening was the announcement of the Call Firefighter, Career Firefighter and Fire Officer of the Year awards, all of which were nominated by their peers. These awards went to: Mike Brochu, Rescue Technician Dan Brown and Captain Shawn Esler.

Oxford

Lovell



Training burn in Lovell

Fire departments from Lovell, Bridgton, Fryeburg, Stoneham, Saco Valley, Harrison all joined in. Plus Stoneham and Fryeburg Rescue.



1 hour 45 minutes later, and it all was carefully managed to fall into the cellar, brilliant.



The Crew

Fryeburg

The Fryeburg Fire department Recognizes Gay Kiesman For 70 years of service: 1946-2016

Gerald "Gay" Kiesman, Gay Joined the fire department in May 1946 and is still an active member with 70 years of service and has given back to the community in many other ways as well. Gay served as the Town Fire Warden for 48 years, he was the Civil Emergency planner for many years, he was a founding member of Fryeburg rescue and helped build the current rescue building, he helped build the legion ball field and he was a Special Functions Officer for a number of years. Gay also served as an Asst; Fire Chief for 8 years, he is a member of the Conservation committee, the honor roll committee and a past president of the Western Maine Firemen's Association. I am sure there are many other things Gay has done for the community that weren't mentioned. Gay is also well known as service mgr. for Osgood brothers for many years and after retiring for there he worked for the Forest Service for 16



The final burn is just beginning

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years and he worked at the fair handling signs & small details. One thing Gay has enjoyed for many years is making the gavel for the president of the Western Maine Firemen's Association and each year he tries to use different types of wood, I am not sure how many he has made but I do know it was a lot.

Tonight we at the fire department are recognizing his 70 year commitment to the Fryeburg Fire Department.

The Fryeburg Fire Department Recognizes Corliss Watson For 70 years of service: 1946-2016

Corliss Watson joined the Fryeburg fire department in July 1946 he played many rolls in the department and served as Chief from 1969-1971 and then again from 1972-1988 he was also a past president of the Western Maine Firemen's Association. Corliss owned and operated a few businesses in town such as a filling station, oil business, rubbish business and he owned the argue not apartments. Corliss also is the super-natant for the Fryeburg fair muster and has been for about 35 years and he is a trustee for the Fryeburg fair. I am sure that over the years Corliss has done a lot for the community that I am not aware of. But tonight 6/13/16 we at the fire department are recognizing his 70 year commitment to the Fryeburg Fire Department.



MSFFF FUNDRAISING

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

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Maine Fire Service Institute » September 17 & 18, 2016 – National Fire Academy comes to Brunswick Maine

Maine Fire Service Institute » September 1, 2016 – Fire Instructor I & II NFA Endorsed Course to begin 9/01/2016 – Brunswick

Maine Fire Service Institute » August 18, 2016 – Fire Instructor I & II NFA Endorsed course to begin with Orientation 8-18-16 in Bucksport