

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

# **SMOKE Showin'**

fall 2007 • vol. 16 • no. 57

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



**DEAR CHIEF...**

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**Throwing Them Some Love**

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**Heart Grant Bid Denied**

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The Firefighter Hearts Grant request is denied.

### on the cover

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### Question of the Month

We're starting a new feature in *Smoke Showin'*. In each issue, we will be posing a question to anyone who wants to answer it, and we will select some of the best ones to print. Sometimes it will be serious, other times it will not. We thought we'd start you off with an easy one.

*Most people look at emergency service personnel as heroes. Who is your hero?*

Send your answers, with reasons why, to [smokeshowin@ljsquared.com](mailto:smokeshowin@ljsquared.com). Try to keep answers to one paragraph.

[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)  
[www.mcvfatravel.com](http://www.mcvfatravel.com)

## Snapshots from the State Meeting

If you couldn't make the MCVFA State Meeting on July 29, here's a few glimpses of what you missed.



photos by Lloyd Lathrop

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Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

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# President's Message



## MCVFAtravel.com

The Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association is pleased to announce a new benefit for members: [www.mcvfatravel.com](http://www.mcvfatravel.com).

**L**unched in cooperation with a major travel provider, members and their families and friends, as well as the general public, can now book their travel and vacation needs through the MCVFA. By going online to [www.mcvfatravel.com](http://www.mcvfatravel.com), you can arrange not only the usual travel requirements such as flights, hotels, and rental cars, but also:

- cruises for both business and vacations,
- golf tee times around the world,
- tickets for sporting events, concerts, and live theater,
- flowers,
- restaurant reservations, and
- much more, including car and truck purchases.



by  
**President  
Larry Holmberg**

The prices are comparable or better than other vendors, and there is a very important side benefit to the Association: 40 percent of the royalties from bookings and sales are donated to

the MCVFA to continue and expand its membership services.

Whether you travel for business or pleasure, you are going to book your arrangements with someone. You can now do it in a way that will directly benefit the Association and, therefore, you, our members and their families.


You do not have to be an MCVFA member to use [www.MCVFAtravel.com](http://www.MCVFAtravel.com). Anyone can use

the site, and it can be accessed from anywhere in the world, as long as there is a computer and Internet access.



You might periodically receive special announcements regarding special travel bargains or packages. These email notifications will come directly from the Association. We have always been very careful not to burden our members with unsolicited notices and we will continue that policy.

To make your travel arrangements or take advantage of any other aspect of the site, visit [www.mcvfatravel.com](http://www.mcvfatravel.com) directly, or you will find a link to it from the MCVFA Web site [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org).

If you have any questions regarding [MCVFAtravel.com](http://MCVFAtravel.com), please contact any Association officer. 

by  
**Chief Joe Maruca**  
attorney at law



## Hearings at the State House

**O**n May 23, 2007, the Joint Committee on Public Safety held a public hearing on Fire Service Legislation at the State House. I attended on behalf the MCVFA and testified in favor of a number of pieces of legislation. The hearing was also well attended by fire chiefs, the fire marshal, and staff from the Department of Fire Services.

### Certifications

When legislation to create minimum standards for being a fire chief was discussed, I reiterated the MCVFA's position that all firefighters, chiefs included, should be certified. The current legislation is a logical progression from our position, but the MCVFA believes that this legislation (H.2396) should be amended to include a call/volunteer member on the Fire Service Commission and two call/volunteer members on the Fire Training Council. This is because the Fire Service Commission will set the minimum standards for being a fire chief and the Fire Training Council will determine any training/certification testing requirements. When one-third to one-half of all fire chiefs in Massachusetts are either call/volunteer or come from a call/volunteer background, it is important that the call/volunteer firefighters, who might be chiefs someday, have input into the requirements.

I also testified in favor of the MCVFA's legislation to include call/volunteer firefighters on both the Fire Service Commission and the Fire Training Council. As you might recall, both of these bills passed the Senate in last year's legislative session, but were held up and died in the House. The primary reason these bills

get held up and die in the House is because the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts (PFFM) uses its political clout to defeat them. They allege that we (volunteers in general) are anti-training and would drag down the training standards for everyone. They point to call/volunteer chiefs and firefighters who bemoan having to take certification tests or who claim they can't do more training. This hurts us in the eyes of political leaders and the Fire Chief's Association. In turn, this reduces our chances of amassing the political and moral clout to get call/volunteer members on the Fire Training Council and Fire Service Commission.

Unfortunately, the examples that the PFFM uses in order to paint a negative picture of us when it comes to training and professionalism do exist, but they don't represent most call/volunteer firefighters. These examples are simply the ones that seem to get the most press (such as a chief of a volunteer fire department saying it's unavoidable and not a big deal to have volunteer firefighters showing up for a fire after drinking some beer.

We need to remind our legislative leaders, fire chiefs, and town leaders, as well as our own members, that the MCVFA and its members are all for increased training and meeting national firefighter standards. The MCVFA believes all firefighters—volunteer, call, and career—should meet the National Professional Qualifications for fighters, but we don't get credit for this. *(The MCVFA has twice voted to approve the policy that the "goal is to have every Massachusetts firefighter certified to the Firefighter I/II level." The Call Chiefs Committee of the Fire Chief's Association of*

*continues on next page* ▶

it is important that the call/volunteer firefighters, who might be chiefs someday, have input into the requirements

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*Massachusetts voted to accept our policy and recommend its adoption by the entire chiefs association – ed.)* However, it's not the fault of the PFFM that we don't get proper credit for our extensive training and our commitment to our communities and the fire service; it's our own fault for failing to let everyone know that we want more and better training.

So, it's up to you to make sure that you and your fellow call/volunteer firefighters act like professionals at all times. You need to make your image shine. Our bills (H.2286, H.2311, and S.1364—Training Council inclusion and H.2287, H.2310, and S.1363—Fire Services Commission Inclusion) are all currently pending before the Joint Committee on Public Safety. Now is the time for you to call and ask your State Representative and State Senator to support these bills.


### Sprinkler Law Loophole

I testified in favor of closing a loophole in the sprinkler law that allows commercial buildings to be expanded in small increments without triggering the requirement for sprinklers (H.2284). Currently, the law states that any building or addition over 7,500 square feet must have a sprinkler system; but you can keep building 7,499-square-foot additions to an existing building without being required to

install a sprinkler system. If your department is like mine, we don't have enough water, staff, or apparatus to safely suppress a working fire in a 50,000-square-foot commercial building made up of a bunch of 5,000 to 7,499-square-foot additions with no sprinklers. If we are going to have a fighting chance on these structures, we need to increase the use of sprinklers.

### Enforcement of State Fire Code

I also told the legislature that they need to pass legislation to give local fire departments legal authority to enforce the fire code at state buildings. The Attorney General has ruled that local fire chiefs can't force state buildings (colleges, offices, dormitories, etc.) to comply with the state fire code.

Finally, what stood out this year more than ever was that the interests of the MCVFA and its members were very similar to the legislative proposals put forth by the Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts (FCAM). Except for the FCAM's silence on our Training Council and Fire Services Commission legislation—something we need to remedy—the FCAM and MCVFA have remarkably similar agendas. Perhaps the day is coming when we can all view each other as partners in public safety. 

## Remembering the Nine

by Northfield Firefighter Ben Briggs



I created this image in honor of the nine firefighters who died in Charleston, South Carolina. A print was made and sent to Chief Russell Thomas of the Charleston Fire Department.

In addition to being a member of Northfield, I am a graphic and Web designer, so creating graphics just comes naturally. When I saw the news on the morning of June 19, I felt that I needed to create something in memory of the firefighters.

This image symbolizes each of the men lost using our department's badges surrounding the Charleston Fire Department patch. I also used the image on the homepage of our Web site [www.northfieldmafire.com](http://www.northfieldmafire.com). The image was also quickly adapted by the nearby Vernon (Vermont) Fire Department for use on their homepage as well.

John Hall of Vernon was a childhood friend of Captain Bill Hutchinson who died in the fire. John notified me a few days after the tragedy that he had passed this image along to Bill's wife and that she and her children were deeply moved by it. I'm glad I could do a little something in remembrance of those nine firefighters who lost their lives that night.

*It's no secret that I adore fire chiefs.*

*My friends dare not even utter the word, knowing they'll unleash some well of goofy adoration from Parker. That is, when I'm not annoyed with one that day (which is actually pretty frequent, too, but ain't it the way?).*

# Throwing Love at Fire Chiefs

It's just that fire chiefs, I tell them, are probably the biggest bunch of good-hearted, noble, smart, funny, and protective men on the planet ... and I like that in a man.

Fire chiefs are fascinating; they know an enormous amount of interesting stuff—and about hundreds of subjects—because they have to. The good ones, while they might only have a high school diploma on paper, after ten years on the job have the equivalent of a Master's degree in several areas. And, yes, once in a while, one even lets me drive a fire engine.

I met and loved my first fire chief 30 years ago in Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, where I had landed a job as

one of the nation's earliest EMTs. Watching and listening to him, and consenting to go when he packed me off to the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy for Officers School, I quickly came to realize the “five bugles on the collar” comes at a steep price.

The job is difficult on marriages and children—“You missed my recital!?!?”—more exhausting, deeply lonely, and stressful than most people ever realize. Chief officers have to go to organizational type meetings several nights a week ... boring, frustrating meetings. They have to enforce fire codes that no one likes (and don't hesitate to let the chief know about it), all the while replaying in their own dreams the “station house” footage they saw last week of a building that wasn't “in code” burning to the ground while scores of people inside screamed as they became trapped, caught fire, and died.

Fire chiefs stay up all night saving a person's house from burning down, only to get a phone call the next day having to listen to a complaint that the fire truck ran over a shrub in the lawn. And, as chief officer, they never get to be the one who saves the kitty anymore, if you know what I mean.

Most of all, if you are chief, you are always on the job. You live in your own private—though usually pretty gentle—sort of war zone because the potential for absolute bedlam, terror, and loss is always there in the corner of your mind's eye. Remember the character Pigpen from the Charlie Brown comic who always had his own private dust cloud over his head? Fire chiefs have one, too. Anything can



by  
Deborah Parker  
FF/EMT, PSLSE

happen at any time in your town and you're supposed to be ready to help in 30 seconds. Moreover, with every community dependent on mutual aid, you need to be ready to help all your neighboring towns as well.

On a Saturday morning, when most guys are pondering the lawn or the car, a fire chief wakes up, grabs a cup of coffee, steps outside, and ponders the lawn, the wind, the temperature, the dryness of the grass, and how all that adds up to the potential for conflagration. While at the same time, another part of his brain is calculating how many firefighters will be available to show up if it happens. His or her brain is also pondering the oil leak on Engine 2, the hydrant leak on Main, and the fact that they already used up the entire fuel budget

for both the apparatus and the furnace, with three months still to go. He also is mentally preparing for the meeting at which the Prudential Committee is going to demand to know how it is possible he is out of money when the town hasn't had one big fire this year and...

Wait! Are you ready? Add to all this, that, in western Massachusetts anyway, most of these guys are volunteers—they have day jobs, too.

Yes, I am an ardent admirer of fire chiefs. I am also a healer at heart. That's why I decided a couple years ago to throw some love at my chief in a way that wouldn't have a Mrs. Chief armed and looking for me. (I'd had that experience, LOL.) Thus, in 2006, I decided that maybe, since my chiefs — I've had lots: I'm High Maintenance. I burn them out. I collect them — couldn't get out

to see the world much, not with all that stuff going on, that maybe I could start bringing “the world” to them.

I wrote an email to the smartest, funniest, most endearing fire chief instructor and author in the world—Vincent Dunn, Deputy Chief (retired) of the New York City Fire Department—asking if he might even consider forsaking his hefty speaker's fee to come to Greenfield to love up “my boys.”

To cut to the chase, on June 24, 2006, Vinnie Dunn strode into the hall at Greenfield Community College and “Chiefaroo U”—a full day of lectures and videos normally offered only at the highest levels of the National Fire Academy—was born.

On July 28, 2007, Chief Dunn came back, again forsaking his fee, to work with approximately 60 chiefs, other officers, and firefighters again, some of whom had traveled five hours to attend. The group studied fire tactics, building collapse, and firefighter rescue. Half the group then reported for firefighter injury “near miss” reviews and for instruction in setting priorities when you pull up to the scene and people in flames are falling out of windows. The other half—the chief officers alone—went off for a confidential session to discuss firehouse-related issues with Chief Dunn, who has 46 years experience in fire service management and employee supervision under his belt.

The day was filled with laughter, a few tears (and no, they weren't just mine), lots of food, books, and prizes. Before it was over, the guys were already asking, “Could we have TWO days next time? There was so much more we needed to hear, so much more we had to say.” I walked away exhausted, spent (in every meaning of the word), and triumphant. The chiefs

walked away, glad that they came.

So, thank you to the MCVFA and the Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid Association for helping to make it possible (six months of planning, designing, mailings, and shopping has a price). Thank you to all of the businesses that kept the price way lower than it could have been: Greenfield Community College, which donated the premises; West Winds Bed and Breakfast for putting Chief and Mrs. Dunn up for the weekend; Bill's Restaurant and Nourse Farms for throwing in the chicken and the strawberry shortcake for lunch; Tiger Press for the handouts and programs; Patty Cake, Patty Cake Bakery for loaning us its kitchen to prepare food in a ServSafe-certified kitchen; and the list goes on. And thank you to my fellow firefighters for being the kind of guys and gals that, when I went to these places and asked for all these gifts and people heard it was for fire chiefs and firefighters, they gave to me without a moment's hesitation.

Thank you all for giving “my boys”—volunteer and paid alike—even just one day when they could feel seen, supported, honored, and challenged before coming back home, and to us.

Hey, Chief, I need new gloves!

Hey, Chief, the pump is making that sound again!

Hey, Chief, the fire marshal just called. He wants you to call him back right away!”

Yup ... thank you.



# Dear Chief

If you could tell your chief, in complete anonymity, something you wanted him or her to know, what would it be? Smoke Showin' recently gave several dozen firefighters exactly that chance.

The invitation to write an anonymous note to their chief went out to all who visited the MCVFA Web site [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org) in July. It also went out to all firefighters in attendance at the command seminar at Greenfield Community College on July 28. We received nearly 100 responses, and all of them appeared sincere—and even hopeful—that someone would listen. While we can't print all of them here, we'll share bits and pieces that accurately reflect the types of responses received. Do you recognize your station house in any? We'll begin with those dealing with "stuff."

## Dear Chief:

- We need a kitchen.
- Please improve our radio system.
- I would like a burn building!
- I would like to spend more money on improving ourselves.
- Spend less money on computers and more on pumps and radios. The computers can't save us. The pumps and radios can.

## Some were simple statements of confidence and thanks.

- Two thumbs up. I'm proud to be a member of this department.
- Good work, Chief. Keep it up.
- Thanks for not embarrassing me in front of the other FFs when you could have.
- Thank you for all the time you spend training us, and the trainings you send us to.
- You are a great chief and put your men and women first. To me that is the most important thing.
- Thanks for making me feel I can do anything someday.

## Some expressed frustration.

- I can't read your mind. Be consistent!
- Get rid of the no-shows.
- If people don't come to drills, tell them not to come to fires.
- Please stop micromanaging everything. People are getting left out and their ability to grow into better officers impeded by the fact that you just want to do and decide every single little thing.
- We need to SHARE more of the responsibilities to help "make" respect for your other officers! Give them a job and a chance to do it! You can't do it all yourself. You NEED help.
- Please have more promotions for senior firefighters. It's hard not to keep coming for years and years and not be seen any different from the new guys.
- The younger generation are not bad guys. They are bringing their own new knowledge to offer the department. Let them.
- Please have enough good character to treat the deputy chief who DIDN'T get your job with at least some BASIC respect?

## Some betrayed.

- You should be more OPEN about what is really going on. There's not much we couldn't deal with if you would just TELL us.
- You have no idea how much it hurts people when you treat your volunteers different from the paid guys. We come to drills and come to incidents and then you say we can't ride on the same TRUCKS? Are you just THEIR chief?
- I am so proud to be a firefighter and I work hard and show up for you and now you say only the paid guys can wear shirts and badges? Being a firefighter is important to me. So is looking like one. And being TREATED like one. How about you be the only chief who doesn't get to wear a badge or have a chief plate like the other chiefs. Try that.

## Some were afraid.

- Watch out for your officers and firefighters. PLEASE do not make command decisions if you are unsure of the facts that day; you don't always see what is really happening! You are going to get us killed.

- Please listen to ANYONE who makes a suggestion on the fireground. Sometimes they really do know something you don't.
- Please know where we are and what we're doing and come and watch your officers? Some of them should not be.

## Many expressed a desire for more (or different) training.

- We aren't ready for a real fire right now and we need to be. We need to train more and practice more with other departments. Lots of the new guys have to only stay at the station during calls. What are you going to do when they're your ONLY guys?
- Can we train more for fire attack all together so we all know how we are supposed to do things? We need to know how to be on the same page and get used to each other and how we function, especially if we're new. Just because THEY know how it's always done, if we haven't done it since I'VE been here, I feel stupid and afraid I'm going to screw up.
- I know we need to train on all this incident command stuff, but is that going to matter if we can't put up a ladder? Please help us keep up with ladders and SCBA and flowing that water!

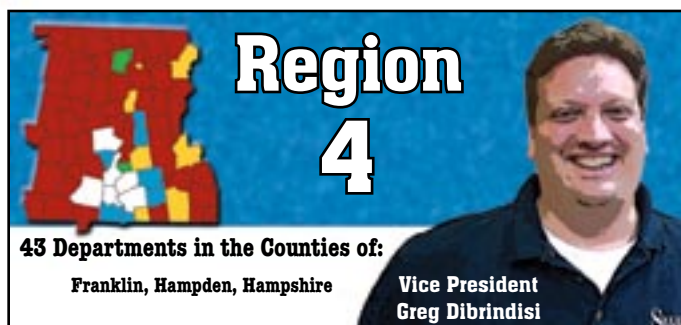
## The saddest ones were the sad ones.

- I read a story describing a chief who took part in the practical skills with the new FFs? He got right down there with them. It made me remember YOU were why I joined this department and it's sad we never really get to see YOU much anymore.
- Why won't you ever just talk with us? You only communicate via email. Even if we are nearby!
- People wish you would spend more time with us.
- The best drill nights are the times you come out with us. We want you to know us. We think you forget how much it makes a difference, when you say we're doing good.

## Because, Chief? You really do matter.

Signed,  
Us





**Region 4**

**43 Departments in the Counties of:**  
Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

**Vice President**  
Greg Dibrindisi

The New England Fire Chief's Convention just concluded in West Springfield with a large turnout of our brother and sister firefighters from throughout the region. The show has always been successful for the MCVFA as we meet new people and see our fellow members again. The show this year was an even greater success due to the many people who helped put it together, including Michael Bird and Deb Parker. I need to thank Julie Page, Vice President Paul Vallone, Treasurer Jim Burnham, Rick Clark, and Earl Gleason for all their hard work at the show.

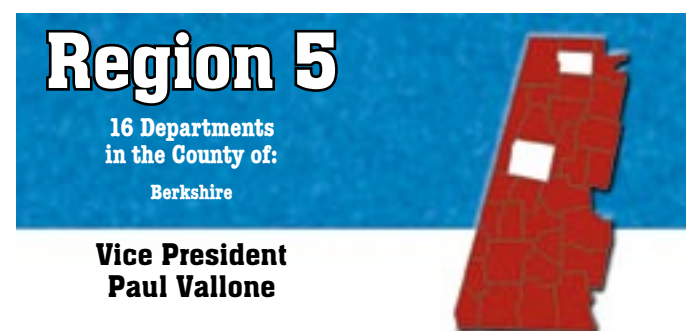
The town of Bernardston placed their new 4-E-2 in service. Congratulations to Chief Shedd and his crew, and to the people of Bernardston. They are a great group (see story below).

It was decided at our regional meeting in Williamsburg to attempt to get the Flashover Trailer to a location that is convenient to all Region 4 members. In addition, we are working on another delegate/alternate orientation for our members. The orientation is to acquaint new delegates and alternates, to remind veterans about the history of the MCVFA, and explain the duties and responsibilities of being a delegate. We have preliminary sites to hold these, but if your department is interested in hosting, please let me know.

One thing that makes this Association run like a well-oiled machine is that the people involved are professionals in other fields. Vice Presidents Paul Vallone and Gregg Silverio have been putting much effort into the development of the new Web site and are doing a tremendous job. Remember that your feedback is very important for the development of the site and for the region. If anyone has information for the Region 4 page, please forward it to me and/or call me at (413) 695-4479.

This is your Association and, as your representative, I want to hear what you have to say and what is going on in your department.

Finally, on a personal note: Congratulations to the Hatfield Fire Muster Team that had a great showing at the last Firemen's Muster in Whately. I hear the competition was pretty stiff.



**Region 5**

**16 Departments in the County of:**  
Berkshire

**Vice President**  
Paul Vallone

A Region 5 meeting was held on Thursday, May 17, 2007, at the Dalton Fire Department that included a couple of special guests: MCVFA President Larry Holmberg and Representative Dan Bosley.

We covered a few important topics such as Bill HR943: the

Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act and NVFC Sound the Alarm on High Cholesterol program.



President Holmberg and I presented Captain Paul Marshall with a Check for \$500 for February's Fire Company of the Month. The money will be used to purchase traffic safety equipment, including cones and signage (pictured above).

Last November Representative Bosley and Senator Steve Brewer were invited to attend the MCVFA State Meeting in



Taunton where they were to be honored for their work on behalf of Massachusetts' call and volunteer firefighters. Unfortunately, neither legislator could attend due to scheduling conflicts. President Holm-

berg used the regional meeting as an opportunity to present Representative Bosley with his Bell Award (pictured above).

### Delegates, Alternates, and Members

Are you receiving your latest issue of *Smoke Showin'* in the mail? Are you getting your State and Regional Meeting notices in the mail? If not, you need to do one of two things. Email me at [vpreion5@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpreion5@mcvfa.org) or call Linda Wells at (800) 551-FIRE. If you have a new mailing address, please make sure you let your delegate know, especially when the new yearly dues come out, he can update the changes. We don't want you to miss any upcoming events.

**Stepping Up to the Plate—New Department Alternate**  
I'd like to thank Tom Francesconi from the Cheshire Fire Department. Tom has offered to be the department's alternate.

### Certificate of Appreciation—Village Ambulance Service 25th Anniversary

On Wednesday, May 23, I made a special visit to the Village

Ambulance Service in Williamstown. They were celebrating their 25th Anniversary for which they were presented a letter and certificate of appreciation for 25 years of service to the community.

### New England Fire Chief Expo

On Saturday, June 23, I went to the annual New England Fire Chiefs' Expo, which was held at the Big E in West Springfield. I spent part of the morning working the MCVFA booth with Mass Fire Academy Impact Series Instructor Rick Clark and Mike Bird. Many members from different departments stopped by to say hello. I also want to give credit to Deb Parker for a job well done on the display panels at the booth. Several members raved about how very sharp our booth looked.

### Texas A&M Fire School

I want to congratulate Butch Garrity for being selected as one of four firefighters to attend the Texas A&M Fire School at College Station, Texas. Butch is a member of the Lanesboro Volunteer Fire Department in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, and the Berkshire County Fire Coordinator (Car-1).



Pictured (l to r) are Butch Garrity and his son with Past President Mike Bird.

The fire school is a taught by Texas volunteer fire service instructors to students from around the world. A wide variety of courses are offered, from live-fire evolutions to advanced command tactics and strategies. The MCVFA sponsors four students each year to attend the one-week session. Sponsorship is a competitive process and applications are available on the Web site [www.MCVFA.org](http://www.MCVFA.org) beginning in January. Applicants must be FF I/II certified or equivalent in order to attend.

### Remembering the Nine from Charleston, SC

On Monday, June 18, 2007, nine brave firefighters lost their lives

*continues on next page* ▶

## Bernardston's New Truck

article and photos courtesy of Bill Montiglio, EMT-B

The Bernardston Fire Department held an open house to present its new engine to the residents who made it possible. The truck made its first public appearance at the annual New England Fire Chiefs' Show in West Springfield.

The 2007 KME Predator replaces a Middlesex built on a Ford 900 chassis, which served the town for more than 20 years. Improvements include a cab-over design, additional seating, diesel engine, automatic



transmission, digital pump display, expanded storage, and enough horsepower to climb the hills on both sides of Route 91.

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at the Sofa Super Store attempting to rescue two employees. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the firefighters' families and the members of the Charleston Fire Department.

Please stay safe.

### Alert Hose Co. Observes National Fireman's Sunday

On Sunday, June 10, the Alert Hose Company of Adams, Adams Volunteer Fire Department, held its annual National Fireman's

Sunday (photos below). They designated the second Sunday in June for the event. Alert Hose honored the day with a memorial service held at the Alert's Memorial Shaft in Bellevue Cemetery. Fire Chief James Sullivan of the Pittsfield Fire Department was principal speaker.

The Alerts began the day attending church service followed by breakfast. The Alert Hose Co. and the public gathered for the program at Bellevue Cemetery. 



Alerts Fireman's Sunday article submitted by Steve Brown • photos by Jane Brown



(above) This year's principal speaker, Fire Chief James Sullivan of the Pittsfield Fire Department (pictured left in photo).



(above) Alert Hose Co. being piped in by Robert Tunnicliffe of the Berkshire Highlanders Pipe Band.

## Dalton Fire Department's Assistant Fire Chief Dick Olsted Retires After 40 Years of Service

On Saturday, June 23, 2007, Dalton Fire Department's Assistant Fire Chief Richard "Dick" Olsted was honored for his 40 years of service to the department. Olsted joined the department in May 1967 and was promoted to captain in 1980 and to assistant chief in 1986. Dick was also honored as the 2007 EMT of the Year. The members of the Dalton Fire Department held a surprise party at the station with members, families, and friends in attendance.



State Representative Denis Guyer, left, presents Dick Olsted with a Certificate of Appreciation from the House of Representatives. photo by Paul Vallone

## SMOKE Showin'

# PHOTO CONTEST

The winner of this issue's photo contest is Kevin Soucie of the Leicester Fire Department. The winning photo, which appears on the cover of this issue (along with the photo top right on this page), is from a four-alarm working fire on May 4, 2007, in Worcester, that went from one alarm to four in less than ten minutes. Kevin wins a cool \$50 for his efforts. Honorable mention photos were submitted by Dana E. Harriman of Carver (center right), Derek Murdock of Milford (bottom right), and Douglas Annear of Charlemont (below). If your fire-related photos are as good as the ones pictured here, you could win \$50. Just send your photo(s) that **adhere to the submission guidelines** (send request by email to address below if needed), along with an explanation of the subject matter in the photo(s) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return (see paragraph at the bottom of the page for requirements), to the address below.



**RULES and REQUIREMENTS:** The photo contest is open to all readers of *Smoke Showin'*. Any original, fire-related photo will be eligible to win. Photos will be judged on subject matter as well as on technical proficiency. We can only accept prints, transparencies (slides or larger), or digital photos that adhere to the submission guidelines (in the pull-out section—nothing printed from an inkjet printer will be eligible). No more than two submissions per issue per entrant. Photos will be eligible for the next issue following the date received. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want original photos returned. Judging will be performed by the editorial staff and all decisions are final. Digital versions of all entries become property of *Smoke Showin'* and the MCVFA and can be used in any future issue or for any purpose, with proper credit given. You can send an email to [smokeshowin@ljsquared.com](mailto:smokeshowin@ljsquared.com) if you have any questions or if you'd like a PDF guide to digital photography.

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