President’s Message – Ken Desmond

MSFFF, Inc. President Ken Desmond

This is my report for the July newsletter. First of all I would like to thank all those who put a lot of work in this year’s Fire Convention. Our host the Western Maine Firefighters Association, Inc.

Two things to talk about: 1. State of Maine LOSAP is a benefit for the First Responders in our State. This year we were very close to getting the funding, as you know it was shot down. Our Committee or Bill Gillespie, Fred Brewer, Bill Hussey, Brent Libby, Jeff Brackett, Steve Bunker, and Marshall King have worked there buns off working to get this funded. They aren’t stopping. They are going to all fire meetings throughout the state to get more support. Thank you from all the Firefighters of Maine. 2. The Firefighters Memorial is scheduled for October 5, 2019 at 0900 hours at the Augusta Capital Grounds. Hope to see many at this Memorial.


Who to Contact

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Membership:

Your current MSFFF membership expired on June 30th, send your 2019-2020 membership to your County VP as soon as possible!

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/

Maine State Federation of Firefighters
2019 Annual Convention

Hosted by The Western Maine Fire Fighters Association

SAVE THE DATE! Join us in Western Maine for the 56th Annual MSFFF Convention!
More information will be announced in the next few months!

Follow us on FACEBOOK! visit us soon at http://www.msfff2019.org

September 13, 14, & 15, 2019
at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds

A weekend full of firefighter activities!
Music, dance, vendors, apparatus & equipment demos, a parade, muster, & much more!
WMFA PO Box 583, Norway ME 04260
Maine State Federation of Firefighters 2019 Annual Convention

Hosted by The Western Maine Fire Fighters Association

The Officers and Members of the Western Maine Firefighters Association invite your sponsorship of the 2019 MSFFF Convention. All sponsors will be noted on our webpage and in our Convention Handbook.

We are planning an amazing weekend full of firefighter and guest activities. Plan to visit with us and enjoy a parade, muster, vendors, along with great food, music and dance!

Sponsorships can be made payable to WMFA and sent to:
WMFA PO Box 583, Norway ME 04268

September 13, 14, & 15th at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds

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- Same Power
- Takes up less compartment space
- No issues with bad fuel or contaminated hydraulic fluid
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**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://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2018.pdf](http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2018.pdf)

**County News**

**Androscoggin County**

Jared Blake MSFFF-VP  
PO BOX 911, Sabattus, Maine 04280  
ffemtjblake@gmail.com, 207-329-2273

**Lisbon Fire Department**

From left to right: FF Tucci, FF Jones, FF Coffin, FF Fleck, and FF Moulton, of the Lisbon Fire Department recently graduated Firefighter I & II

**Mechanic Falls Fire Rescue**

Tucci, FF  
Lisbon  
from school.
The beast is back in service with power steering a lot work but worth it.

Minot Fire Rescue

Minot Fire Department took delivery of the new pumper truck replacing the former engine 8, which experienced a major pump failure last summer. This purchase was approved at Town Meeting this past March.

Poland Fire Rescue

Poland Fire Rescue, providing protection during the fireworks at the Poland Community Events.
Please welcome our 3 new members! Our junior Firefighter’s program is back with two new Jr firefighters and a third new regular member! Welcome (L-R) FF Russo-JR FF Laselle-JR FF Brown

Turner Fire Department

Members of Turner Fire Dept. and to our mutual aid towns Buckfield, Greene, Leeds, Jay, Livermore and Livermore Falls, completing live fire drills.
Van Buren Fire Department

On Sunday April 7, at approximately 0930 hrs. Van Buren Fire department was toned out for a fire at 72 Main Street. Upon arrival crews found active fire conditions in 1 building that quickly spread to the one of the adjacent buildings. Crews were able to save the surrounding buildings with the help of heavy equipment from area farmers. Everyone was able to exit the structure safely and a cat was rescued and treated by Van Buren Ambulance service. VBFD was assisted on scene by St. Leonard (CA), Grand Isle, Grand Falls (CA) and Limestone Fire departments. Also assisting on scene were VB ambulance, Vb PD, US Border Patrol, VB Public works and VB Water and light dept.
Caribou & Fort Fairfield Fire Departments

Crews from Caribou and Fort Fairfield fire departments recently completed Class A and B burns together. This was a great combined training for both of these mutual aid communities. Crews were able to complete this valuable training together that otherwise might not have been possible if they had not worked together. Lt. Dylan Cyr of Caribou fire worked with Chief Susi of Caribou Fire and Chief Baldwin of Fort Fairfield Fire to put this training together. Both departments hope to train together more often.
Aroostook South:

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Maple Fire Department

Mapleton fire Chief Richard Wark with his granddaughter who is this year mascot for the department.

Members of the Mapleton fire department line up for a quick photo before the start of the Memorial Day parade.
Firefighter/paramedic Dylan Cyr of C shift helping out with the elks lodges hooked on fishing. (On the left)

Members of C shift working a car accident occupant had a medical emergency which ended in a crash occupant was treated and is doing ok.

Old engine #3 from Presque Isle fire which is a project in the making of restoring it truck was stored on display at the mall this winter, here the truck is being brought back to the station by impact auto to be worked on by the members.
Presque Isle fire new to them a used ambulance with a new paint job and new lettering this is the fire departments fourth ambulance now in service.

Annual training burn for members of the Presque Isle Fire Dept for their recertification for the airport.
Cumberland East

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Cumberland West

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Casco Fire Rescue

It’s with heavy hearts we share the news of Life Member Gil Avery’s passing on July 17, 2019. Gil was a pillar in Casco, not only serving 67 years with the Fire Dept.; he also served on many boards and committees in town. Gil grew up in Casco and settled with his wife and family here, he will be dearly missed by us here at the CFR and by many in town. We send our deepest condolences to his son Retired Casco Assistant Chief Scott Avery, daughter-in-law Shannon and grandsons Tyler and Payson during this difficult time. Godspeace Brother, rest in internal peace, we have it from here.
Members started their first round of training on the new Marine 2. A 25' Safe Boat of the Defender Class, the former CG-25447 was procured by the Naples Volunteer Fire Association from the Coast Guard for use by the department on Long Lake, Brandy Pond and Sebago Lake. Over the last few months association members have worked countless hours cleaning, painting and equipping the boat for fire department use. Special thank you to the Town of Naples, Moose Landing Marina, Hartford Communications and the Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team of Buzzards Bay Massachusetts.

New Rescue 2
Braun Chief XL on a Ford F450.
Purchased from Autotronics, LLC.
LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) for firefighters in the State of Maine. The program is administered by a board of seven trustees that are appointed by the Governor, with members of the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, the Maine State Federation of Firefighters and Maine Municipal Association. We meet on the second Monday of the month at the Public Safety Building in Augusta at Ten O’Clock and our meetings are open to the public. The LOSAP program rewards firefighters for service to communities in the State of Maine with contributions to a retirement program. Contributions can be made from three funding sources: the individual firefighters, individual municipalities, and the State of Maine. Currently, there is no state funding available for LOSAP, but the board is working on getting the program established to qualify for funding from the State of Maine.
Bucksport Fire Department:

BRAVER THAN BRAVE WHAT YOU GAVE

for Bucksport's Fire Chief Craig Bowden

upon his retirement, April 25, 2019

Fire! Fire! To sound the alarm.
To chase Fire the Killer, the Destroyer, every day
everywhere in and out of town
to knock it down.
To face the burn, fierce, run it off, day or night
to be ready. To answer the call.
   To surround and drown.
   To defy the smoke, to choke
to draw breath that others might breathe.
To pry and chop, heave and lift, to strain, to climb
to rescue to carry the pain,
to live that others might live.
   When cursive flames flared in your eyes
you stood up to the heat, threat, fight. Hell,
   laying down every tool and skill
for the children, your neighbors, your strangers,
your brothers and sisters—us—who will,
because of this,

forever thank
and honor you beyond
knowing how to show you,
bowing to the power and the glory
for how you fought
and how you won.

Patricia Smith Ranzoni, Bucksport Poet Laureate
Waterville Fire Rescue

Lt. Roy just recently obtained his EMT Basic certification in May of 2019, which includes the successful completion of many hours of classroom work and clinical work. Lt. Roy was a former career firefighter here at WFD and has since returned as call firefighter assigned with Engine 1 Company.

FF Wetmore is a Colby student majoring in biology and neuroscience. He is originally from New Jersey and will someday become an orthopedic surgeon. Calvin obtained his EMT Basic certification in January of 2019. He is currently enrolled in the AEMT class that is being held at Central Fire. FF Wetmore is assigned to Engine 2 Company.
FF Frizzell is a full-time high school teacher at Lawrence High School. In his spare time, he currently obtaining his EMT license in January of 2019 to better serve our community. FF Frizzell is assigned to Engine 1 Company. At the department’s annual Awards Banquet held on May 4th, Frizzell received the “Call Firefighter of the Year” award.

Knox County

Eliot Scott MSFFF-VP
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Message from VP Campbell:

I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that as of September during the convention in Fryeburg I will be stepping down as the Vice President from Lincoln County. It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the board and represent the firefighters of Lincoln County and the State of Maine. As of June, there are 3 possibly 4 interested in stepping up to the plate, whomever gets the position I hope they get the full support of all the fire departments as I have. The next year is going to be an important one as the legislature has put off voting to fund LOSAP till next year. We will need everyone to contact your representative and request that they support this very important issue. A very special thank you to the President, Executive Vice President and all the V.P.’s I have had the honor serving with it has been the experience I shall bring with me for the rest of my life. Rest assured I shall still be a voice for all the first responders throughout the state.

Thanks Again
Keep Training and Stay Safe
Respectfully Yours Clarence (Scott) Campbell Lincoln County Vice President

The veteran operations chief and one of the founding members of the Lincoln County Fire Academy, responsible for the training of hundreds of local firefighters, stepped down in late June. David Pratt, 56, a captain with the Boothbay Fire Department, is ready to “hand over the torch,” he said. Pratt was one of a group of people in the emergency services to push for a local fire academy. In fall 2006, the group achieved its goal. “It couldn’t have happened without the overwhelming support of all the chiefs in the fire departments. I may have been the main pusher in keeping it together all those years, but without their support I never would have been able to do it,” Pratt said.

Staunch supporters of establishing a fire academy included Newcastle Fire Chief Clayton Huntley, Jefferson Fire Chief Walter Morris, and Boothbay Fire Chief Dick Spofford. “It was a pleasure to work with Dave,” said Morris, who is also assistant operations chief for the Lincoln County Fire Academy. “His commitment to the fire service in general and to the delivery of high-quality firefighter training is strong and Dave will continue to be involved with training, even as he steps down from his leadership role.” The academy is governed and insured by the Lincoln County Fire Chiefs Association. Pratt sits on the association’s board of directors. According to Pratt, his drive to establish a local fire academy stemmed from the need for more accessible training in a faster time frame for his firefighters. People from both inside and outside Lincoln County attend the academy for training. In addition to all this, Pratt said, the academy allows “all firefighters in the county to pretty much know every firefighter they see in the county.” Prior to the establishment of the academy, Pratt said, a prospective firefighter had to take classes piecemeal across the state in order to gain their certification. “I preach to all the new kids, it took me 18 months to get my certification, and that’s a long time. They can get it in six to seven months now, with the least
amount of travel,” Pratt said. Since the fire academy’s founding, Pratt and other instructors have trained 400 firefighters. A quarter of the students from the first Fire 1 and Fire 2 training program, a certification recognized throughout most of the U.S., are now fire officers or chiefs, including Damariscotta Fire Chief John Roberts and Dresden Fire Chief Steve Lilly. In 2007, Pratt was the assistant operations chief at the academy. The chief had other commitments, however, so Pratt “was thrust into the mix really hard,” he said. Only a few months after the inception of the academy, Pratt took over as operations chief. His fellow fire officers speak highly of Pratt. “He’s been a driving force behind the fire academy since it was put together,” Roberts said. “Thanks to Dave’s leadership, I believe that the future of the (Lincoln County Fire Academy) is bright,” Morris said. “Providing effective firefighter training in Maine is rather challenging since Maine has no state fire academy and regional fire training facilities are few and far between.” Pratt announced his decision to step down at the June 19 meeting of the Lincoln County Fire Chiefs Association. “I’m getting older and it’s time to slow down a little bit. I have a full-time career too,” Pratt said. Now he will have more time to spend with family, he said. Pratt will continue to serve as an instructor and sit on its board. Pratt has deep roots in the local emergency services. He “chased fire trucks as a 15-, 16-year-old, as a junior firefighter in the town of Woolwich,” he said. He first became a firefighter in Woolwich, where he was born and raised, then served with the Waldoboro Fire Department and Waldoboro Emergency Medical Services. For about 15 years, Pratt has served as a lieutenant and captain for the Boothbay Fire Department. In 2014, he received the Maine Fire Instructor of the Year Award from the Maine Fire Service Institute. The award is given to an instructor who sets an example for the profession, their department, and their peers. Outside firefighting, Pratt works for the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District as a licensed grade three wastewater treatment operator. He previously worked for 34 years as an auto mechanic. He also works part-time as a civil process deputy at the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office. Over time at the academy, Pratt taught less and took on more of a management role. He did paperwork, tracked students, and arranged for instructors to teach classes. About 10 instructors from departments around the county teach classes. Pratt said the academy offers basic fire training, which allows a recruit to meet the Maine Bureau of Labor’s minimum standards for an interior firefighter. Unlike Fire 1 and Fire 2 training graduates, basic fire training graduates are not certified for out-of-state firefighting. The Lincoln County Fire Academy has only offered the Fire 1 and Fire 2 program twice, in 2007 and 2010. The more intensive program takes a minimum of 240 hours to complete, while basic fire training takes 74 hours. Since the academy was established, the size of classes has varied from 20-30 people. Some of the topics in classes include fire behavior, safe use of equipment, hazardous materials, traffic control, and extrication. For the early years of the academy, firefighters trained at a facility in Wiscasset, which includes a burn building, as well as at fire stations around the county. “We go to different burn buildings now,” Pratt said. There are several throughout the state, and the Lincoln County Fire Chiefs Association is pursuing grants to build its own burn building. Some graduates of the academy have gone on to full-time firefighting, with at least one going to Portland and another to Augusta. Pratt said the best part of his work as operations chief was knowing there were well-trained firefighters inside and outside the county, as well as “paying it forward, passing on your knowledge and experience.” On the other hand, the hardest part of the job is “keeping the fire academy together and keeping enough instructors that were willing to teach.” Some years he did more teaching than expected because there were not always enough instructors available. As to who will take over Pratt’s role, he is not yet sure. He thinks some of the younger instructors may team up to do the work, unless one individual wants to take on the role. Pratt said he would not be able to walk away from his role as operations chief if he believed the academy would fold. Roberts, the Damariscotta chief, has a similar hope for the academy’s future. “My hope is that the academy will continue to provide training for Lincoln County and other areas and that we’re able to do it with a few more people instead of one person taking on the lion’s share of the duties,” he said. Reflecting on his time as operations chief, Pratt said he will miss meeting all the new firefighters. “I tell every class I have of new guys, ’You always will remember this group of people,’” he said. (Photo and article by Jessica Clifford from “The Lincoln County News”
Firefighters deployed booms and pads to contain an apparent diesel spill in the water near the South Bristol drawbridge the evening of Tuesday, July 16. (Evan Houk photos)

Bristol Fire Chief Paul Leeman Jr. credits smoke detectors with the safe exit of a family of four from a home near Pemaquid Point after a fire broke out early Monday, July 15. There were no injuries in the fire at 34 Pemaquid Loop Road in New Harbor, according to Leeman. “The smoke alarms woke the family up and they were able to get out OK,” Leeman said. The family was renting the home in an area of Bristol popular with seasonal residents and vacationers. Leeman credited the first firefighters to arrive with preventing the fire from spreading throughout the house. “The first crews on scene did a great job knocking the fire down,” he said. The fire spread to part of the roof, but was mostly contained to a bathroom, according to Leeman. The house sustained smoke and water damage in addition to the fire damage in the bathroom. After extinguishing the fire, firefighters were using fans to air out the home and were monitoring the air quality in the building. An investigator from the Maine State Fire Marshal’s Office determined that the fire was accidental, according to Leeman. It is believed to have been electrical in nature. Helen C. Small owns the property, according to Bristol tax records. Lincoln County Communications dispatched the Bristol Fire Department at 4:02 a.m. Also responding were the Bremen, Damariscotta, Newcastle, and South Bristol fire departments. The Central Lincoln County Ambulance Service responded to the scene and the Nobleboro Fire Department provided station coverage for Bremen. **Smoke Alarms saves lives** (Photo and article by Alexander Violo “The Lincoln County News”)
The fast-attack vehicle was delivered April 2 and put into service the night of Monday, April 15.
Bethel Fire Department

Jim Young of Bethel Fire with his certificate presented to him by the town of Bethel for the Spirit of America award. In the photo is L-R Josh (son) Jim Young and Shonna (daughter)

Left to right: Robert Belanger 41 years, Robert Lowell 42 years, Lonnie Davis 60 years, Jim Young 51 years and Tom Gibbs 37 Years (Bethel Fire Dept )

Bethel Fire recently recognized 12 members with over 20 years of service and another 5 with over ten years
Buckfield Fire Department

Adam Dupile being sworn in as Buckfield Fire new Fire Chief
Our basic pump class. Participating were from Mexico Fire: Tim Haas, Matt Theriault, Benjamin Sarle Allen Chartier, Seth Marshall and Tom LeClerc. Rumford Fire: Sam Cote, Ed Carey and Brian Lyle and from Peru Fire: James Gronewold.
Rumford Fire Department

Rumford Fire Dept: Chief Chris A Reed and Firefighters Ray Crockett & Christopher Arsenault accept the award for Firefighters of the Year in Maine from the American Legion.

(Left) Rumford Fire Dept: Firefighters Ray Crockett, Christopher Arsenault, Scott Cole (interim town manager of Rumford) and Chief Chris Reed

L to R… Assistant to the Commissioner Janet Joyeux, Husband Brad Frost, Peg Frost, Family of Peg Frost on her behalf, Chief Jeff Rowe – EMS Board Chair – at Maine State House
EMS Lifetime Achievement Award - Marjorie ‘Peg’ Frost, Paramedic

Over the course of her nearly four decades of service, Paramedic Peg Frost has become both a positive force and a familiar friendly face to patients and their families, as well as to EMS providers throughout the western Maine EMS community. She was one of the founders of both Pace Ambulance (now Pace Paramedic Service) and Stoneham Rescue, and also has been affiliated with Russell’s Ambulance Service, Oxford Fire/Rescue and South Paris Fire/ Rescue as well as the Paris Fire Auxiliary. As a leader, mentor and role model for other EMS providers, Peg passionately has inspired and motivated countless others to advance their training to the next
level. Even her off-duty moments have been filled with volunteer service elsewhere in the community. Peg is resoundingly recognized by her EMS peers — dozens of whom submitted nominations for her for this award — for being a pure joy to know and work with, having touched so many lives throughout her long career from which she will retire this summer.

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**Penobscot South**

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York North

James Howard MSFFF-VP
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Acton Fire Department:

Captain Ham was awarded the Firefighter of the year award by the York County Firefighters Association. Captain Ham has always been a great asset to our community. Captain Ham has a nearly 100% response rate to all emergency call in the Town of Acton along with assisting with many non-emergency requests. Having great Firefighters like you Captain make our department great and our town a safe place to live.

Thank you for all you have done and you continue to do!

Rd, York, Maine 03909
jgay@yorkmaine.org, 207-457-7071

York South

Jon Gay, MSFFF-VP
342 Chase’s Pond
Firefighters from throughout New England came to the Town of Berwick for a weekend of training in honor and remembrance of Captain Joel Barns of the Berwick Fire Department. Captain Barnes died in the line of duty on March 1, 2019 in an apartment building fire in Berwick. The loss of Captain Barnes has been devastating to the members and departments who knew Captain Barnes and were involved in the tragic incident that day. On the last weekend of June 2019 the New England FOOLS, hosted by the Berwick Fire Department, conducted TugJake 2019: A Training Event in Honor of Captain Joel Barnes. Instructors known to be some of the best in the business conducting training on engine ops with 1.75 and 2.5 lines, forcible entry, residential search, street smart ladders, roof/vent ops and forcible entry with rotary saws.

Eliot Fire Department

Up in Smoke in Eliot
Fire Damages Sweet Dirt Medical Marijuana Facility
Fire heavily damaged a building at marijuana dispensary off of Route 236, requiring mutual aid response from area departments in the non-hydrant district. A tanker shuttle was conducted throughout the duration of the incident, which lasted approximately 6 hours. Check out the story;
New mural at Ogunquit Fire offers a unique perspective into the history of the department

A mural painted by local Ogunquit Artist Jon Strand was recently unveiled, showing the history of the department through art. The mural starts off in black and white, showing the original station that was built in town and transitions to color and timeline through historic fires that have occurred in the town. Check out the full article;

The Wells Fire and Police Departments will not have to go far to move into their new home. As they look out the back windows of their current building, that has been in dire need of replacement for some time, they see their new building that they will be calling home. The new Public Safety Building will provide the space for the continued growth of the departments. They hope to call the new building home within the next year. Once they move into the new building, the existing building will be torn down.

Photo Credit: Wells Fire Department

York Beach Fire Department
In York Beach, the fire muster tradition continues!
On June 30 at the York Beach Ballfield, next to the York Beach Fire Department, was filled with firefighters, families, friends and visitors in town for the holiday week and happened to catch the excitement. A parade of fire trucks throughout York Beach started the fun filled day of a traditional fire muster with some additional excitement for all to enjoy. There was a bouncy house for the kids, an always exciting dunk tank and a station where kids and adults could operate a hose line. The muster events were not specific to fire departments as kids and members of the general public were able to enter their own teams into the event.

Fire in York Beach damages residence and claims the lives of two dogs
A family lost two dogs and their house heavily damaged by a smoke in a fire that started in the kitchen area of the residence. The fire was knocked down and two dogs were located quickly, unfortunately, the resuscitation efforts on the dogs were unsuccessful. One firefighter was transported to the hospital and released later that day.
Fire in York Beach Damages First Hill Gardens, an 18th century farmhouse, prompts reminder to the general public to call 911 in case of an emergency- not the fire station! It could have been worse. Thankfully it wasn’t. First Hill Gardens is located a stone’s throw from the Ogunquit town line in York Beach. A fire at the First Hill Gardens was first reported directly to the business line of the Ogunquit Fire Station. Thankfully the crews were in the station, took the call, relayed the information to their dispatch center who then notified York. Due to the proximity of the Ogunquit Fire Department, they respond automatically to fires in York Beach, as they can usually arrive first to the areas on the northern edge of the town. The fire was quickly extinguished and overhaul conducted. The heaviest damage contained to the delta side of the building. Crews from York Beach, York Village, Ogunquit and Wells Fire Departments worked the incident.

Remind your local residents to call 911 in the event of an emergency! This will prevent a potential delay in response and allow the 911 centers to obtain information and potentially provide instruction to the callers.


Photo Credit Deborah McDermott Seacoast Online
MSFFF Fundraising:

Challenge coins available through any County Vice President. $5.00 each plus shipping
70th Anniversary decals available through any County Vice President. $5.00 each plus shipping.

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